

RTS

O R L A N D O



HYBRID COURSE SYLLABUS

02OT5300 POETS

Mark D. Futato, Ph.D.

Summer 2026

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DATES

COURSE DATES: April 1 - July 17

COURSE COMPLETION DATE: August 14

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

- June 2 at 4p
 - Quiz 1
 - How-To Post 1
- June 4 at 4p
 - Reply Post 1
- June 9 at 4p
 - Quiz 2
 - How-To Post 2
- June 11 at 4p
 - Reply Post 2
- June 16 at 4p
 - Quiz 3
 - How-To Post 3
- June 18 at 4p
 - Reply Post 3
- June 23 at 4p
 - Quiz 4
 - How-To Post 4
- June 25 at 4p
 - Reply Post 4
- June 30 at 4p
 - Psalm Project Step 1
- July 2 at 4p
 - Psalm Project Step 2
- July 7 at 4p
 - Psalm Project Step 3
- July 9 at 4p
 - Psalm Project Step 4
 - Reflection on the book of Psalms
- July 31 at 4p
 - Reflection on the book of Proverbs
 - Exam 1 (Proverbs)
- August 14 at 4p
 - Reflection on the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs
 - Exam 2 (Ecclesiastes, Job, and Song of Songs)
 - Reflection Workbook

You can also see the Summary of Due Dates on Canvas. Go to Syllabus on the left-hand navigation bar.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the nature of Hebrew poetry and to literary, historical, and theological analysis of Psalms (and Lamentations), Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs. The nature of Hebrew poetry and the book of Psalms are studied online over a six-week period that precedes the classroom experience, which covers Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs.

PURPOSE:

To encourage you in experiencing more of the abundant life that Jesus came to bring to the glory of God the Father and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOALS:

Comprehension

- To increase your knowledge of English Bible in Job-Song of Songs.
- To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Job-Song of Songs.

Competence

- To sharpen your ability to interpret Job-Song of Songs in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
- To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Job-Song of Songs in your own life and in the life of the local church.

Character

- To grow in your honesty in your relation with God, others, and self.
- To grow in your wisdom as you live before God, others, and self.
- To grow in your love for God, others, and self.

SUPPORT:

Canvas offers two ways of interacting with your professor. One is Ask the Professor. Ask the Professor is the primary place for posting questions and has the benefit of allowing classmates to profit from the dialog. Two is Inbox. Inbox functions like email and can be used if you have a personal question, for example, a question about a grade.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READING IN TEXTBOOKS:

The books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs in a translation of your choice.

Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2007). [978-0825427657] You are assigned all 234 pages.

Kidner, D. *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1985). [978-0877844051] You are assigned all 157 pages.

Walton, John H., and Andrew E. Hill. *Old Testament Today: A Journey from Ancient Context to Contemporary Relevance*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. [978-0310238263] You are assigned 72 pages.

REFLECTION WORKBOOK:

You will produce a reflection workbook, based on your reading of *Old Testament Today*.

- On pages 412-414, there are reflection questions.
- You will answer five questions of your choice.
- Type the number and question before each answer.
- Each answer must be 100 to 200 words in length.
- Your workbook must be double spaced, with 1-inch margins all around.

File protocols:

- Upload your reflection workbook to Canvas as a PDF at Modules > Course Completion or Assignments.
- Use the following naming protocol for your file: LastName_FirstName_ReflectionWorkbook, e.g., Futato_Mark_ReflectionWorkbook.

Assessment information:

- The reflection workbook is worth 15 points, totaling 12% of your grade.
- The reflection workbook is due on August 14 at 4p.

REFLECTION PAPERS:

You will write three reflection papers.

- One on a text of your choice from the book of Psalms.
- One on a text of your choice from the book of Proverbs.
- One on a text of your choice from the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs.

Each paper must be 2 pages in length, double spaced, with 1-inch margins all around.

These are not exegetical papers but are more like extended journal entries that focus on what the meaning of the text for your life or ministry.

You must read each text at least twice a day for six consecutive days before writing your reflection.

File protocols:

- Upload each reflection paper to Canvas as a PDF at Modules > Week 6 (for Psalms) or Course Completion (for the other 2).
- Use the following naming protocol for your file:
LastName_FirstName_Reflection_01, e.g.,
Futato_Mark_Reflection_01.

Assessment information:

- Each reflection paper is worth 5 points, totaling 12% of your grade.
- Your reflection on the book of Psalms, due on July 9 at 4p.
- Your reflection on the book of Proverbs, due on July 31 at 4p.
- Your reflection on the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs, due on August 14 at 4p.

QUIZZES:

There are four online quizzes, one quiz for each of the first four weeks of the online portion of the course. (See "Interpreting the Psalms Guide" at Canvas > Modules > Course Resources for direction in how to prepare for each quiz.) Go to Canvas > Modules or Quizzes or Assignments.

- Quiz #1: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 1.
- Quiz #2: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 2.
- Quiz #3: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 3.
- Quiz #4: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 4.

Assessment information:

- Each quiz is worth 4 points, totaling 15% of your grade.
- Quiz 1 is due on June 2 at 4p.
- Quiz 2 is due on June 9 at 4p.
- Quiz 3 is due on June 16 at 4p.
- Quiz 4 is due on June 23 at 4p.

HOW-TO POSTS AND REPLIES:

There are four discussion posts and four replies, one post and reply for each of the first four weeks of the online portion of the course. Go to Canvas > Modules or Discussions or Assignments. These assignments will give you practice in the skills you learn in the first four chapters of *Interpreting the Psalms*. (See "Interpreting the Psalms Guide" at Canvas > Modules > Course Resources for detailed instructions.)

- How-to Post and Reply 1 - Read Psalm 148. Compare and contrast the strophic divisions for Psalm 148 in the NIV and ESV. How would you divide this psalm? Defend your divisions.
- How-to Post and Reply 02 - Read Psalms 1 and 2. What is the theological connection between the purpose of the Psalms (Psalm 1) and the message of the Psalms (Psalm 2)?
- How-to Post and Reply 03 - Read Psalm 3. What was the original historical setting Psalm 3? How would the post-exilic community have applied Psalm 3 to their historical situation?
- How-to Post and Reply 04 - Read Psalm 13. What is the category of Psalm 13? How does Psalm 13 reveal Christ to you?

You are required to post an answer to each of the discussion questions and then to post at least one reply to the post of one classmate of your choice. You may and are encouraged to interact beyond the required post and reply.

Assessment information:

- Each discussion post is worth 5 points, totaling 15% of your grade. Each original post is worth 3 points and each reply is worth 2 points.
- Discussion post 1 is due on June 2 at 4p.
- Reply to post 1 is due on June 4 at 4p.
- Discussion post 2 is due on June 9 at 4p.
- Reply to post 2 is due on June 11 at 4p.
- Discussion post 3 is due on June 16 at 4p.
- Reply to post 3 is due on June 18 at 4p.
- Discussion post 4 is due on June 23 at 4p.
- Reply to post 4 is due on June 25 at 4p.

PSALMS PROJECT:

Having studied the first four chapters of *Interpreting the Psalms*, you will put the material into practice by following the steps explained in chapter 5 and illustrated in chapter 6.

There are four steps you will perform, two per week. (See "Proclaiming the Psalms Guide" at Canvas > Modules > Course Resources for detailed instructions.)

- Psalm Project Step 1 - Getting Oriented
- Psalm Project Step 2 - Focusing on the Details
- Psalm Project Step 3 - Shaping Your Presentation
- Psalm Project Step 4 - Reflecting on Your Text and Life

File protocols:

- Upload each step to Canvas as a PDF at Modules.
- Use the following naming protocol for your file:
LastName_FirstName_Step_01, e.g., Futato_Mark_Step_01.

Assessment information:

- Each step in the Psalms project is worth 5 points, totaling 15% of your grade.
- Psalm Project Step 1 is due on June 30 at 4p.
- Psalm Project Step 2 is due on July 2 at 4p.
- Psalm Project Step 3 is due on July 7 at 4p.
- Psalm Project Step 4 is due on July 9 at 4p.

EXAMS:

There are two exams. Go to Modules > Course Completion or Quizzes.

- Exam 1: Lectures on Proverbs and the readings on Proverbs in *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*.
- Exam 2: Lectures on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs and the readings on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs in *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*.

Assessment information:

- Exam 1 is worth 10 points, and Exam 2 is worth 20, totaling 15% of your grade.
- Exam 1 on Proverbs is due on July 31 at 4p.
- Exam 2 is on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs is due on August 14 at 4p.

GRADING POLICY:

Late work will be penalized by 1 letter grade per day, unless prior permission for late submission is granted. The published RTS grading scale is used in this course. See the Catalog, page 47.

COURSE SCHEDULE

ONLINE SCHEDULE:

The week of June 1

- Appreciating the Poetry

The week of June 8

- Viewing the Whole

The week of June 15

- Preparing for Interpretation

The week of June 22

- Interpreting the Categories

The week of June 29

- Psalms Project (Steps 1 and 2)

The week of July 6

- Psalms Project (Steps 3 and 4)

IN-CLASS SCHEDULE:

July 13

- Topic: Proverbs

July 14

- Topics: Proverbs & Ecclesiastes

July 15

- Topics: Ecclesiastes & Job

July 16

- Topics: Job & Song of Songs

July 17

- Topic: Song of Songs

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FURTHER READING

INTRODUCTION:

Berry, Donald K. *An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament* (Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 1999).

Brown, William P. *The Psalms* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2010).

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 1984).

Keel, Othmar. *The Symbolism of the Biblical World: Ancient Near Eastern Iconography and the Book of Psalms* (New York, NY: Seabury, 1978).

Lucas, Ernest C. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Psalms & Wisdom Literature* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

Murphy, Roland E. *The Tree of Life* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996).

HEBREW POETRY:

Emanuel, David. *A Primer of Biblical Hebrew Poetry: An Essential Guide for Reading and Analysis*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2025).

Petersen, D. and Richards, K. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1992).

PSALMS – INTRODUCTION:

Brown, William P. *The Psalms* (IBT; Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2010).

Longman, Tremper III. *How to Read the Psalms* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1988).

Lucas, Ernest C. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Psalms & Wisdom Literature* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

McCann, J. Clinton. *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms: The Psalms as Torah* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1993).

PSALMS – COMMENTARIES:

Allen, Leslie C. *Psalms 101-150* (Vol. 21. 2 Revised. WBC. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2002).

Clifford, Richard J. *Psalms 1-72* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002).

Clifford, Richard J. *Psalms 73-150* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003).

- Craigie, Peter C. *Psalms 1-50* (Vol. 19. 2nd ed. WBC. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005).
- Futato, Mark D. *Psalms* (Vol. 7. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2009).
- Kidner, Derek. *Psalms: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1973).
- Longman, Tremper. *Psalms: An Introduction and Commentary*. (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014).
- Tate, Marvin E. *Psalms 51-100* (Vol. 20. WBC. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1991).
- VanGemeren, Willem A. *Psalms* (EBC. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008).
- Waltke, Bruce K., and James M. Houston. *The Psalms as Christian Worship: An Historical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010).

PROVERBS :

- Bridges, Charles. *A Commentary on Proverbs* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1846).
- Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (The New American Commentary, 14; Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1993).
- Longman, Tremper III. *Proverbs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2006).
- Ortlund, Raymond C., Jr. *Proverbs: Wisdom That Works* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2012).
- Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 1-15* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004).
- Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 15-31* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005).

JOB :

- Anderson, F. *Job* (Tyndale OT Commentaries 13; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1976).
- Walton, John H. *Job*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
- Konkel, August H., and Tremper Longman III. *Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006).
- Hartley, J. *The Book of Job* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988).

ECCLESIASTES :

- Bartholomew, Craig G. *Ecclesiastes* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009).
- Enns, Peter. *Ecclesiastes* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011.

Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (The New American Commentary, 14; Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1993).

Konkel, August H., and Tremper Longman III. *Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006).

Longman, Tremper III. *The Book of Ecclesiastes* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997).

Provan, Iain. *Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).

SONG OF SONGS:

Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (The New American Commentary, 14; Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1993).

Hess, Richard S. *Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005).

Konkel, August H., and Tremper Longman III. *Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006).

Longman, Tremper III. *Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005).

Provan, Iain. *Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).

LAMENTATIONS:

Dearman, J. Andrew. *Jeremiah, Lamentations* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002).

Hillers, D. *Lamentations* (AB 7a; Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972).

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Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 2OT512
 Professor: Mark D. Futato
 Campus: Orlando

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ N/A	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	One reading helps students distinguish exegetical language from expository language. Papers must apply this distinction.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances.	Strong	Course focus in on content of Job-Song of Songs. The students are required to write a paper on Psalm 23 and demonstrate interpretive skills.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Course deals with the Kingship/Sovereignty of God.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Course objectives: 1) Grow in honesty in relation with God, others, and self. 2) Grow in wisdom before God, others, and self. 3) Grow in love for God, others, and self.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos.	Strong	Course lectures aim to model this value consistently.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	One reading helps students distinguish exegetical language from expository language. Papers must apply this distinction.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Study of the Psalms will be applied to issues of modern worship.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Minimal	
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	