

Reformed Theological Seminary
Exegesis in the Old Testament II
OT6120

Tuesdays 1:00pm – 3:00 P.M.

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Course Description

An exegetical study of Job 38-42 within the context of the book and larger canon of scripture.

Course Objectives

- (1) To develop the skills of exegesis, working with Hebrew poetry, and reading Biblical Hebrew.
- (2) To understand the literary and theological contribution of these important chapters to the book's argument and the biblical canon as a whole, as well as how they address the important issue of theodicy.

Required Texts

Hebrew Students

- (1) A Standard Hebrew Bible (BHS).
- (2) A Standard English Translation of the Bible
- (3) Koehler and Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HALOT)
- (4) Emmuel, David. *A Primer of Biblical Hebrew Poetry: An Essential Guide for Reading and Analysis*. Zondervan. 2025.
- (5) Van der Merwe, Naude, and Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*, 2nd edition. Bloomsbury, 2017.
- (6) Patton, Matthew H. and Frederic Clarke Putnam. *Basics of Hebrew Discourse: A Guide to Working with Hebrew Prose and Poetry*. Edited by Miles V. Van Pelt. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019

Non-Hebrew students

- (1) A Standard English Translation of the Bible
- (2) Robert Alter. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York. Basic Books. 2011.
- (3) Commentary on Job (discussed the first day)

Course Structure and Assignments

Each week focuses on a specific section of Job 38-42. Our focus is an exegetical study of each section within its immediate context, the book context, and the canon as a whole. Students will read from primary (the biblical text) and secondary (see the required texts above) source material each week and bring their insights for class discussion.

All students will write a 6 page (maximum) exegetical paper on a section from Job 38-42. After receiving instructor feedback on the paper, students will create a 20 minute Sunday School lesson from their paper to deliver later in the semester.

There will also be a final exam (essay) on the interpretation of Job 38-42. Exam questions will be distributed beforehand.

Attendance

Students are required to attend class. If absence is unavoidable, please notify me in advance (if possible). Failure to attend class will result in significant reduction of the student's final grade. Also, be on time. Habitual tardiness will result in a significant grade penalty.

Grading Scale

See the seminary's grading scale in the RTS catalogue.

Computer/ Tablet Use

Students may use computers/tablets to take notes on class presentations. No electronic devices are allowed for Hebrew reading/translation exercises.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic
	Aug 25	Syllabus, Intro to Job, the place of chs. 38-42 in the book of Job
	Sept 1	Job 38:1-11: YHWH appears from the whirlwind

Sept 8	Job 38:12-21: Light, darkness, and the boundaries of creation
Sept 15	Job 38:22-38: Meteorological and astronomical governance
Sept 22	Job 38:39-39:8: Wild animal cycle I
Sept 29	Job 39:9-30: Wild animal cycle II
Oct 5-9	READING WEEK-NO CLASS
Oct 13	Job 40:1-5: Job's first response
Oct 20	Job 40:6-14: The second Divine speech begins
Oct 27	Job 40:15-24: Behemoth
Nov 3	Job 41:1-11: Leviathan I
Nov 10	Job 41:12-34: Leviathan II
Nov 17	Job 42:1-6: Job's final response
Nov 24	Job 42:7-9: YHWH's verdict on Job's "friends"
Dec 1	Job 42:10-17: Restoration and resolution
Dec 8-10	FINAL EXAM TBA