

OT POETIC AND WISDOM LITERATURE
—P M P COURSE REQUIREMENTS—
2018-2019

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To offer a general introduction to this portion of the OT canon, comparing and contrasting these books to other OT books;
2. To bring a special introduction to each book of this section of Scripture, noting each book's contribution to the flow of progressive revelation; and
3. To survey the themes and theology of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs with special consideration given to the forms of OT poetry and wisdom literature.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. The student will master the key theological argument of Job (dealing with evil), Ecclesiastes (dealing with vanity), and the Song of Songs (finding love in the right place).
2. The student will be introduced to the major messianic portions in the Psalms and will master an evangelical understanding of imprecations in the Psalms.
3. The student will learn to approach the book of Proverbs as a deliberately organized collection of principles (as opposed to a collection of promises).

READINGS

1. —C.H. Bullock. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*
2. —A **Commentary on Job** of your choice (150+ pages)
OR Read **10 Essays** in *Sitting with Job* (edited by Zuck) —completed by January 31
(these essays offer scholarly insights into macro and micro issues)
3. —A **Commentary on Ecclesiastes** OR **Song of Songs** of your choice (150+ pages)
OR **10 Essays** in *Learning from the Sages* (edited by Zuck) —completed by February 28
(these essays offer scholarly insights into macro and micro issues)
4. Poetic Books of the Bible
Try reading the Bible in a modern version that emphasizes literary style: e.g., NKJV, NIV, or ESV
 - a. —Book of Job; by Thanksgiving
 - b. —Book of Psalms; by Christmas
 - c. —Book of Proverbs; by January 15
 - d. —Book of Ecclesiastes; by Presidents Day
 - e. —Book of Song of Songs; by March 15

For a reinforced overview of the course material, you may substitute Kidner, *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes*, for one of the above commentary assignments

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will get to do a brief RESEARCH REPORT on each of the five poetic books. This may be an exposition of a passage that has caught your interest, a thematic study, a survey, or a comparative word study focusing mainly on how the word (or phrase) is used within that particular book (or by that author).

Plan on about two pages of material, either in written or outline form. Include an additional list of works cited. A few topics are suggested below:

- The Date of Job’s authorship: survey the arguments for the patriarchal and for the Solomonic era dates
- A survey of the Theology of Job
- Progressive revelation in Job: its relation and contribution to the flow of OT doctrine; e.g., Satan, mediation between God and man, and the resurrection
- The Psalms Titles: their purpose, classifications, and authenticity (viz., are they inspired?)
- Imprecations in the Psalms (and comparative sacred lit.): survey the history of their interpretation, and, on the basis of the analogy of faith, come up with a reasonable understanding of their place in the holy writ
- Messianic Psalms: pick one of the following for an exegetical study: 2,8,[16,89,132],22,40,[45,102],[69,109],72,110; be sure to reference NT usage
- A Thematic study in the Book of Proverbs; catalog and synthesize a major theme in Proverbs; show the teaching’s importance in that day and in ours
- Ecclesiastes and Canonicity; survey this question and the historical discussion that surrounded the recognition of this oracle.
- The History of Interpretation of the Song of Solomon
- YOU choose a topic; check with instructor

MEMORIZATION

Get a head start on these memory verses. Recite them in advance at home; otherwise recite them in PMP residence before returning home in June.

- Job 19:25,26
- Psalm 100:2,4
- Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10
- Ecclesiastes 12:13,14
- Song 8:7

EXAMS

There will be three closed-book **EXAMs** over the notes.

Test I covers Introductory material through Job. Due 1st week of March

Test II covers notes on the book of Psalms. Due 1st week of April

Test III covers Proverbs through Song of Songs. Due 1st week of May

–June 30 is the absolute deadline for exams.–

There are seven open-book, **QUIZZES** covering each chapter of Bullock. Due April 30.

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| <u>GRADING</u> | Exams: 55% | Oral Exam (final session): 5% |
| | Reading: 15% | Memorization: 5% |
| | Research Reports: 15% | Quizzes: 5% |