

Old Testament Poetic Books, 112  
 Instructor: Robert V. McCabe, Th.D.  
 Course Outline

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary  
 Spring Semester  
 2010

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the key elements of Hebrew poetry, the argument of the book of Job, key Psalms as they relate to their literary genre, the book of Proverbs as it relates to skillful living, the message of Ecclesiastes, an interpretation of the Song of Solomon, and the book of Lamentations.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

In this course the student should

1. understand the basic nature and expression of Hebrew poetry in its setting;
2. have an understanding of the basic message of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and the key Psalms studied;
3. acquire a basic knowledge of the figures of speech employed in the poetic books;
4. have an understanding of the historical background for each book; and
5. gain an appreciation of the richness of the theology and practicality contained in the Poetic Books.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Tests:** There will be three major tests. The first exam will cover pp. 1–41 of the syllabus, the second exam, pp. 43–92, and third pp. 93–133. The first exam will be administered on **Mar 2**, the second on **Apr 13**, and the third on **May 11—90% of grade**. Tests must be taken at the time the exam is formally scheduled, unless a student has an excusable absence. If a student has an excusable absence, he must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the day he returns to seminary. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on the day he returns to seminary, a late penalty of 10% per day begins accruing for each day that he goes beyond my 4:00 P.M. deadline. This penalty will be subtracted from the student's earned grade for the exam. If a student has an inexcusable absence, he will receive a 10% penalty for not having an excusable absence. He must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day to avoid any daily late penalties. If he takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day, his daily late penalties begin accruing after 4:00 P.M. of that same day. For example, if a student misses a scheduled exam with an unexcused absence and if he takes it before the 4:00 P.M. deadline on the same day of the exam, he will lose 10% as a penalty for not having a legitimate excuse. However, if this student would take the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the same day, but no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, he will lose 20% from his earned grade. He loses 10% for not having a legitimate excuse and 10% as a daily late penalty for not having taken the exam by 4:00 P.M. on the next day.

In addition, tardies are unacceptable when a test has been scheduled. A tardy that cannot be excused may result in a 10% penalty for the exam

2. **Reading Requirement:** If the student completes all the assigned reading in accordance with the reading schedule, he will receive a 98%. If the student does not complete the assignment on schedule, he will have 1% subtracted from 98% for every 25 pages or chapters (if from the Bible) that he is short of the total pages due on the assigned date. **The**

**reading report formed stapled with the course outline (pp. 4–6)** will be turned in when each major exam is administered—**10% of grade**.

**Reading Schedule:** The following is an abbreviated form of the required reading that is to be submitted on **the specified reading form** at the time of the scheduled exam (for fuller citations, see p. 3; and record reading when completed on the reading report forms on pp. 4–6):

A. First Exam—**Mar 2**

Bullock (1988), pp. 19–68

Estes, pp. 11–128

Job 1–42

McCabe (1997), pp. 47–80

Ryken (1984), pp. 187–225

Zuck (“A Theology of the Wisdom Books and the Song of Songs”), pp. 207–255

B. Second Exam—**Apr 13**

Bullock (1988), pp. 111–77

Chisholm (“A Theology of the Psalms”), pp. 257–304

Estes, pp. 141–99; 213–61

Proverbs 1–31

Psalms 1–150

C. Third Exam—**May 11**

Bullock (1986), pp. 319–31

Estes, pp. 271–384; 393–438

Ecclesiastes 1–12

Lamentations 1–5

McCabe (1996), pp. 85–112

Song of Solomon 1–8

**CLASS ABSENCES:**

The policy for absenteeism at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is as follows. A student is allowed one week of unexcused absences and three weeks of excused absences. The maximum number of absences is four weeks for a class. Anyone who is absent from class beyond this will receive an “F” for that course, except by vote of the faculty in extenuating circumstances.

When a student has consumed his one week of permissible unexcused absences for a given course, his final grade will be penalized by 1% per hour of class that he has gone beyond this limit and extending until he has missed four full weeks of class. After this, he will receive an “F” for the course.

An excused absence is one where the student’s absence is beyond his control. In order to have his absence excused, the student must submit to the course instructor a **written explanation** for his absence. Based upon this the instructor will then determine whether or not the absence should be excused.

Three periods of tardiness will be counted as one unexcused absence.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
2. McCabe, Robert V. "Old Testament Poetic Books." Unpublished syllabus, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2008.

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

|        |    |       |    |            |    |
|--------|----|-------|----|------------|----|
| 96–100 | A  | 86–87 | B- | 76–77      | D+ |
| 94–95  | A- | 84–85 | C+ | 72–75      | D  |
| 92–93  | B+ | 80–83 | C  | 70–71      | D- |
| 88–91  | B  | 78–79 | C- | 69 & below | F  |

**FULL CITATION OF REQUIRED READING FROM BOOKS AND ARTICLES:**

**The following 3 divisions provide a full citation of the reading for this course along with the dates when the reading is to be accounted for.**

**A. First Exam—Mar 2**

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books: The Wisdom and Songs of Israel*. Revised ed. Chicago: Moody, 1988; pp. **19–68**

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005; pp. **11–128**

**Job 1–42**

McCabe, Robert V. "Elihu's Contribution to the Thought of the Book of Job." *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 2 (Fall 1997): 47–80.

Ryken, Leland. *Words of Delight*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987; pp. **187–225**

Zuck, Roy B. "A Theology of the Wisdom Books and the Song of Songs." In *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*. Edited by Roy B. Zuck, Eugene H. Merrill, and Darrell L. Bock. Chicago: Moody, 1991; pp. **207–255**

**B. Second Exam—Apr 13**

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*, pp. **111–77**

Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. "A Theology of the Psalms." In *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, pp. **257–304**

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005; pp. **141–99; 213–61**

**Proverbs 1–31**

**Psalms 1–150**

**C. Third Exam—May 11**

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*, pp. **319–31**

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005; pp. **271–384; 393–438**

**Ecclesiastes 1–12**

**Lamentations 1–5**

McCabe, Robert V. "The Message of Ecclesiastes." *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 1 (Spring 1996); pp. **85–112**

**Song of Solomon 1–8**





