

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

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary
 Spring Semester
 2011

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. 1–49 of the syllabus, the second exam, pp. 50–106, and third pp. 107–154. The first exam will be administered on **Mar 1**, the second on **Apr 12**, and the third on **May 10—90% of grade**.

Tests must be taken at the time the exam is officially scheduled, unless a student has an excusable absence. I use a graded system for late penalties. The breakdown is like this: loss of 5% for the first day beyond the exam, 15% for the second, 20% for the third, 20% for the fourth, 20% for the fifth, and 20% for the sixth. This means that on the seventh day a student receives a 0 (zero) for his exam.

Excusable Absences. If a student has an excusable absence, he must have the exam completed no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, Wednesday, or whatever day that he returns to seminary in order to avoid any late penalties. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on Wednesday or whatever day he returns to seminary, he will lose 5% from his exam as a late penalty for the first official day after the exam. If he then takes his exam after 4:00 P.M. on Thursday but no later than 4:00 P.M. on Friday, he will lose an additional 15% for the second official day after the exam (at this point, his test grade will be reduced by 20%). Then beginning Friday after 4:00 P.M. but no later than 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, 20% for that day will be penalized. For each day beyond the 4 P.M. deadline for a given day, he will be penalized 20% for each subsequent day. Whatever late penalty a student receives, this will be subtracted from his earned grade for the test.

Inexcusable Absences. If a student has an inexcusable absence, his late penalties begin accruing for anything after 7:30 A.M. on Tuesday when the exam is scheduled. For example, if he takes the exam anywhere between 7:31 A.M. of Tuesday up through 4:00 P.M. of the same day, he will lose 5% as a late penalty for this exam. If he then takes his exam after 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday but no later than 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, he will lose

an additional 15% for the second day after the exam. After this the late penalties accrue and effect one's exam grade as outlined in the preceding paragraph.

In addition, tardies are unacceptable when a test has been scheduled. A tardy may result in a 5% late 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 form stapled with the course outline (pp. 5–7) 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 pp. 3–4; and record reading when completed on the reading report forms on pp. 4–6):

A. First Exam—**Mar 1**

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 12**

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 10**

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, 2011.

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 1

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 12

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 10

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**

