

Course Syllabus

BIB329NT | Old Testament: Poetry & Wisdom Literature

Course Credits: 3

Duration: 8 weeks

Course Description:

An expository study of Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature (Job through Song of Solomon). The course focuses on the purpose, function, basic characteristics, and message of these texts along with a broad overview of their major theological themes. Skills will be developed for the communication and application of the text with an eye to personal discipleship and ministry in the local church.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the structure, content, historical background, people, and themes of Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature.
2. Describe critical issues in the study of Old Testament wisdom literature, including the major features of Hebrew poetry and their significance for interpretation.
3. Implement a practice using the Psalter as a guidebook for prayer.
4. Distinguish between the unique characteristics of different types of Psalms.
5. Perform competent exegesis of selected Psalms and portions of the Wisdom Literature, demonstrating literary discernment and theological acumen.
6. Develop applications from the Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature that pertain to personal spiritual growth and ministry in the local church.

Biblical Worldview Integration Plan:

In this course, you will study the biblical narrative focusing specifically on the books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Throughout the study of these books, you will wrestle with problems of evil and significance, how wisdom can be practiced in day-to-day life, and the full expression of human emotions in prayer, petitions, and praises to the Lord. This course is designed to help you grow in the fear of the Lord, the practical application of wisdom, and the deepening and enjoyment of communing with the Lord through prayer and praise. There is space built into the reading requirements to allow time to read carefully and meditatively through each biblical book covered in this course.

Each week, you will participate in a discussion board in which you will dialogue with your classmates in a collaborative environment. These discussions will cover the various themes, genres, and messages found within the poetic and wisdom books covered in this course. You will

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also discuss how these topics relate to the unfolding biblical narrative as well as how they challenge and inform your faith.

At the end of the course, you will submit a final paper that gives a synopsis of the role and impact that wisdom and poetic literature has had on your own spiritual development and prayer life. At the beginning of the course, you will need to read and apply the work of Donald Whitney's *Praying the Bible* to complete the assignment.

Required Media (to purchase):

Estes, Daniel J. (2010). *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Baker. 9780801038884. Paper.

Whitney, Donald S. (2015). *Praying the Bible*. Crossway. 9781433547843. Paper. (An online version of this textbook is available at: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=3cc234f9-05ee-3e64-be04-2b0fcdce68fb>)

Additional Media (provided):

Schmutzer, Andrew J. and David M. Howard, Jr. (2013). *The Psalms: Language for All Seasons of the Soul*. Moody. 9780802409621. (An online version of this textbook is available at: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=3f33b3ba-8e1e-31a5-979e-4ea7a3319040>)

Wenham, Gordon J. (2013). *The Psalter Reclaimed: Praying and Praising with the Psalms*. Crossway. 9781433533969. (An online version of this textbook is available at: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=1d3ec728-1660-34b9-8145-8a9ec6600e51>)

For Further Study (recommended, but not required):

Belcher, Richard P. (2018). *Finding Favour in the Sight of God: A Theology of Wisdom Literature*. IVP Academic. 9780830826476.

Webb, Barry G. (2001). *Five Festal Garments: Christian Reflections on the Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther*. IVP Academic. 9780830826100. Paper.

Wenham, Gordon J. (2012). *Psalms as Torah: Reading Biblical Song Ethically*. Baker Academic. 9780801031687. Paper.

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Grading Grid:

Assignments/Assessments	Total Points
Discussions (8) – 25 pts each	200
Weekly Quiz (8) – 25 pts each	200
Weekly Essay Question (8) – 25 pts each	200
Final Paper	400
Total Points:	1000

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Media:

1. Tillman - Introduction to Wisdom Literature
2. Tillman – Introduction to the book of Job
3. Estes, Preface and pp. 9-40
4. The Book of Job

Assignments:

1. Wk1 Quiz
2. Wk1 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk1 Discussion – See Instructions in the course

Week 2

Media:

1. Tillman – Introduction to the Psalms
2. Estes, Chapter on Psalms
3. Psalms 1-50

Assignments:

1. Wk2 Quiz
2. Wk2 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk2 Discussion – See Instructions in the course

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Week 3

Media:

1. Tillman – Introduction to Categories Within the Psalter
2. Wenham, *The Psalter Reclaimed*, Chapters 2 & 6
3. Psalms 51-100

Assignments:

1. Wk3 Quiz
2. Wk3 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk3 Discussion – See Instructions in the course

Week 4

Media:

1. Tillman – Overview of Psalm 73 within the Psalter
2. Schmutzer and Howard, Chapters 12-15
3. Psalms 101-150

Assignments:

1. Wk4 Quiz
2. Wk4 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk4 Discussion – See Instructions in the course

Week 5

Media:

1. Tillman – Introduction to Proverbs
2. Estes, Chapter on Proverbs
3. Proverbs 1-9

Assignments:

1. Wk5 Quiz
2. Wk5 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk5 Discussion – See Instructions in the course

Week 6

Media:

1. Tillman – Introduction to Proverbs
2. Duguid, “Preaching Christ from Proverbs”
3. Proverbs 10-31

Assignments:

1. Wk6 Quiz
2. Wk6 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk6 Discussion – See Instructions in the course

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Week 7

Media:

1. Tillman – Introduction to Ecclesiastes
2. Estes, Chapter on Ecclesiastes
3. Ecclesiastes

Assignments:

1. Wk7 Quiz
2. Wk7 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk7 Discussion – See Instructions in the course

Week 8

Media:

1. Tillman – Introduction to Song of Solomon
2. Estes, Chapter on Song of Solomon
3. Song of Solomon

Assignments:

1. Wk8 Quiz
2. Wk8 Essay – See Instructions in the course
3. Wk8 Discussion – See Instructions in the course
4. Final Paper – See Instructions in the course

Academic Honesty Policy:

Corban University is committed to high academic standards and expects students to achieve these standards in a manner marked by integrity and honesty. Academic honesty is the hallmark of true personal integrity. Students' academic work is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented is their own. Faculty and students are expected to identify departures from academic honesty.

Principles of Academic Honesty:

1. Academic honesty at Corban University is based on the biblical principle of truthfulness. Truthfulness is inherent in the character of God. As beings created in the image of God, we have that example to follow.
2. Students' work must represent their own ideas, concepts, and current understanding.
3. Students must document appropriately any ideas or concepts borrowed from other sources, including research, papers, or projects that the student has simultaneously or previously submitted as coursework for other classes.
4. We measure learning progress by course assignments and examinations, and thus, we cannot recognize standards of academic achievement when cheating occurs.
5. Cheating, plagiarism, or any form of dishonesty is unacceptable.

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6. Cheating in any form devalues the credentials of the university and is detrimental to all students.
7. The reputation of students, faculty, and the institution is damaged if the Corban University administration does not apply appropriate discipline.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: intentional use or attempted use of deception, fraud, or misrepresentation in one's work.
2. Fabrication: falsification or invention of any information or citation in any academic exercise.
3. Facilitating dishonesty: helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty, including substituting for others in examinations or allowing one's own papers, reports or any other academic work to be claimed by another.
4. Plagiarism: representing without giving credit the words, data, or ideas of another as one's own work in any academic exercise. This includes submitting, in whole or part, prewritten term papers, or the research of another, including materials sold or distributed by commercial vendors.
5. Cheating on examinations by the use of crib notes, unauthorized retrieval of information previously stored in a computer, copying from another paper either before or during the exam, or by any other means.
6. Theft of examination papers or other students' work.
7. Writing an exam for another student.
8. Unauthorized collaboration on the preparation of coursework.
9. Submission of identical or substantially similar papers and/or course projects in more than one class without the prior approval of faculty member(s) involved.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990: Any student who feels he or she may need special provisions for any type of disability should contact the Student Support Office to schedule an appointment or phone call with Janet Syverson (jsyverson@corban.edu), Associate Director of Student Support. Janet will help you make any necessary accommodations for academic support.