SYLLABUS

TAYLOR SEMINARY

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

OT 614 Wisdom Literature

Spring Session, 2019

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry E. Shepherd, Ph.D.
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SCHEDULE: May 6-10, Mon-Fri, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM

CREDITS: 3 [90 hours of work outside of class time]

DESCRIPTION: A detailed examination of the books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should:

1. Have an understanding of the Wisdom literature in its various ancient Near Eastern contexts: literary, historical, geographical, cultural, religious, and sociological.

2. Have an appreciation for this literary corpus as a vital part of the canon of the Christian church.

3. Have obtained an awareness of the different approaches and perspectives from which this literature may be studied.

4. Have an understanding of the Wisdom literature in its canonical and Christological contexts.

5. Know better the God who has revealed himself in this literature.

TEXTBOOK(S):

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Ryan P. O'Dowd. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011. (Also available in Kindle)

ISBN-10: 0830838961
ISBN-13: 978-0830838967

Longman, Tremper III. *The Fear of the Lord Is Wisdom: A Theological Introduction to Wisdom in Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017. (Also available in Kindle)

ISBN-10: 080102711X
ISBN-13: 978-0801027116

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The student should also have a copy of the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*. This is available online on the seminary website, as well on the Moodle site for the course.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Assignment 1: (10%)** Class attendance and contribution.
2. **Assignment 2: (00%)** The reading of the assigned books. No percentage is attached to this requirement, but failure to do the assigned reading could lower your grade. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate your completion of this assignment. (30 hours)
3. **Assignment 3: (00%)** The reading of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs in two different versions. Also, the reading of the Wisdom books in the Apocrypha (The Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Tobit, and Judith). Again, there is no percentage attached to this requirement, but the level of compliance could raise or lower your final grade. (20 hours)
4. **Assignment 4: (45%)** Final exam, on the course website, during a two-day window, June 5-6, on all reading and lectures. (10 hours)
5. **Assignment 5: (45%)** A research-oriented exegetical or thematic paper, approximately 15 pages (3750 words), typed, double-spaced, on a passage or topic of your choice, but also approved by me. This is due by midnight, June 28 . Please submit your paper in a Word document on the Moodle course website. (30 hours)

EVALUATION:

Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	00%
Assignment 3	00%
Assignment 4	45%
Assignment 5	45%

ATTENDANCE POLICY: In addition to the grading percentage for attendance and participation, it should be noted that, for this modular course, absences comprising more than one day may result in failure for the course.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. MOODLE

Taylor Seminary's Moodle is located on a shared platform with our partner seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access: https://moodle.sfseminary.edu

Moodle log-in is the first initial of your first name and your last name - all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log-in as jcalvin
The default password is: TaylorSem123$ (After your first login it will require you to change it)
The default enrolment key is the course code (all in lowercase, with no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number.
For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417
If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enroling, please email teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca

2. COURSE WRITING

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Formatting
All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

Research Language.
You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to "man" generically or to "mankind," "men," "he"; rather use "humankind," "humanity," "person," etc.)

Plagiarism.
Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: "To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work" (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may *receive a grade of zero* for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee**.

3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY
After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a "W" will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an "F" will be recorded on the student's transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1 Introduction to the Wisdom Literature

- 1.1 Why is this literature important?
- 1.2 What is Wisdom?
- 1.3 Who are the Wise?
- 1.4 Who are the Fools?
- 1.5 Where does Wisdom come from?
- 1.6 What is the literature's place in the canon of Christian Scripture?

2 Proverbs

- 2.1 Introductory Issues
  - 2.1.1 Authorship
  - 2.1.2 Date
  - 2.1.3 Genre
  - 2.1.4 Structure
  - 2.1.5 Comparative Literature
- 2.2 Contents

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2.2.1 Prologue (1:1—9:18)
2.2.2 Solomonic Wisdom (10:1—22:16)
2.2.3 Sayings of the Wise (22:17—24:34)
2.2.4 More Solomonic Wisdom (25:1—29:27)
2.2.5 Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)
2.2.6 Sayings of Lemuel (31:1-9)
2.2.7 The Virtuous Woman (31:10-31)

2.3 A Christological-Canonical Perspective

3 Job

3.1 Introductory Issues

3.1.1 Authorship
3.1.2 Date
3.1.3 Genre
3.1.4 Structure
3.1.5 Comparative Literature

3.2 Contents

3.2.1 Prologue (1:1—22:13)
3.2.2 Job's Monologue (3:1-26)
3.2.3 Job and his three friends (4:1—26:14)

3.2.3.1 Cycle One

3.2.3.1.1 Eliphaz (4:1—5:27)
3.2.3.1.2 Job (6:1—7:21)
3.2.3.1.3 Bildad (8:1-22)
3.2.3.1.4 Job (9:1—10:22)
3.2.3.1.5 Zophar (11:1-20)
3.2.3.1.6 Job (12:1—14:22)

3.2.3.2 Cycle Two

3.2.3.2.1 Eliphaz (15:1-35)
3.2.3.2.2 Job (16:1—17:16)
3.2.3.2.3 Bildad (18:1-21)
3.2.3.2.4 Job (19:1-29)
3.2.3.2.5 Zophar (20:1-29)
3.2.3.2.6 Job (21:1-34)

3.2.3.3 Cycle Three

3.2.3.3.1 Eliphaz (22:1-30)
3.2.3.3.2 Job (23:1—24:25)
3.2.3.3.3 Bildad (25:1-6)
3.2.3.3.4 Job (26:1-14)
3.2.3.3.5 Zophar (?)

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3.2.3.3.6 Job (27:1—31:40)

3.2.4 Elihu's Monologue (32:1—37:24)

3.2.5 God's Monologue and Job's Answers (38:1—42:6)

3.2.6 Epilogue (42:7-17)

3.3 A Christological-Canonical Perspective

4 Ecclesiastes

4.1 Introductory Issues

4.1.1 Authorship
4.1.2 Date
4.1.3 Genre
4.1.4 Structure
4.1.5 Comparative Literature

4.2 Contents

4.2.1 Narrator's Prologue (1:1-11)
4.2.2 Qohelet's Monologue (1:12—12:8)
4.2.3 Narrator's Epilogue (12:9-14)

4.3 A Christological-Canonical Perspective

5 Song of Songs

5.1 Introductory Issues

5.1.1 Authorship
5.1.2 Date
5.1.3 Genre
5.1.4 Structure
5.1.5 Comparative Literature

5.2 Contents

5.3 A Christological-Canonical Perspective

6 Christ the Wisdom of God

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