

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BOT 540 St. in Wisdom Bks: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes**

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Post Session, July 2010
8:00-12:00 noon, M-F

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical, theological, and applicational study of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes with special emphasis on understanding and using wisdom literature in the Christian life and ministry through discussion of life issues such as suffering, and healthy relationships.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe the content and message of these books in their ancient Near Eastern cultural context.
2. Recognize and deal properly with the features of Hebrew wisdom literature and of Hebrew poetry.
3. Identify, explain, and apply the theological principles of these books to the lives of Christians today, especially in the area of suffering.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Andersen, Francis I. *Job: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1976. **ISBN: 0877842639**

Cotton, Roger D. *BOT 540 Wisdom Books Handouts, 2010* (AGTS)

Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman, 1993.
ISBN: 0805401148

The Holy Bible: Contemporary English Version. New York: American Bible Society, 1995.
ISBN: 1585160377

Recommended:

Longman, Tremper III. *The Book of Ecclesiastes*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
ISBN: 0802823661

COURSE OUTLINE

Monday June 28	Introduction and Proverbs 1-3
Tuesday June 29	Proverbs 4-9
Wednesday June 30	Proverbs 10-16
Thursday July 1	Proverbs 17-31
Friday July 2	Ecclesiastes
Monday July 5	OFF for 4 th of July holiday
Tuesday July 6	Ecclesiastes; turn in word study
Wednesday July 7	Job
Thursday July 8	Job
Friday July 9	Conclusion

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, readings, researched exegetical project.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Be prepared to discuss the passages from the wisdom books assigned for each day including reading them in the CEV, checking other translations, and reading the textbook commentary and any related handouts. By the due date for the course, August 2, the handouts and the two commentaries must be read but the student may read the introductions and the key passages in detail and then skim the rest.
2. TURN IN on Wednesday, June 30, your choice of a passage or passages from Job, Proverbs, or Ecclesiastes for the exegetical project in # 5 below, for approval by the professor.
2. TURN IN on Tuesday, July 6, a 3-4 page word study on a significant word in your chosen passage for the exegetical project below.
3. TURN IN on the due date after the course, August 2.
 - A. a 1 or 2 page essay on how to advise other Christians about how to relate Proverbs to

- their lives.
- B. a half page or so essay on the message of Ecclesiastes that God wants us to Receive today.
 - C. a 1 or 2 page essay explaining to other Christians what is the answer of the book of Job to the question of undeserved severe suffering.
5. A. PRESENT in the last class or in the professor's office before the course due date of August a 3 or more page typed, researched, exegetical, biblical-theological, teaching (or preaching) outline on a passage or passages of your choice, approved by the professor. "A" grade level requires the work and sources described below and in the handouts about doing good graduate level exegetical/biblical-theological study.

OR

- B. TURN IN a 10-12 page typed exegetical/biblical-theological research paper on a passage approved by the professor, with the same basic instructions as above, turned in by the due date for the course, August 2.

Thorough, detailed, exegetical/biblical-theological research to me includes the following steps:

- a. Understanding the language of the text through comparing translations and doing significant word studies, which include the use of: (New) Englishman's Hebrew Concordance (coded to Strong's) or Kohlenberger, John R., III, and James W. Swanson. The Hebrew English Concordance To The Old Testament With The New International Version or a computer program that searches the Hebrew words, and then reading the articles in the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis.
- b. Understanding the significance of the historical and cultural references in the passage through background studies, including the Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, and scholarly, exegetical commentaries.
- c. Understanding the literary intent of the passage by analyzing the flow of thought and the literary devices used by the writer.
- d. Understanding the theology intended through analyzing the significance of the images and the theological and thematic terms and ideas used in context of the book and of the whole Old Testament, and determining the underlying principles intended as the message of the inspired writer. To qualify for an "A" grade the best commentaries (see the * ones in bibliography and at least two more) must be consulted, as well as Old Testament theologies, including Waltke's, and the Dictionary of OT Wisdom, Poetry, & Writings edited by Longman and Enns, and any other related, significant, theological, studies. Be sure to research journal articles and read at least one to

qualify for an A grade. In or before the conclusion the student must suggest how the biblical theological message of the psalm can be applied to people today.

For either choice the student must follow the style in Turabian 7th ed. with your choice of citation method: footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references. However, for a teaching outline not many quotations or other citations are expected, as long as you are not passing off someone else's ideas as your own. A bibliography listing all the sources you consulted, not just cited, is required for proper evaluation of your research. I greatly prefer (required for an A) to see any signed articles from multi-author works, such as NIDOTTE and encyclopedias, listed by author and title of the article rather than the editor of the book, (see Turabian 17.1.8). Commentaries should be listed by author and title (usually a book of the Bible) NOT by series editor and title (see Tur. 17.1.5). Also, the outline need not be double spaced throughout, but do **NOT** justify the right margin. Put your name, the course, and date in the upper right corner of the first page. If presented in class, copies must be supplied for each class member, but not necessarily the bibliography.

Late work may be penalized. Please talk to the professor about any absences.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading Assignments and class participation	10%
Word study	12%
Exegetical project	45%
Concluding Take-home essays	33%

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., December 2009.