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OT 713 Exegetical Studies in Wisdom Literature

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OT 713 Exegetical Studies in Wisdom Literature

Spring 2008; W/F 9:30–10:45

Instructor: John A. Cook
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3 credit hours
enrollment limit: 30

prerequisites: IBS–1, OT520, OT501/502

Description
This course explores exegetical issues in the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes, and provides students with opportunities to apply original-language tools to the book’s strategic passages. Particular attention is given to literary and theological characteristics of Israelite wisdom literature and questions of theodicy as raised and answered in these books.

Goals
1. Understand the exegetical issues in the books of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes and read with comprehension select portions of the books (i.e., integrate knowledge from IBS, OT520, and OT501/502 to exegete wisdom literature).
2. Become familiar with language, rhetoric, literary forms, and theological themes characteristic of Hebrew wisdom literature (i.e., learn to speak the “language” of wisdom and translate that into terms relevant to modern ministry setting).
3. Explore the approach to reality (meaning and understanding) in the Hebrew wisdom literature, and determine its role in Christian and Wesleyan theology (e.g., the role of wisdom literature in Wesleyan moral theology).

Procedures
1. Studying extensive portions of the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes in Hebrew and/or English.
2. Practicing historical and theological exegesis on selected passages in the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes.
3. Reading relevant secondary literature and discussing the critical and interpretive issues and theology of the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes.

Requirements
1. Resources:
   a) Hebrew Bible and lexicon required (as in OT 501/502)
   d) Access to commentaries required (available in Info Commons)
   e) Access to supplementary readings (available thorough Info Commons)
2. Assignments and evaluation:
   a) Reading/study and discussion of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes (10%)
   b) Three unit exams: March 14; April 25; final exam time (30% ea.)
   c) Term paper: final draft due May 9th (30%)
Schedule (tentative)
Unit 1 (week 1): Wisdom literature and its forms
Unit 2 (weeks 2–5): readings in the book of Proverbs: entire book (English or choice of language); chap. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 22, 30 (Hebrew).
Unit 3 (weeks 6–10): readings in the book of Job: entire book (English or choice of language); chap. 1–6, 28, 38, 40, 42 (Hebrew)
Unit 4 (weeks 11–12): the book of Ecclesiastes: entire book (English or choice of language); chap. 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 12 (Hebrew)
Unit 5 (week 13): Jewish Hellenistic wisdom: Ben Sira: chap. 1–6, 30–33, 38–39, 51; and Wisdom of Solomon: 1–10 (English or choice of language)

Select Bibliography
Commentaries on Proverbs
Delitzsch, F.
Fox, Michael V.
McKane, William
Murphy, Roland E.
Toy, Crawford H.
Waltke, Bruce K.

Commentaries on Job
Clines, David J. A.
Dhorme, E.
Driver, Samuel Rolles, and George Buchanan Gray
Gordis, Robert
Habel, Norman C.
Hartley, John E.

Pope, Marvin H.

Tur-Sinai, Naphtali H.

**Commentaries on Ecclesiastes**

Crenshaw, James L.

Delitzsch, F.


Gordis, Robert

Krèuger, Thomas

Lohfink, Norbert

Longman, Tremper

Murphy, Roland E.

Seow, Choon-Leong

**Additional resources**

(For your reference; we will read several of the articles in this list for class, TBD)

Abrahams, Roger D., and Barbara A. Babcock

Brown, William P.


Clifford, Richard J.


Shapin, Steven

Siran, Jean–Louis

States, Burt O.

Tsevat, Matitiahu

Whybray, R. N.

Williams, James G.

Zimmerli, Walther