

**OT 504: WRITINGS (4 units). John Goldingay, David Allan Hubbard Professor of Old Testament;
Online Facilitation by Daryl Jump, Adjunct Instructor in Old Testament Studies**

DESCRIPTION: The course covers the books in the third section of the Hebrew Scriptures: Psalms, Job, Proverbs, the Scrolls (Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Lamentations, and Esther), Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the course students should have demonstrated that they have:

1. Read these books and reflected on their meaning and significance;
2. Considered the importance of the wisdom books in our world against their Middle Eastern background;
3. Gained expertise in approaches to interpreting the Psalms;
4. Perceived the way Israel's story is retold and extended in the Old Testament and its significance in our world; and
5. Considered approaches to the interpretation of Old Testament short stories and their significance for women and men today.

RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY: My aim is that by the end of the course students should have become convinced about the wide-ranging significance of these books for our life with God and committed to shaping their lives by them, and using them in their mission and ministry.

COURSE FORMAT: The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each class combines lecture and plenary discussion with work in groups; the course includes some creative writing and listening to recorded material. Classes require substantial preparation on the part of students, on average two hours of preparation for each class hour, including study of the biblical text and other reading which is specified. The course emphasizes collaborative learning and students need to be willing to be committed to working together with other students through journaling, threaded discussions, and web-based research.

REQUIRED READING:

NRSV or TNIV Bible.
Arnold, B.T., and H.G.M. Williamson, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*.
InterVarsity Press, 2005.
Longman, Tremper, and Peter Enns, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings*.
InterVarsity Press, 2008.
The Course Reader will be provided for students within the course.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Brenner, A. (ed.). *A Feminist Companion to the Wisdom Literature, A Feminist Companion to the Song of Songs, A Feminist Companion to Ruth, and A Feminist Companion to Esther, Judith, and Susanna*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995, 1993, 1993 and 1995. Also subsequent volumes in this series edited by Brenner.
- Brueggemann, W. *The Message of the Psalms*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984.
- _____. *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- Crenshaw, J. *Old Testament Wisdom*. Atlanta: Knox, 1981/London: SCM, 1982; rev. ed., 1999.
- Goldingay, J. *Old Testament Theology, Volumes One and Two*. InterVarsity Press, 2003 and 2006.
- Gunn, D., and D. N. Fowell. *Narrative in the Hebrew Bible*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Kidner, D. *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1985 (= *Wisdom to Live By*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1985).

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Weekly Threaded Discussions, Journaling, Web research (25%).
2. Weekly preparation homework (25%).
3. Two 7-10 page papers (50%).

PREREQUISITES: None.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: Meets M. Div. core requirement in Old Testament "c" (OTC); MA in Global Leadership Ministry Focus Elective.

FINAL EXAMINATION: None

This ECD is a reliable guide to the course design but is subject to modification.

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