

Note:

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice.
The information below is provided as a guide for course selection
and is not binding in any form.**

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI6614 Interpreting Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature, 3 credit hours

Course Description

Examination and utilization of various interpretive methods employed in the study of Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom. Emphasis placed on the development of skills and techniques in the analysis of Old Testament poetic and wisdom texts. The relation between poetic and historiographical texts, as well as strategies for reading wisdom texts addressed. Application of interpretive results to contemporary contexts achieved through case study method.

Course Objectives

1. Analyze poetic and wisdom literature utilizing elements of Hebrew poetry and figures of speech
2. Formulate interpretative considerations that must be applied to the wisdom genre as inspired Scripture
3. Create exegetically-based ideas for preaching, teaching, counseling, and personal discipleship
4. Implement an understanding of key thematic, historical, poetic, and structural elements of Wisdom/Poetic books in exegesis and communication of biblical truth
5. Evaluate the place of the wisdom tradition in ancient Israel and consider wisdom influence in the formulation of the Bible
6. Synthesize an understanding of the Old Testament poetic and wisdom books in light of the coming of Israel's Messiah
7. Evaluate similarities and differences between the Old Testament poetic and wisdom books and the comparative ancient Near Eastern literature

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Assignments (*what student does for a grade*)

Guideline for the Discussion Board: Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CST). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CST).

Note about Papers: All papers must be in Turabian style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. TNR font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.)

1-1 Psalm 1 Analysis (Worksheet): Complete "Assignment 1-1 Worksheet - Psalm 1 Analysis" by filling in the answers to the **four questions** in the space provided in **Lesson 1 Resources** folder.

2-1 Psalm 2 Analysis (Worksheet): Fill in the answers to the questions in the table on the worksheet called "Assignment 2-1 Psalm 2 Analysis" in **Lesson 2 Resources** folder.

3-1 Essay / Devotional (3-Pages): Choose just **one** of the following, Choice 1 or Choice 2 to complete for Assignment 3-1:

- **Choice 1: Essay**
In a three-page double-spaced essay, demonstrate the point that James is making. Convince your friend, who recently read the book of Job, that Job **does** warrant recognition as an example of endurance in the face of extreme hardship.
- **Choice 2: Devotional**
Prepare a 900 word devotional (3-pages double-spaced) that you could share in an adult Bible study setting.

3-2 Retribution Principle vs. Theodicy (Worksheet): In the book of Job, the problem of theodicy challenges the Israelite understanding of the "retribution principle." To gain a better understanding of these two concepts and how they conflict in the book of Job, please answer the questions in the worksheet titled "Assignment 3-2 Retribution Principle and Theodicy Worksheet."

4-1 Character-Development Project: A Strength to Sharpen (3-Page Paper):

Choose ONE specific area of strength in your life that you would like to "sharpen" (e.g., wise spending, friendships, being good with words, etc.), and examine this issue in light of the wisdom books.

This paper should be a minimum of three pages double-spaced. The topics covered in biblical wisdom literature are vast—most of anything you can think of is there! These will be graded on genuineness, clarity, research of the biblical data, and thoughtfulness in the crafting of the five principles.

4-2 Script (3-Pages): You are leading a Bible study on Proverbs for a group of high school students. In your first lesson, you must teach them how to interpret the “proverbial genre” so they can properly apply what they are learning. In three pages (double-spaced), write a script that you would feel comfortable sharing with this group that simplifies the special hermeneutical considerations needed for interpreting Proverbs.

5-1 Proverbs-style Paragraph (Worksheet): Choose one of the topics from the assignment (page 2); write the number in Part A, then write a five-sentence paragraph in Part B, summarizing what the Book of Proverbs has to say about that topic. (All the relevant Proverbs are listed next to the topic to make it convenient.) See the assignment example in blue (do *not* use this same proverb).

6-1 Ecclesiastes Intro Paragraph & Outline: Your pastor has asked you to teach a lesson to a young adult group on Ecclesiastes. To better communicate the message and structure of the book, you have decided to create a summary content outline of the book of Ecclesiastes for teaching purposes that includes a one-paragraph introduction summarizing the meaning (a comprehensive interpretation) of the book.

Use standard outlining formatting with numbers and letters for each heading (e.g., Roman numerals for mains, capital letters for subs, Arabic numerals for sub-subs, etc. as follows I., A., 1., a., i.) with each sub-point indented to line up under the previous main. The outline should summarize the message of the book by capturing the themes of each of its sections. Aim for 3-7 major headings, with subheadings beneath drawing out points that would be worthy of discussion in your study.

6-2 Ecclesiastes 2-Page Worksheet: Utilizing the required reading, answer two provided questions in the one-cell tables provided on the worksheet, **one page per question**, double-spaced.

7-1 Song of Songs Paper (3-Pages): In light of the required reading, write a **3-page double-spaced paper** on common approaches to the meaning (comprehensive interpretation) of the Song of Songs.

7-2 Eight Principles from Song of Songs (Worksheet): Write EIGHT principles in the table from the Song of Songs.

Assessments

Discussions (3 posts + 2 responses each)	15%
Assignment 1-1 – Worksheet	5%
Assignment 2-1 – Worksheet	10%
Assignment 3-1 – Essay or Devotional	10%
Assignment 3-2 – Worksheet	10%
Assignment 4-1 – 3-Page Paper	10%
Assignment 4-2 – 3-Page Script	5%
Assignment 5-1 – Worksheet	5%
Assignment 6-1 – Intro Paragraph & Outline	7%
Assignment 6-2 – Worksheet	8%
Assignment 7-1 – 3-Page Paper	10%
Assignment 7-2 – Worksheet	5%
Total:	100%

**The Extra Credit Project will be used by the instructor to determine borderline letter grades.*

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work

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