

BBL224 Psalms & Wisdom Literature



Pathways

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For the Acadeum Course Sharing Consortium



We're delighted to have you here at RMC! Please note the following policies:

We try our best to ensure you get the most from the courses in which you are enrolled and welcome your feedback!

Online Courtesy

As beings created in the image of God, we all deserve to be treated with the utmost respect whether we are a facilitator or a student. Online courses give us the opportunity to encourage social interaction, relationship building and trust between participants which befits our status as image-bearers. Failure to show respect in course interchange, through emails, announcements, discussion forums or instant chat, whether in the form of racism, chauvinism or simple unkindness is ungracious and inappropriate for the health of Christian community. Where mutual respect exists, the possibility of learning is enhanced for all.

Therefore, please remember that there is a person behind every comment on the course website – when you respond, be gracious, give the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification. Review your comments in the discussion forums for tone before submitting them – sarcasm and jokes often do not translate well in the online environment. Be sure your messages are clear – it is tempting to quickly write a response and submit it but this can lead to confusion if your thoughts are a bit jumbled – take time to polish your remarks. Remember that your comments, whether in emails or discussion forums can become public so act accordingly.

RMC Grading Policy

Grade GradePoint

A+	4.0	
A	4.0	A = Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	B = Good- clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	C = Satisfactory — basic understanding of subject matter.
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	D = Inferior work which falls below the expectations of the course but which is of passing quality.
D-	0.7	
F	0.0	F = Failure to meet the minimum standards required for a passing grade.
P	Pass	P = Represents satisfactory work. Given only in courses specially designated for Pass /Fail grading.
IN	Incomplete	
VW	Voluntary Withdrawal	Voluntary Withdrawal from a course before the course withdrawal deadline.
AU	Audit	No grade awarded. Indicates that a minimum of 75% of classes have been attended.

Grading Scale

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 89-92
B+ 85-88	B 80-84	B- 76-79
C+ 72-75	C 67-71	C- 60-66
D 55-59	F 0-54	

Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct at Rocky Mountain College

A. Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism - involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting the work,
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work is copied from another source, and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

B. Penalties

1. **Failing Grade** - a student may be given a failing grade in either the assignment or course in which that student is found guilty of plagiarism. Except in circumstances in which leniency is warranted, this penalty will be applied in conjunction with one or other of the other penalties mentioned below.
2. **Disciplinary Probation** - when a student is placed on disciplinary probation, he or she is entitled to proceed with their academic program. If the student is found guilty of a further academic offence the student will be suspended or expelled.
3. **Suspension** - suspension takes place when a student is denied continuance at the college for a specified period of time. A student who has been placed under suspension is eligible to reapply for admission after the end of that specified period of time. Suspension does not imply automatic readmission; a student must satisfy the dean of his/her eligibility for readmission.
4. **Expulsion** - a student who is expelled is dismissed permanently from the college with no right to apply for readmission.

C. Penalties and Their Application

1. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that a student is guilty of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be either suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that an offence has been committed, but doubt is left as to the existence of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be disciplinary probation.
3. In cases where a student is found guilty of more than a single offence, the normal penalty will be expulsion from the college.

Copies of the official policy regarding Plagiarism and other academic offenses can be found on the RMC website. If charged with plagiarism, it would be wise for a student to familiarize themselves with the RMC policy, "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct."

This policy is based on the University of Calgary policy "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct - 1996-97" Copyright © 1998 University of Calgary

BBL224 Psalms & Wisdom Literature
Rocky Mountain College
Credits: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the major themes in Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon(/Song of Songs). Emphasis is given to the study of selected Psalms and their use in personal devotions and corporate worship. Principles for interpreting Hebrew poetry and wisdom literature are elaborated. Prerequisite: BBL100.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Develop a firm grasp of the structure, content, and themes of the wisdom books
- Describe the various historical contexts of the wisdom books
- Understand how to write research papers based on a passage and theme and apply the knowledge to one's Christian life and ministry
- Apply the message(s) of the wisdom books to one's specific ministry context

COURSE TEXTS

The Holy Bible (NIV, NASB, NKJV, RSV). Although other translations and paraphrases have value, the basis for these translations is better suited to an accurate, scholastic analysis of the biblical text.

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2010. pp. 445

Recommended Reading:

Fee, Gordon and Stuart, Douglas. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2002.

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Reflection Assignments: **15% of the final grade**
2. Plan a Worship Service: **25% of the final grade**
3. Exegesis Paper: **30% of the final grade**
4. Thematic Paper: **30% of the final grade**

COURSE OUTLINE

Module	Time (hours)	Assignments
1	4.0	
2	9.0	Psalms Reading Reflection
3	0.5	
4	0.5	
5	10.0	Worship Service
6	0.75	
7	9.0	Proverbs Reflection
8	11.0	Reflection Assignment on Personal Suffering
9	26.0	Exegesis paper
10	22.0	Thematic paper

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE 1: 4 hours

- Introduction to the Book of Psalms
- Characteristics of Hebrew Poetry
- Principles for Interpreting the Psalms
- Genres: Wisdom, Royal, Lament

MODULE 2: 9.0 hours

- Praying the Psalms
- Genres: Trust
- The Psalms in Community
- Genres: Creation, Longing for Zion

MODULE 3: 0.5 hours

- Praying the Psalms in Anger
- The cursing Psalms and the ethics of Jesus
- Genres: Penitential, Cursing

MODULE 4: 0.5 hours

- Praying the Psalms in Worship
- The Question of Theodicy
- History: The Great Hallel
- Genres: History, Kingship

MODULE 5: 10 hours

- The Psalms and the Messiah
- The Davidic covenant expressed in the Psalms
- Genres: Praise

MODULE 6: Introduction to the Wisdom Literature: 0.75 hours

- The Wisdom Books: God Reaching Out to Man/ Man Reaching out to God
- What Is Wisdom?
- Who Are the Sages?
- Basic Wisdom Genres

MODULE 7: Proverbs: Modulating 'Decision Making Power' with Wisdom and Compassion: 9.0 hours

- Genre and Literary Forms
- Content: The Wisdom of Words
- An Interpretive Strategy: Proposed Guidelines for Interpretation and Proclamation
- Theology of Proverbs
- Proclaiming the Book's Message to the post-modern Generation

MODULE 8: Job: The Steadfast: 11 hours

- Basic Genres and Literary Forms
- Content: The Suffering of the Innocent and the Search for Order
- Nature of Job's Suffering
- Reading Job: Toward an Interpretive Strategy
- Proclaiming the Book's Message to the Suffering Faith Community

MODULE 9: Ecclesiastes: "Thinking-Out-Loud": 26 hours

- Genre and Literary Forms
- Content: Human Experience under the Sun
- Reading Ecclesiastes: Toward an Interpretive Strategy
- Appropriating the Book's Message to the Collective Experience of Humanity and Christian Pilgrimage: Faith Seeking Understanding

MODULE 10: The Song of Solomon: 22 hours

- Humanity Reaching Out to God
- Humanity Reaching Out to Others