

## **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Evangel University

### **BOT 540 Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes**

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Spring 2018  
Wednesdays, 2:00-4:45pm  
for hours see door schedule, Office 214

### **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.

#### **EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the church and society globally.

#### **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is to equip servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **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. Identify and properly utilize the features of Hebrew wisdom literature and of Hebrew poetry.
3. Explain and apply the theological principles of these books to the lives of Christians today, especially in the area of suffering.
4. Incorporate into one's life the universal principles taught in these books for living as God's holy people, manifesting His holy love, in a holistic approach, including responsible stewardship of God's world, and working for justice and the flourishing of all in society, and then to teach others how to do the same and how to determine God's principles and apply them.

#### **TEXTBOOKS**

Andersen, Francis I. *Job: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1976. ISBN 0-87784-263-9

Cotton, Roger D. *BOT 540 Wisdom Books Handouts, 2018*, Springfield, MO: AGTS, Evangel Univ.  
(This collection will be posted on Course Commons and the portal.)

Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman, 1993. ISBN  
0-8054-0114-8

*The Holy Bible: Contemporary English Version*. New York: American Bible Society, 1995. ISBN  
1-58516063-6

For information on textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

Weeks 1-8 Proverbs

Weeks 9 and 10 Ecclesiastes

(study week after week 9, March 12-16)

Weeks 11-14 Job

Week 15 Presentations

### **METHODOLOGY**

Lecture, discussion, reading, writing, and research paper or presentation of an outline, preferably in class. The professor will use the portal and Course Commons to provide the course handouts and other documents.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class attendance is expected. Please talk to the professor about your absences.

1. READ THROUGH Proverbs in one sitting in the CEV before the second class. Do the same for Ecclesiastes and Job for the first day of their discussions. 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 April 18, the handouts and the two commentaries must be read.
2. TURN IN on **January 24**, your **choice of a passage** or passages from Job, Proverbs, or Ecclesiastes for the exegetical project below, and word chosen for word study assignment below, for approval by the professor.
3. TURN IN on **February 7**, a 3-4 page **word study** on a significant word in your chosen passage for the exegetical project below. Instructions will be given in class and are in the handouts.
4. TURN IN by **April 18**, an **11-13 page exegetical, biblical-theological research paper OR a detailed outline presenting your findings**. An outline must be at least 3 pages if single spaced, which you will present in class or in the professor's office some time before the last day of the semester. This project is to be on a passage of your choice, of around 5-20 verses, or on a

theme, from Job, Proverbs, or Ecclesiastes, or a comparison between two or all three of them, submitted for approval by the professor by January 24. This is to be a thorough exegetical and biblical-theological study (see professor's instructions in the handouts) with a strong focus on principles being taught by God and their application for God's people today.

**An "A" grade level requires the work and sources described below and listed in the handouts about doing good graduate level exegetical/biblical-theological study:**

- 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 (KJV, 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* **Ref. BS 1121.K65**, coded to the NIV number system, OR a computer program that searches the Hebrew words. Then, read the articles in the *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* **Ref. BS 440.N38**.
- b. Understanding the significance of the historical and cultural references in the passage through background studies, including the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* and articles in: *Dictionary of OT: Wisdom, Poetry and Writings*, edited by Tremper Longman and Peter Enns; the *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary*, edited by John Walton; and the best scholarly, exegetical commentaries (see the bibliography at the end of this syllabus).
- c. Understanding the literary intent of the passage by outlining the flow of thought and studying the literary devices used by the writer. Besides exegetical commentaries, see books and articles on Hebrew poetry, literary devices, and wisdom literature.
- d. Understanding the theology intended through analyzing the images and the theological and thematic terms and ideas used in the context of the book and of the whole Old Testament, and determining the underlying principles intended in the message of the inspired writer. **To qualify for an "A" grade** the best commentaries (see all the \* ones in bibliography *and at least two more*) must be consulted, as well as the IVP *Dictionary of OT: Pentateuch*, Old Testament theologies including House and Waltke, and any significant theological studies related to your passage. **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 the major, universal, theological, truths and principles seen in the biblical theological message of the passage and in the context of the whole book. The conclusion must summarize what you have learned and concluded and state the biblical theological message God intended for Israel and then for us. There must be a strong application focus of principles being taught by God for people today. To present some of the latter, then, following the conclusion of the paper, give a simple sermon outline of a unified message from this passage, which relates to people today, giving the main points and the verses they

come from.

- e. Finally, provide a **full bibliography** of all sources consulted (not just cited). Articles in multi-author books (like NIDOTTE) must follow 17.1.8.2 in Turabian 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (See page of examples in handouts.)

**Presentations to the class of your findings are encouraged.**

I would love for the class to benefit from what you have learned about your passage. You may pick any 20-30 minutes you want. You must supply the professor with a thorough outline of the presentation, with bibliography and brief sermon outline. You should have an outline (but not with full bibliography) to give out to the class and you are welcome to use power point. Presenting in class only helps the grade and cannot hurt it.

5. TURN IN on Friday, **April 26** the following concluding **essays**:
  - 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.

**FORM AND STYLE OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED TO ROGER COTTON**

All work for me must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and the right margin NOT justified, and be proof-read. Never turn in work that uses the backside of the paper as well as the front. Your writing should demonstrate good, formal, clear, writing style (see handouts and Strunk and White or *Getting the Words Right* by Cheney). If the student needs coaching on how to improve their writing, they should go to the Write-Place, on the EU campus. The format should follow Turabian 8th edition. I especially want signed articles in books such as encyclopedia articles, word studies, and other multi-author works to be listed according to 17.1.8.2. Not following this could cost the student a full grade. When you need to cite a source, you may choose which one of the three citation methods in Turabian you prefer to use: foot notes, end notes, or parenthetical. For assignments with specific readings, no bibliography is needed unless you want the professor to know about *additional* reading you did. If you need to cite a source that was assigned, just put the last name in parentheses with the page number. The length of written assignments may exceed the limit by up to 25%. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date or the grade begins to drop (see above for late work). If you do not have an assignment finished when it is to be discussed in class, you must leave the class during the discussion of the assignment. Put the following information at the top of the first page or on a title page: Name, assignment, course, my name, date. **Do not** put anything but the page numbers at the top of the other pages. No title page is needed for work under 4 pages. Do not use a cover, just staple it. I recommend using the program *Grammarly*, and using an editor if necessary, to bring your English style up to the appropriate quality. Unless otherwise instructed, you may always turn in your work by e-mail ([cottonr@evangel.edu](mailto:cottonr@evangel.edu)).

## **GRADING PROCEDURE**

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

**Note: Students need to retain extra copies of all work submitted until the work has been graded and recorded.**

Late work may be penalized 1 point per day late using a 12 point scale (12 = A, 1 = F).

You are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified in this syllabus. A grade of IP (In Process) will be issued if the course ends after the AGTS semester ends. A grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted at the discretion of the professor for extenuating circumstances upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form:

<http://agts.edu/current-students/administrative-forms/>.

The approved Incomplete request will extend the due date for up to ninety days and may include a grade reduction. Students may not register for courses in a new term if carrying more than two IP or I grades.

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., October 2017.

## **SCHOOL POLICIES ADDENDUM**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.

### **THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM**

The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may be used only for purposes related to the course. It is therefore a breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, and send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

## **CHAPEL ATTENDANCE**

Students are encouraged to attend chapel services whenever they are able to. There may be a chapel for this class to attend, which will be announced. On that day, students should go directly to chapel and then return to class for the remainder of the class period.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE**

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at <https://www.evangel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Student-Handbook-2017-18.pdf>

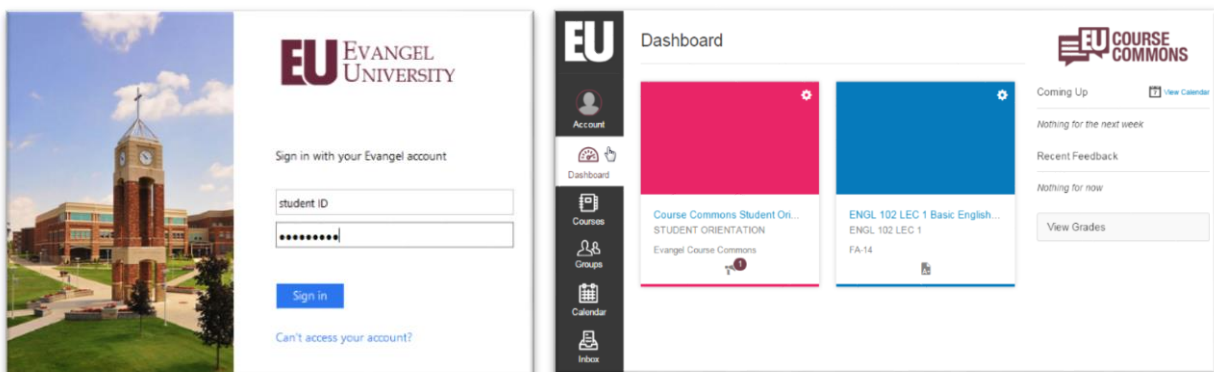
## **DISABILITY ACCOMODATION**

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Evangel University, is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with the professor to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact the Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be arranged. See the Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook for further information on the accommodations process.

## **COURSE COMMONS**

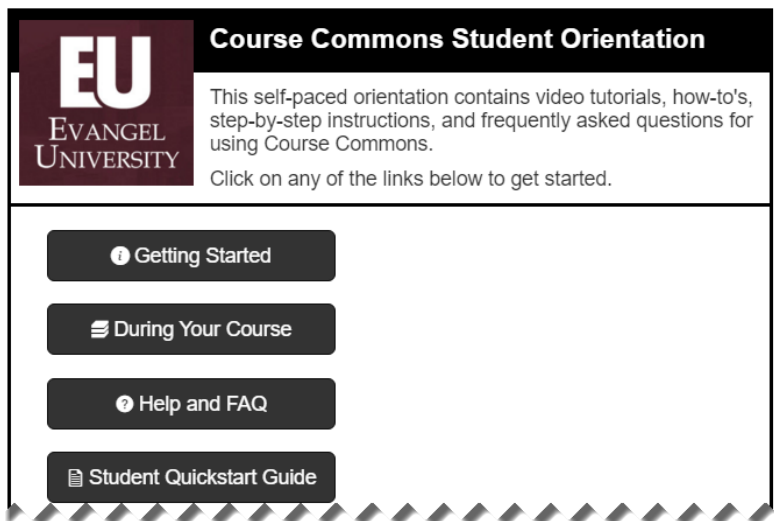
This course will use Course Commons, Evangel's learning management system. There are links to Course Commons in the Student Portal and the Evangel website. The login page for Course Commons is <https://courses.evangel.com/>.



***Use your Evangel username and password to login.***

## Course Commons Student Orientation

All Evangel students have access to the [Course Commons Student Orientation](#). If you are new to Course Commons, you are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. As part of your course preparation, this will help you make the most of the features that are available to you as a student.



## Accessing the Course in Course Commons

Access your courses list by clicking on the Courses icon on the Global Navigation menu on the left of the screen. You can also click on the course card on the Dashboard.

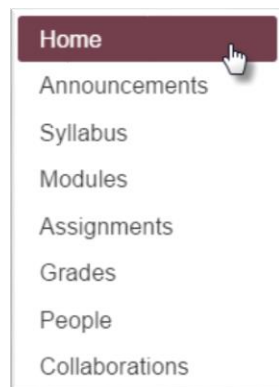
To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide: [How do I customize my Courses list?](#)

Students will have access to this course in Course Commons seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked.

After the end of the semester, students will have read-only access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work, course resources and grades will be available.

## Accessing Course Content in Course Commons

The professor controls the availability of course content and features. Some items may be unavailable until a date set by the professor.

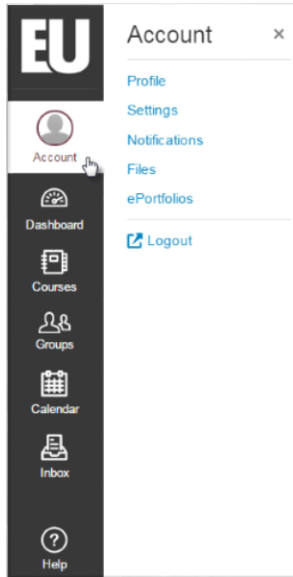


You can navigate the course content and features using the Course Navigation menu on the left. This menu can be customized by the professor, so it may differ from course to course, depending on what features the professor has chosen to make available.

You can collapse the Course Navigation menu to focus on the page content. Click on the menu icon in the upper left (which looks like 3 lines). You can expand the menu by clicking on the menu icon again.

All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, online quizzes, online discussions, grades, etc.) can be accessed using the links in the Course Navigation menu.

## Personal Settings in Course Commons



Students can adjust their personal settings in Course Commons. Click on the Account icon to access the Account menu.

On the **Profile** page, you can add a profile picture to your account. You can also edit your display name, which will show to your instructor and peers throughout Course Commons.

The **Settings** link allows you to add additional contact methods (personal email or cell phone number for text message alerts) to your account. You can also add external services, like Twitter, Skype or Google Drive.

The **Notifications** link allows you to customize *what* notifications you receive from Course Commons and *how* and *when* you receive them. This is a student-centered feature that allows you to optimize your notifications to help you stay connected to what is happening in all your courses.

For more information, see the following pages in the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Update your Profile and Settings](#) and [How to Update Your Notifications Preferences](#).

## Accessing Grades in Course Commons

All course grades will be recorded and shown through Course Commons. Simply click the “Grades” button on the lower right of the Dashboard to access your grades for all courses. You can also use the Grades link in the Course Navigation to access your grades for this course.

For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Check My Grades](#).

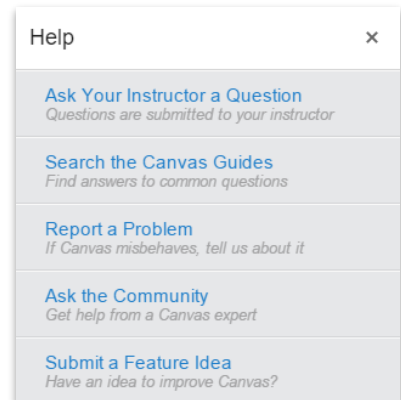
## How to Get Help with Course Commons

Help is never more than a few clicks away! You can access the Help menu from any page in Course Commons.

Click on the Help icon in the lower left corner of the screen. Because the Course Commons is powered by the Canvas Learning Management System, all help guides and helpdesk tickets will reference Canvas.

From the Help menu, you can send a message to your instructor, search the Canvas Help Guides, or report a problem.

You can browse and search the Help Guides using the following link: <https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/>.



## Course Commons Troubleshooting

**Do you have a question about a quiz, an assignment, or another item in the course?** Contact your professor.

**Are you having technical problems with Course Commons?** Click the Help icon, click “Report a Problem” and complete the form to file a ticket for a personal response from the support team. Please be sure to include a thorough description of the problem.

**Are you having trouble with your Evangel account (username and password)?** Contact the IT Helpdesk at 417-865-2815 ext. 8368 (phone), [helpdesk@evangel.edu](mailto:helpdesk@evangel.edu) (email), or [help.evangel.edu](http://help.evangel.edu).

