Course Description
This course will attempt to learn and evaluate, through careful exegesis both classical and modern, the Scriptural importance of those Wisdom books ascribed to Solomon: Qohelet, Song of Songs, and Proverbs. The primary method is close reading; the goal is a deeper understanding of the Hebrew Wisdom tradition itself, both in its connections with the rest of Scripture and in its complex attachments to the Solomonic legacy.

Meeting Day and Time: Monday to Friday (June 2 to 6), 9 am to 5:30 pm
Professor: T. A. Perry, Faculty Associate in Hebrew Scriptures
Contact Information: (203) 606-4001 (cell); taperry@sbcglobal.net

Course Objectives
Through this course students
• will become familiar with the content of Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Proverbs, 1 Kings 1-11, and 2 Chronicles 1-9
• will explore biblical scholarship on these books, both classical and modern
• will engage with theological scholarship on these books, both classical and modern

Requirements & Grades:
• All reading assignments are to be completed by the first day of the course.
• Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to participate actively in class.
• Course Paper – due on July 31. Please choose one of the following options: 1) write a research paper on a specific topic or biblical passage – 10 to 12 pages long, double spaced; must incorporate at least five works in addition to readings from the course; 2) write a reflection paper – 15 to 18 pages long, double spaced; must engage extensively with one of the three books: Qohelet (Ecclesiastes,) Song of Songs, Proverbs. The paper must be informed by the course material and discussion.

Required Books (in the order they are to be read):
• Roland E. Murphy, Ecclesiastes [Qohelet] (Dallas: Word, 1992).
• J. Cheryl Exum, Song of Songs, a Commentary (Westminster, John Knox, 2005).
• Michael V. Fox, Proverbs1-9 (Anchor Yale, 2000 etc)).

Requirements & Grades:
1. This is one-week intensive course. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to participate actively in class (10% toward the final grade). Missing one day of class will result in an automatic lowering of your final grade by a full letter grade (A to B; A- to B-; B+ to C+; B, B-, or C+ to C; and C to F).
2. Four Class Presentations: Tuesday to Friday (5% each; total 20% toward the final grade)
3. Book Review: 3 pages in length, due July 31 (20% toward the final grade); you can use the reviewed book for your research paper.
4. Research Paper: 10-15 double-spaced pages in length, due July 31 (50% toward the final grade). Or, alternatively, a reflection paper – 15 to 18 pages long (see above).

**Recommended Books**
- 1 Kings 1-11
- 2 Chronicles 1-9

**Daily Schedule (June 2-6)**

**Day 1 (June 2)**
- 1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9
- Qohelet (Ecclesiastes) chapters 1-3
- Perry, *Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible*, chapters 1-3

**Day 2 (June 3)**
- Qohelet chapters 4-12;
- Perry, *Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible*, chapter 8

**Day 3 (June 4)**
- Song of Songs (Canticles)
- Articles to be distributed by Professor Perry

**Day 4 (June 5)**
- Book of Proverbs chapters 1-9 and Fox’s Introduction
- Perry, *Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible*, chapters 4-7, 9

**Day 5 (June 6)**
- Summation: wisdom and its Techniques (articles to be distributed)
- Student Paper Proposal Presentations (10 minutes each)