

## **RGB3279/6279 The Wisdom Tradition and the Book of Job – Michael Kolarcik**

### **Fridays 9-11 (AD Students 9-12 on alternating Fridays see course outline for specific dates)**

The Wisdom Tradition in Israel faced the paradox of maintaining God's mercy and justice in the light of Israel's failures and suffering. The Book of Job is an eloquent expression of Israel's grappling with the issues behind theodicy. The course begins with an exploration of Israel's Wisdom Tradition in relation to the Ancient Near East, prophecy and cult in order to set a context for reading and interpreting the book of Job in its entirety. The literary features and structure of the work provide a methodological lense for appreciating how the Wisdom Tradition in the Book of Job dealt with suffering, ethics, beauty and love. (Lectures, discussion, book review, major paper; and for AD students, reading selected texts in Hebrew).

A textbook has been ordered at Crux Bookstore (Wycliffe College).

PERDUE, Leo G. *Wisdom & Creation: The Theology of Wisdom Literature*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.

Course Outline      [Course materials](#) for class use only      [Turabian style sheet](#) for term papers

Lecture 1	Wisdom texts in the Ancient Near East and Israel
Lecture 2	Wisdom in Israel in relation to Prophecy and Cult
Lecture 3 Oct 1	Israel's unique perspective of creation theology as expressed in sapiential texts (Personification of Wisdom, Prov, Sir, Wis) (AD Hebrew readings Job 1)
Lecture 4	Literary Structure of the Book of Job – fissures in the text
Lecture 5	Prologue Job 1-2 (AD Hebrew readings Job 2)
Lecture 6	The arguments of the friends Eliphaz, Bildad, Zofar (Deuteronomy)  -- READING WEEK - no lecture
Lecture 7	The complaints of Job (laments, juridical speech) (AD Hebrew readings Job 3)
Lecture 8	Speeches of Elihu

Lecture 9	First Divine Speech (AD Hebrew readings Job 38)
Lecture 10	Second Divine Speech
Lecture 11	Job's response and the Epilogue (AD Hebrew readings Job 42)
Lecture 12	The Book of Job in World Literature (Robert Frost, <i>Masque of Reason</i> )

BD Pre-requisite: one introductory course to the Old Testament

AD Pre-requisite: one year of Biblical Hebrew,

The goals of the course are: for the student

- a) to be familiar with the perspectives, values, and genres of Israel's Wisdom Tradition (lectures, book review).
- b) to appreciate the literary structure of the Book of Job as a means for interpreting fissures in the text (readings, lectures, discussions).
- c) to be thoroughly knowledgeable with a chosen text in the Book of Job from the point of view of literary analysis, history of interpretation and theological import. This will arise from your focus on a chosen text or topic for a major term paper.

For AD students, d) to be able to read a number of chapters of the book of Job in Hebrew in order to appreciate the difficulties associated with the book's theological interpretations (sessions on Hebrew translation).

**Course Information:**

*Office hours:* My office is located at Regis College, #319 (level 4) 100 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 2Z5

*Telephone:* 416 922-5474 ext 249.

I will try to be available in my office on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 - 4 pm** for discussions or clarifications. Otherwise, feel free to drop by whenever I am in the office or make an appointment during the week.

email [mf.kolarcik@utoronto.ca](mailto:mf.kolarcik@utoronto.ca)

## Selected Bibliography:

### 1) General Works Introducing Wisdom Literature:

PERDUE, Leo. *The Sword and the Stylus, An Introduction to Wisdom in the Age of Empires*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2008.

### 2) Commentaries and Translations:

ANDERSEN, F.I. *Job: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries; Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1977.

\* BALENTINE, S.E. *Job*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary with CDROM. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys, 2006.

BERGANT, D. *Job, Ecclesiastes*. Wilmington, Del.: Michael Glazier, 1982.

DHORME, E. *A Commentary on the Book of Job*. Translated by H. Knight (*Le livre de Job*. Paris, J. Gabalda, 1926). London: Nelson, 1967.

EBACH, Jürgen. *Streiten mit Gott, Hiob*. Teils 1-2. Neukirchen: Neukirchener Verlag, 1995,1996.

GOOD, Edwin M. *In turns of tempest: a reading of Job, with a translation..* Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990.

GORDIS, R. *The Book of Job: Commentary, New Translation. Special Studies, Moreshet Seires 2*. New York: Jewish Theological Seminary, 1978.

HABEL, N.C. *The Book of Job: a commentary*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1985.

HARTLEY, J.E. *The Book of Job*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

JANZEN, J.Gerald. *Job*. Interpretation, a Bible commentary for teaching and preaching. Atlanta : John Knox Press, 1985.

NEWSOM, Carol A. *The Book of Job, Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections*. The New Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 4. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

POPE, M. *Job. Introduction, Translation and Notes*. Anchor Bible, vol. 15. N.Y.: Doubleday, 1965.

ROWLEY, H.H. *The Book of Job*. New Century Bible Commentary. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

WHYBRAY, R.N. *Job: Readings, a new biblical commentary*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1998.

### 3) Works and Studies on the Book of Job

ALBERTZ, Reiner. "The Sage and Pious Wisdom in the Book of Job: The Friends' Perspective." In *The Sage in Israel and the Ancient Near East*, edited by John G. Gammie and Leo G. Perdue, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990. 243-261.

ALONSO SCHÖKEL, L. "Toward a Dramatic Reading of the Book of Job." *Semeia* 7 (1977): 45-61.

AUFRECHT, W.E. *Studies In the Book of Job*. SRSup 16. Waterloo, ON: Wilfred Laurier University Press: 1985.

CERESKO, A. "The Option for the Poor in the Book of Job." *Indian Theological Studies*, 26 (1989).

CHENEY, Michael. *Dust, Wind and Agony: Character, Speech and Genre in Job*. Con BOT 36. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1994.

CLINES, D.J.A. "The Arguments of Job's Friends." In *Art and Meaning: Rhetoric in Biblical Literature*, edited by D.J.A. CLINES (JSOTSup 19, 1982) 199-214.

CLINES, D.J.A. "Why Is There a Book of Job, And What Does It Do To You If You Read It?" In *The Book of Job*, edited by W.A.M. Beuken, Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1994. 1-20.

- CLINES, D.J.A. "Deconstructing the Book of Job." In *The Bible as Rhetoric*, edited by Martin Warner. New York: Routledge, 1990. 65-66.
- COLLINS, John J. "Job and His Friends: God as a Pastoral Problem." *Chicago Studies* 14 (1975): 97-109.
- COLLINS, John J. *Jewish Wisdom in the Hellenistic Age*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
- COX, D. *The Triumph of Impotence*. Analecta Gregoriana 212, Rome: 1978.
- DAILEY, Thomas F. "And yet he repents - on Job 42,6." *ZAW* 105 (1993): 205-09.
- DAILEY, Thomas F. "Theophanic bluster: Job and the wind of change." *Studies in Religion/Sciences religieuses* 22 (1993): 187-195.
- DAILEY, Thomas F., *The Repentant Job: A Ricoeurian Icon for Biblical Theology*. New York: University Presses of America, 1994.
- DELL, Katharine, J. *The Book of Job as Sceptical Literature*. BZAW 197. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1991.
- DI LELLA, A.A. "An Existential Interpretation of Job." *BTB* 15 (1985): 49-55.
- N.M. GLATZER, *The Dimensions of Job*. New York: Schocken Books 1975.
- GOOD, E.M. "Job and the Literary Task." *Soundings* 56 (1973): 470-84.
- GOOD, E.M. *In turns of Tempest*. Stanford: University Press, 1990.
- GOOD, E.M. *Irony in the Old Testament*. Sheffield: Almond Press, 1981.
- GROLLENBERG, L.H. *A New Look at an Old Book*. New York: 1969.
- GUILLAUME, Philippe and Michael SCHUNCK. "Job's Intercession: Antidote to Divine Folly." *Bib* 88 (2007): 457-472.
- GUTIÉRREZ, G. *On Job -- God talk and the suffering of the innocent*. Translated by M.J. O'Connell. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1987.
- HABEL, N.C. "Of Things Beyond Me: Wisdom in the Book of Job." *Currents in Theology and Mission* 10 (1983): 142-154.
- HANDY, Lowell K. "The Authorization of Divine Power and the Guilt of God in the Book of Job: Useful Ugaritic Parallels." *JBT* 60 (1993).
- JANZEN, J.Gerald. "On the Moral Nature of God's Power: Yahweh and the Sea in Job and Deutero-Isaiah." *CBQ* 56 (1994): 468.
- GIRARD, René. "Job as Failed Scapegoat." In *The Voice from the Whirlwind: Interpreting the Book of Job*, edited by Leo G. Perdue and W. Clark Gilpin. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992. 185-207.
- GIRARD, René. *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning*. Translated by James G. Williams [*Je vois Satan tomber comme léclair*, Paris: Editions Grasset & Fasquelle, 1999]. Ottawa: Novalis, 2001.
- KAPLAN, L. "Maimonides, Dale Patrick, and Job XLII,6." *Vetus Testamentum* 28 (1978): 356-58.
- KING, N. "The hand of the Lord has touched me; Job, Qoheleth, and the Wisdom of Solomon." *Way* 22 (1982): 235-244.
- LACOCQUE, A. "Job or the Impotence of Religion and Philosophy." *Semeia* 19 (1981): 33-52.
- LEVENSON, J.D. *The Book of Job in its time and in the twentieth century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1972.
- MacKENZIE, R.A.F. "The Transformation of Job." *BTB* 9 (1979).
- MacKENZIE, R.A.F. "The Purpose of the Divine Speeches in the Book of Job." *Biblica* 40 (1959): 435-445.

- MATADI, G.T. *Suffering, Belief, Hope: The Wisdom of Job For an Aids-Stricken Africa*. Translated by Joseph P. Newman, S.J. and Robert E. Czerny [*De l'absurdité de la souffrance à l'espérance: Une lecture du livre de Job en temps de VIH/SIDA*, Kinshasa, D.R. Congo : Médiaspaul, 2005]. Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa, 2007.
- MEIER, S. "Job I--II: A Reflection of Genesis I—III." *Vetus Testamentum* 39 (1989): 183-193.
- MILLER, James E. "Structure and Meaning of the Animal Discourse in the Theophany of Job." *Zeitschrift für Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 103 (1991): 418-421.
- MORAN, William L. "The Babylonian Job." In *The Most Magic Word: Essays on Babylonian and biblical literature by William L. Moran*, edited by Ronald S. Hendel, The Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series 35, Washington: CBAA, 2002. 182-200.
- MORROW, William S. "Toxic religion and the daughters of Job." *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 27 (1998): 263-276.
- NASH, J. "Images of Job." *Review for Religious*, 42 (1983): 28-33.
- NEWELL, B.L. "Job: Repentant or Rebellious." *Westminster Theological Journal* 46 (1984): 298-316.
- NEWSOM, Carol A. "The Moral Sense of Nature: Ethics in the Light of God's Speech to Job." *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 15 (1994).
- PATRICK, Dale. "The Translation of Job XLII,6." *Vetus Testamentum*, 26 (1976): 369-71.
- PATRICK, Dale. "Job's Address of God." *ZAW* 91 (1979): 268-82.
- PENCHANSKY, D. *The Betrayal of God: ideological conflict in Job*. Westminster/John Knox, Louisville, Kentucky: 1990.
- \* PERDUE, Leo G. *Wisdom in Revolt: Metaphorical Theology in the Book of Job*. JSOTSup 112, BIBLE AND LITERATURE SERIES 29, Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1991.
- \* PERDUE, Leo G. *Wisdom & Creation: The Theology of Wisdom Literature*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- PERDUE, Leo G. *The Sword and the Stylus: An Introduction to Wisdom in the Age of Empires*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 2008.
- PERDUE Leo G. and W. Clark GILPIN, eds. *The Voice from the Whirlwind: Interpreting the Book of Job*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.
- PLEIN, J. David. "Why Do You Hide Your Face?" *Interpretation* 48 (1994): 230.
- POLZIN, R., D. ROBERTSON, eds. *Studies in the Book of Job*. Missoula: Scholars Press, 1977.
- PYPER, H. "The Reader in Pain: Job as Text and Pretext." *Journal of Literature and Theology* 7 (1993): 111-129.
- ROWOLD, Henry. "Yahweh's Challenge to Rival: The Form and Function of the Yahweh-Speech in Job 38-39." *CBQ* 47 (1985): 199-211.
- SCHMID, Konrad. "The Authors of Job and Their Historical and Social Setting." In *Scribes, Sages, and Seers: The Sage in the Eastern Mediterranean World*, edited by Leo G. Perdue, Gottingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2008. 145-153.
- SIMUNDSON, D.J. *The Message of Job*. Augsburg Old Testament Studies, Minnesota: 1986.
- TERRIEN, Samuel. "Job as a Sage." In *The Sage in Israel and the Ancient Near East*, edited by John G. Gammie and Leo G. Perdue, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990. 231-242.
- URBROCK, W. "Reconciliation of Opposites in the Dramatic Ordeal of Job." *Semeia* 7 (1977): 147-154.
- VALL, Gregory. "The Enigma of Job 1,21a." *Biblica* 76 (1995): 325-342.
- VAWTER, B. *Job & Jonah - Questioning the Hidden God*. New York: Paulist, 1983.

- VOGELS, W. "The Inner Development of Job: One more look at Psychology and the Book of Job." *Science et Esprit* 35.2 (1983): 227-230.
- VOGELS, W. "The Spiritual Growth of Job, A Psychological Approach to the Book of Job." *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 11 (1981): 75-80.
- VOGELS, W. "Job a parlé correctment." *Nouvelle Revue Théologique* 112°, #6, 1980.
- VOGELS, W. *Job, L'homme qui a bien parlé de Dieu*. Lire la Bible. Paris: Cerf, 1995.
- VOGELS, W. "Job's Empty Pious Slogans." In *The Book of Job*, edited by W.A.M. Beuken. Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1994. 369-376.
- WILCOX, John T. *The Bitterness of Job: A Philosophical Reading*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1989.
- WOLFERS, David. *Deep Things Out of Darkness: The Book of Job, Essays and a New English Translation*. Grand Rapids: Wm.B. Eerdmans, 1995.
- WOLFERS, David. "The Speech-Cycles in the Book of Job." *VT* 43 (1993): 385-402.
- WOLF, P. *May I Hate God?* Toronto: Paulist Press, 1979.
- ZUCK, Roy B. ed. *Sitting with Job: Selected Studies on the Book of Job*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- ZUCKERMAN, Bruce. *Job the Silent: a Study in Historical Counterpoint*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

#### **4) The Book of Job as Literature, from the perspectives of Philosophy and Psychology**

- BOLD, Alan. *Muriel Spark*, London, New York : Methuen, 1986.
- BRAITERMAN, Zachary. *(God) After Auschwitz, Tradition and Change in Post-Holocaust Jewish Thought*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998.
- CAMBELL, C.C. "The Transformation of Biblical Myth: MacLeish's Use of the Adam and Job Stories." In *Myth and Symbol: critical approaches and applications*, edited by Bernice Slotte. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963.
- FRANCISCO, Nancy A. "Job in World Literature." *Review and Expositor* 68 (1971): 521-533.
- FROST, Robert. *A Masque of Reason*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1945.
- HAYES, Richard. "The Humanism of Crisis." *Commonweal* 70 (1959): 153-157.
- HEINLEIN, Robert. *Job: A Comedy of Justice*. New York: Ballantine (Del Rey), 1984.
- HONE, R.E. ed. *The Voice out of the Whirlwind: The Book of Job*. San Francisco : Chandler, 1972.
- HYNES, J. *The Art of the Real: Muriel Spark's Novels*. Cranbury, NJ: Associated University Presses 1988.
- JUNG, C.G. *Answer to Job*. Translated by R.F.C. HULL. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1973, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2002.
- MACLEISH, Archibald. *J.B., a play in verse*. Sentry Edition. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1958.
- ROTH, Joseph. *Job, the story of a simple man*. New York: Viking, 1931.
- SIMON, Neil *God's Favorite*. New York: Random House, 1975.
- SPARK, Muriel. *The Only Problem*. London: Bodley Head, 1984.
- TERRIEN, S. *Job: Poet of Existence*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1957.
- WALKER, Dorothea. *Muriel Spark*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1988.
- WHEDBEE, W. "The Comedy of Job." *Semeia* 7 (1977): 1-39.