



Advancing God's Kingdom by Preparing Competent Christian Leaders for
Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry

B423 DE Old Testament Wisdom Literature

3 credits. Prerequisites: Intro to Old Testament

April 27 –July 31, 2020
Summer 2020

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*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- Proverbs 1:7*

Course Content and Goals

Course Description

This course will examine the books of the Bible commonly referred to as wisdom literature. This term is applied to the books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs along with select psalms and prophetic writings. These books of the Bible are of great significance for the believer because of their concentration on the issues of human suffering, education of the young, growing in virtue and avoiding vice, choosing friends, finding marriage partners, and more.

Relationship to Horizon's Mission

By establishing a firm foundation in God's wisdom, we will learn God's wisdom for Spirit empowered living that strengthens leaders and directs their minds toward a fuller understanding of human life and its moral fulfillment.

About the Instructor

Carmen Bellamy holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, SK. He has also completed a BA in Religion and Culture. His major focus of study was on the Bible with a minor in Pastoral Leadership. In addition, he is fluent in both Biblical Hebrew and Attic Greek. He is experienced in church-based adult education and was fortunate to intern in a multi-staff ministry at Circle Drive Alliance Church in Saskatoon. Carmen is married to Leanne and they have three children: Jacob, Edanna, and Samuel. Carmen and Leanne participate in various theology and discussion groups around the city. He is currently employed with the Salvation Army and Saint Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan.

Core Competencies and Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate competency in **Biblical and Theological Literacy**, students will:

1. Interpret biblical wisdom literature in light of its literary genre, socio-historical contexts, and distinct theological perspectives with the assistance of relevant secondary literature.
 - *Assessment*: Exegetical Essay
2. Present research on how biblical wisdom literature presents the righteousness of God.
 - *Assessment*: Presentation of Research
3. Explain wisdom literature in relation to one of God's particular covenants.
 - *Assessment*: Reflection Paragraphs
4. Apply wisdom from biblical wisdom literature to a life or church situation.
 - *Assessment*: Application

Course Work

Required Readings

Bartholomew, Craig and Ryan P. O'Dowd. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2011.
(ISBN: 978-0-8308-3896-7)

B423 Reading Package (available on Populi)

Reading Package 2 (Student will have choices, also available on Populi)

**Students are responsible to purchase textbooks from a third-party retailer. For your convenience, Horizon has partnered with Kennedy's Parable to provide textbooks.

Course Assignments and Activities

Portfolio Components. *Exegetical Essay*. This assignment must be edited and submitted to the Biblical and Theological Literacy *e-Project* in your Portfolio on *Portfolium*. See the [Portfolio Guide](#): "What Goes in My Portfolio" for further information.

1. *Reflection Paragraphs*.

These assignments will answer specific questions given by the instructor and will be based on the biblical texts. The questions can be found in the Populi Lesson called "Reflection Paragraphs." The answers the students compose will help them to situate wisdom literature within biblical covenant theology and therefore help to situate wisdom literature in life practice. This will help the student to build a foundation on God's wisdom from which the student can act in the world.

- Related learning outcome: #3.
- **Assignment Length:** 1 page each. **Due dates:** Weekly—Sundays 11:59pm. ****with the exception of Reflection Paragraph 13—due WEDNESDAY, July 22 at 11:59PM.**

2. *Presentation of Research.*

This assignment is a short presentation (via skype, phone, or other real-time media) wherein the student will explain his/her research findings. This allows the instructor to challenge the student's analysis and provide feedback. A small handout (word doc or power point) must accompany the presentation. The student will choose from a variety of real-life forms (short sermon, Bible study, etc.) to present their wisdom passage. Wisdom Literature is, at its core, concerned with the righteousness of God (theodicy) and the student shall research his or her passage in relation to God's righteousness or lack thereof.

- Related learning outcome: #2.
- **Assignment Length:** 10 minute presentation AND 1 page word doc or 4 power point slides. **Due date:** May 22, 2020.

3. *Exegetical Essay.*

This assignment is a ten-page exegetical essay. The student will interpret a wisdom passage from the Old Testament using appropriate exegetical techniques for the genre. The student will use secondary sources to research the meaning of the passage as well as the social and cultural background of the passage. The student will also explain his/her wisdom passage in light of the appropriate covenant. Selection of the passage should be discussed with the professor by the end of January.

- Related learning outcome: #1.
- **Assignment Length:** 10 pages. **Due date:** June 19, 2020.

4. *Application.*

This assignment will be a reflection on the use of wisdom literature in pastoral practice or personal growth. This is a pastoral reflection assignment where the student will reflect and process a personal or professional situation in which biblical wisdom could have or did play a role. The student shall reflect on what wisdom literature demonstrates about theodicy and then apply the lesson to his or her life or ministry context in a way that demonstrates personal spiritual growth. This is not a research assignment; however, academic formatting must be used.

- Related learning outcome: #4.
- **Assignment Length:** 4 pages. **Due date:** July 17, 2020.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

Readings	56 hrs	N/A
1. Reflection Paragraphs	5 hrs	Weekly
2. Presentation of Research	10 hrs	May 22
3. Exegetical Essay	20 hrs	June 19
4. Application	5 hrs	July 17
Total =	96 hrs	

Assessment Rubrics

Assessment rubrics for the assignments will be distributed on Populi throughout the course. They will be available under the Lesson "B223 DE Assessment Rubrics."

Course Outline / Class Schedule

Week 1 **Apr 27**

Part 1 Intro to course and wisdom lit
Part 2 Place of Proverbs in the Bible

Bartholomew Ch 1&2
Bible Proverbs Chs 1-8

Week 2 **May 4**

Part 1 Collections of Proverbs
Part 2 The Poems of Proverbs

Bartholomew Ch 4
Bible Proverbs 9-31

Week 3 **May 11**

Part 1 Covenant and Proverbs
Part 2 Intro to wisdom Psalms

Bartholomew Ch 3&5
Bible Psalm TBA

Week 4 **May 18**

Part 1 Job and the suffering of the innocent
Part 2 Job the first cycle of conversations

Bartholomew Ch 6
Bible Job Chs 1-14

Week 5 **May 25**

Part 1 Job Deepening the conversation
Part 2 Job The second and third conversation cycles

Bartholomew Ch 7
Bible Job Chs 15-31
Omit Ch 28

Week 6 **June 1**

Part 1 Job The wisdom poem

Part 2 Job Elihu's struggle for God's honour

Reading Pack
Elihu's Speeches
Bible Job Chs 28, 32-37

Week 7 **June 8**

Part 1 Job Reflections
Part 2 Praying wisdom Psalms in times of suffering

RP Job's Hope
Bible Job Chs 38-42
Psalm TBA

Week 8 **June 15**

Part 1 Ecclesiastes The insufficiency of worldly wisdom
Part 2 Ecclesiastes Scepticism and the easy answer

Bartholomew Ch 8&9
Bible Ecclesiastes Chs 1-8

Week 9 **June 22**

Part 1 Ecclesiastes Keeping the faith
Part 2 Wisdom Psalm on Torah

Bible Ecclesiastes Chs 9-12
Psalm TBA

Week 10 **June 29**

Part 1 Jesus as wisdom teacher
Part 2 Wisdom Psalms for uncertainty

Bartholomew Ch 10
Bible Psalm TBA

Week 11 July 6

Part 1 The Song of Songs Love as the answer

RP Canonical Status of
Song of Songs & Allegory in Song of Songs
Bible Book of S of S

Part 2 The Song of Songs Levels of meaning

Week 12 July 13

Part 1 Daniel Wisdom through dreams

RP Court Tales in Daniel
Bible Book of Daniel

Part 2 Daniel God's plan for history

Week 13-14 July 20 (Reflection Paragraph 13 due WEDNESDAY, July 22, 2020, NOT Sunday evening)**

Wisdom books of the student's choice.

Reading Pack 2 (TBA)

- First submissions of assignments will not be accepted after **Wednesday, July 22, 2020**.
- No resubmissions of assignments will be accepted after **Friday, July 31, 2020**.
- Since this is a DE course, there will be no particular Revision Week. Rather, the professor will request revisions from the students throughout the course.

Academic Policies

General Assignment Guidelines

Please see the Horizon [Format Guide](#) for assignment submission, grammar, and formatting guidelines.

Late Assignments and Extensions

Students are expected to submit work by the assigned due dates, as part of their development of the Leadership and Administration competency. To submit extension requests, students must submit the [Assignment Extension Request Form online](#) and *before the due date*. Professors may grant extensions in the case of extenuating circumstances, such as significant illness or a family emergency. Furthermore, no extensions will be granted beyond the final day of a term or semester.

A late assignment will not be assessed until the student first meets with the professor or the Faculty Assistant to discuss whether the student's reasons for the late submission are acceptable. Unexcused late submissions will be tracked across each student's program. If one assignment is submitted more than five days late or if a student incurs multiple instances of unexcused late submissions, it will result in academic discipline, such as required tutoring, academic probation, failure of the course, or failure to qualify for graduation. Similar to standard human resource employment practices, students will receive warnings and conditions with increasing severity of academic discipline.

Resubmission of Assignments

Students have until the last day of revision week to submit revisions, and students can only submit up to two revisions for each assignment. Students should follow the revision schedule outlined above.

Horizon College Assessment of Student Work

The goal of courses is to help students develop the stated competencies, not earn letter grades. Assignments are the means by which instructors evaluate development of those competencies. Consequently, students do not earn overall “grades” on individual assignments. Instead, assessment focuses on measuring students’ competency as outlined in the syllabus and assignment rubric. For purposes of transferability to other institutions, the final competency designations will be translated to a comparable letter grade on a traditional transcript. The tables below explain Horizon’s approach:

Horizon CBE Scale		Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point	U of S Equivalency
E	Exceeding	Student exceeded competency requirements for some learning outcomes and met requirements for all remaining learning outcomes.	A+	4.0	90-100
			A	4.0	85-89
			A-	3.7	80-84
M	Meeting	Student met competency requirements for all learning outcomes and may have exceeded in one.	B+	3.3	77-79
			B	3.0	73-76
			B-	2.7	70-72

Students pass a course only after they have demonstrated that they have *met or exceeded all* competency requirements for a course. If the student chooses not to meet all course competency requirements, the course will not be sufficient to fulfill their program requirements at Horizon. Nevertheless, for transferability purposes, the student will receive a letter grade of C+ or below on a traditional transcript.

BTM	Beginning to meet	Student was beginning to meet competency requirements for any one or more learning outcomes, and met or exceeded competency requirements for all other outcomes.	C+	2.3	67-69
			C	2.0	63-66
			C-	1.7	60-62
NYM	Not yet meeting	Student was not yet meeting competency requirements for one or more learning outcomes.	D+	1.3	57-59
			D	1.0	53-56
			D-	0.7	50-52
			F	0.0	0-49

Academic Honesty

Horizon uses the University of Saskatchewan definition of plagiarism described as “the presentation of the work or idea of another in such a way as to give others the impression that it is the work or idea of the presenter. Adequate attribution is required. What is essential is that another person have no doubt which words or research results are the student’s and which are drawn from other sources” (Office of the University Secretary, 2012). Students are expected to give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the [Student Handbook](#).

Disability Services Information

If you would benefit from learning accommodations due to pre-existing physical or mental health conditions or learning disabilities, contact the Academic or Student Life departments at the beginning of the course. Horizon will work to meet your learning and/or physical needs where possible. If any conditions arise during the course that you wish to disclose, please contact us as soon as possible. In all cases you will need to provide current [documentation](#) of the disability or condition you wish to disclose. Horizon takes appropriate care to ensure confidentiality about any such disclosures. For more information, contact Bob Williamson, Dean of Students, at bwilliamson@horizon.edu; or Heather Wood, Associate Dean of Students, at hwood@horizon.edu.

Class Attendance

Students should attend all classes in order to facilitate competency development. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, students may miss one day of a module course or three days of class in a term or semester course without academic penalty. A student must be present for the full duration of a class period in order to be registered as present for the class. Students who are absent for more than the number of classes stated above will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances may make an academic appeal, where they will need to document and verify those circumstances. Students who miss a class are responsible to get missed notes or handouts from another student, rather than from the professor.

Use of Technology

Horizon encourages the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.
- In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media.