



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

OT5303 Old Testament Wisdom Literature

3 credit hours.

June 7-11, 2021

Module H

Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rick Wadholm Jr., PhD

wadholm@gmail.com

Course Goals

Course Description

This course explores the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament, with a particular emphasis on Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes. While the study explores historical, literary, and theological issues related to these texts, emphasis will also rest upon how ancient Israelite wisdom speaks to the everyday issues of human life, work, suffering, and loss.

Relationship to Horizon's Mission

Through understanding the Old Testament wisdom literature, the students become more fully equipped so as to competently use those biblical texts and that literary genre of wisdom literature within the context of ministry and personal life.

Course Competencies and Learning Outcomes

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

1. Interpret the messages of the Wisdom Literature in their original contexts: the social, political, economic, and religious life of Israel and Judah.
 - *Assessment:* Class Presentation, Historical Paper, Literary Paper, Theological Paper
2. Describe the key theological teachings of the Wisdom Literature.
 - *Assessment:* Class Presentation, Theological Paper
3. Analyze select Wisdom Literature texts from a literary and theological perspective and within the broader context of the canon of Christian scripture.
 - *Assessment:* Reading of the Biblical Text, Class Presentation, Literary Paper, Theological Paper
4. Describe some of the critical issues in interpreting the Wisdom Literature such as social institutions and ideology.
 - *Assessment:* Class Presentation, Historical Paper

5. Apply themes from the Wisdom Literature to ministry within the contemporary church and world.

- *Assessment:* Class Presentation, Theological Paper

To demonstrate competency in **Spiritual Maturity**, students will:

6. Apply the lessons learned from studying the content of the Wisdom Literature's messages to their own personal lives and Christian journey.

- *Assessment:* Theological Paper

Course Work

Required Readings

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Ryan P. O'Dowd. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. IVP Academic, 2018. ISBN: 0830852182 (336pp)

Longman, III, Tremper, and Peter Enns, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780830817832 (required reading is 92 pp. of select articles)

- Chaos and Death (13pp)
- Fear of the Lord (4pp)
- Honor and Shame (13pp)
- Maat (4pp)
- Sages, Schools, Education (6pp)
- Theodicy (9pp)
- Wisdom and Biblical Theology (6pp)
- Wisdom, Greek (5pp)
- Wisdom Poems (4pp)
- Wisdom and Prophecy (9pp)
- Wisdom Sources (8pp)
- Wisdom Theology (12pp)

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN: 9780801038884 (448pp) ****Not available on the DTL.**

**While students have the benefit of accessing their textbooks online through the Digital Theological Library, they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library. For your convenience, Horizon has partnered with Kennedy's Parable to provide textbooks.

Course Assignments and Activities

1. Reading of the Biblical Text.

The student will read the books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon in a contemporary translation of the Bible, and the correlated portions of Estes and

Bartholomew/O'Dowd, and come to each class day prepared to ask at least six critical questions they may have pertaining to each biblical book (three from the text of Scripture, three from Estes and Bartholomew/O'Dowd) by writing these down prior to the first day of class (while the on-campus class will only engage Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, questions will be written for all of the books). The questions will be typed using double-space, 12 pt Times New Roman with one-inch margins and may use numbered bullet points to aid in identifying distinct questions. No bibliography is needed, but page numbers in Estes and Bartholomew/O'Dowd should be indicated for questions pertaining to this reading. 10% of Final Grade.

- Related learning outcome(s): #3.
- **Assignment Length:** 3-5 pages (approximately). **Due date:** Monday, June 7 at 9am.

2. *Historical Paper.*

The student will write a brief research paper (approximately 5-7 pages) offering a comparative historical engagement with the accounts and descriptions of the ancient Near East wisdom traditions in relation to wisdom tradition of creation in Proverbs 8:22-31 (journal articles are suggested in the bibliography below). Note similarities and contrasts of language, structure, worldview, and theology. Use at least five sources excluding translations, English dictionaries, or other inappropriate citations. At least one academic journal article should be included. The paper will be written following the Horizon Format Guide. See the pertinent section in the Syllabus Bibliography for numerous journal sources for this assignment. 25% of Final Grade.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1, 4.
- **Assignment Length:** 5-7 pages. **Due date:** Monday, June 7.

3. *Class Presentation.*

The student will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation on a specified text of Proverbs upon consultation with the professor prior to the on-campus session. The presentation may include power points, illustrations, questions for the class, discussion points, handouts, etc. The text selected by the student with the professor's approval will have teaching notes that can follow any format that is most conducive to the student's approach but should include at least 2 pages of typed content to aid in the professor's evaluation of the assignment. The notes will comprise one part of the assessment for this assignment with bulk of the remainder pertaining to the actual class presentation (based upon quality of critical content appropriate to the topic and course, engagement with class, and exegesis of the text with some contemporary application or illustration). Consideration of the textbooks for this course will provide helpful tools for methodology, various interpretations, as well as historical, literary and theological issues. The textbooks should thus all be read prior to the week on-campus to better aid in the Class Presentation. The date of presentation will be provided just prior to the on-campus portion. 15% of Final Grade.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- **Assignment Length:** 2 pages. **Due date:** end of module week; date TBD.

4. *Literary Paper.*

The student will write a brief research paper (approximately 5-7 pages) concerning the literary shape/s of Ecclesiastes 11 (note the use of terms in the Hebrew Bible in this passage, structure, placement in the larger corpus, repetitions, characterizations, descriptions, text critical issues, etc.). Use at least five sources excluding translations, English dictionaries, or other inappropriate

citations. At least one academic journal article should be included. The paper will be written following the Horizon Format Guide. See the pertinent section in the Syllabus Bibliography for numerous journal sources for this assignment. 25% of Final Grade.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1, 3.
- **Assignment Length:** 5-7 pages. **Due date:** Friday, August 2, 2021

5. *Theological Paper.*

The student will write a brief research paper (approximately 5-7 pages) concerning a theological reading and engagement with Job 28 (what does this passage say about God, humanity, redemption, revelation, etc.). This should consider the ancient theological context/s prior to consideration and any comparison to contemporary theological context/s. The student should also propose at least two brief practical theological considerations that can may a devotional element written in academic style. Use at least five sources excluding translations, English dictionaries, or other inappropriate citations. At least one academic journal article should be included. The paper will be written following the Horizon Format Guide. See the pertinent section in the Syllabus Bibliography for numerous journal sources for this assignment. 25% of Final Grade.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1, 2, 3, 5, 6.
- **Assignment Length:** 5-7 pages. **Due date:** Friday, August 2, 2021

Course Outline / Class Schedule

Monday, 7 June	9:00-9:15	Introductions & Assignments into Study Calendar	
	9:15-12:00	Introduction to Wisdom Literature	
	1:00-2:30	Introduction to Job	
	2:30-4:00	Job: Framing Job	
Tuesday, 8 June	9:00-12:00	Job: Wise Answers	
	1:00-4:00	Introduction to Proverbs	
Wednesday, 9 June	9:00-12:00	Proverbs: Wisdom and Folly	
	1:00-4:00	Proverbs: Listening to the Wise	
Thursday, 10 June	9:00-12:15	Proverbs: Proclaiming Proverbs	
	1:15-4:00	Introduction to Ecclesiastes	
Friday, 11 June	9:00-12:00	Ecclesiastes: Everything is Meaningless	
	1:00-4:00	Ecclesiastes: The End Matters	

- Assignments will not be accepted after August 2, 2021.

Academic Policies

General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

Formatting Papers

- Papers should be typed, double-spaced and follow the appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Follow the Horizon Format Guide consistently.
- The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded and will receive a grade reduction.

Failure to follow these guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

Submitting Your Assignments

Assignments should be submitted via [Populi](#). The resource at this link <https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/articles/223792507-How-to-submit-work-for-assignments> explains how to submit assignments on Populi (the link to the video is also available on the info tab of the Populi course page).

Late Assignments and Extensions

Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%. After six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

Grading

Grade	Percentage	GPA
A+	97-100%	4
A	93-96%	4
A-	90-92%	3.7
B+	87-89%	3.3
B	83-86%	3.0
B-	80-82%	2.7
C+	77-79%	2.3
C	73-76%	2.0
C-	70-72%	1.7
D+	67-79%	1.3
D	63-66%	1.0
D-	60-62%	0.7
F	<60%	0

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 College [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; Heather Wood, Associate Dean of Students, at hwood@horizon.edu; or Leanne Bellamy, Academic Coach, at lbellamy@horizon.edu.

Class Attendance

Students should attend all classes in order to optimize their learning experience. 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.

Campus Health Policy

While on campus, please maintain 2 metres of physical distance between yourself and others. Do not come on campus if you are experiencing symptoms (even if they are mild) of fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, runny nose, or a loss of your sense of taste or smell. If you have any of these symptoms, do not return to campus until advised by Public Health. You should self-isolate and contact HealthLine 811 for advice on whether you should be tested for COVID-19. This will help keep others safe and possibly spare them from self-isolation and testing. While you are in self-isolation, you may attend class online. The link to access your class is posted on the course page on Populi, under the Syllabus tab, under Links on the right side of the page.

Live-Streaming Etiquette

If attending class online via live-stream, keep your camera on and stay present and attentive throughout the class session. Access your class with a computer (preferably) or tablet, not a cell phone. Arrive to class on time, and dress as you would if you were attending class on campus. Join the class from a quiet space with minimal background noise, and mute your microphone until you wish to speak to the class.

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.

Bibliography

Articles for Proverbs 8 and Ancient Near Eastern Context (Historical Paper)

- Barrett, Michael P. "Wisdom: Person or Personification? Thoughts on Proverbs 8." *Puritan Reformed Journal* 8, no. 1 (January 2016): 5–12.
- Bartina, Sebastián. "La Sabiduría En Proverbios 8,22-36." *Estudios Bíblicos* 35, no. 1–2 (1976): 5–21.
- Brown, William P. "Proverbs 8:22-31." *Interpretation* 63, no. 3 (July 2009): 286–88.
- Dahood, Mitchell Joseph. "Proverbs 8:22-31: Translation and Commentary." *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 30, no. 4 (October 1968): 512–21.
- Dietrich, Jan. "Die Weisheit Bei Gott: Proverbien 8,30 Aus Religionsgeschichtlicher Perspektive." *Zeitschrift Für Die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 129, no. 4 (2017): 583–99. doi:10.1515/zaw-2017-4004.
- Fox, Michael V. "'Amon Again.'" *Journal of Biblical Literature* 115, no. 4 (Wint 1996): 699–702.
- Fretheim, Terence E (Erling). "God, Creation, and the Pursuit of Happiness." *Canon & Culture* 6, no. 1 (2012): 5–38.
- Hurowitz, Victor. "Nursling, Advisor, Architect? 'mwn and the Role of Wisdom in Proverbs." *Biblica* 80, no. 3 (1999): 391–400.
- Hurowitz, Victor. "Two Terms for Wealth in Proverbs Viii in Light of Akkadian." *Vetus Testamentum* 50, no. 2 (2000): 252–57.
- Lenzi, Alan C. "Proverbs 8:22-31: Three Perspectives on Its Composition." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 125, no. 4 (Wint 2006): 687–714.
- Marböck, Johannes. "Im Horizont Der Gottesfurcht: Stellungnahmen Zu Welt Und Leben in Der Alttestamentlichen Weisheit." *Biblische Notizen* 26 (1985): 47–70.
- McAfee, Matthew. "Creation and the Role of Wisdom in Proverbs 8: What Can We Learn?" *Southeastern Theological Review* 10, no. 2 (Fall 2019): 31–57.

Murphy, Roland E. (Roland Edmund). "Wisdom and Creation." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 104, no. 1 (March 1985): 3–11.

Pentiuc, Eugen J. "A Self-Offering God and His Begotten Wisdom (Proverbs 8:22-24)." *The Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 46, no. 3–4 (Fall 2001): 255–65.

Rogers, Cleon L, III. "The Meaning and Significance of the Hebrew Word 'mwn in Proverbs 8,30." *Zeitschrift Für Die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 109, no. 2 (1997): 208–21.

Savignac, Jean de. "La Sagesse En Proverbes 8:22-31." *Vetus Testamentum* 12, no. 2 (April 1962): 211–15.

Scott, R B Y. (Robert Balgarnie Young). "Wisdom in Creation: The 'Amôn of Proverbs 8:30." *Vetus Testamentum* 10, no. 2 (April 1960): 213–23.

Skehan, Patrick William. "Structures in Poems on Wisdom: Proverbs 8 and Sirach 24." *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 41, no. 3 (July 1979): 365–79.

Vawter, Bruce. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 99, no. 2 (June 1980): 205. doi:10.2307/3265812.

Weeks, Stuart. "The Context and Meaning of Proverbs 8:30a." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 125, no. 3 (Aut 2006): 433–42.

Whybray, Roger N. "Proverbs 8:22-31 and Its Supposed Prototypes." *Vetus Testamentum* 15, no. 4 (October 1965): 504–14.

Williams, Daniel H. "Proverbs 8:22-31." *Interpretation* 48, no. 3 (July 1994): 275–79.

Recommended bibliographies on specific topics, approaches, and books of the Old Testament are available from the professor upon request.