



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**BI4013 Wisdom Literature (Jr./Sr.)**  
**Winter 2023**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Mr. Jordan Bergen**  
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## ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course is an introductory study of the theology, as well as the major themes, in Old Testament Wisdom Literature. As human beings, we have all faced and wrestled with the complexities of living in our world. We all know, or will eventually know, what it means to grapple with the problems of suffering, morality and the meaning of life and love. Biblical Wisdom Literature invites us to consider all areas of life through the lens of “fear of the LORD.”

## ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

The Bible (a translation, *not a paraphrase*). **75 pages.**

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005. **325 pages.**

## ***THE BIG QUESTION***

What factors from the Bible’s Wisdom Literature inform and shape a Christian’s capacity to confidently and wisely face the difficult and perplexing issues of life?

## ***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

With successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the contemporary relevance of Old Testament Wisdom Literature.
2. Grasp the historical context behind wisdom thought and writings.
3. Understand major theological themes in biblical Wisdom Literature.
4. Appreciate the beauty and wonder of God’s Word as it comes to us in this engaging genre while enjoying a deeper understanding of who God is and how He relates to us.

## ***COURSE ASSIGNMENTS***

### **Participation in Class – 5%**

- The student will be engaged in class discussion and classroom practical activities throughout the course.

## Textbook Reading and Quizzes – 25%

- Each student will be required to read **the chapters on Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs** from the assigned textbook by Estes. The student will be prepared for quizzes on the assigned reading.

***DUE: See Course Schedule***

## Creative Exegetical Project and Presentation - 20%

- The student will choose a biblical passage from the list provided below (or another passage that receives approval from the instructor) and:
  - Research the passage in at least three commentaries until they are confident in the meaning of the passage.
  - Produce an original artistic presentation (eg. painting, ink/pencil sketch, song, monologue, poetry, skit, film, or sculpture). The meaning of the chosen text *must be* clearly evident!
  - Present/perform the art piece to the class on the assigned date (**5-7 minutes**) being sure to explain the meaning of the text and how the art represents that meaning. The student will also briefly describe the process of creating the piece.
- List of suggested passages:
  - Job 1: 6-12
  - Job 3: 1-26
  - Job 19: 23-27
  - Job 38: 1-41
  - Proverbs 3: 13-26
  - Proverbs 4: 1-27
  - Proverbs 31: 1-31
  - Proverbs: A collection of proverbs around a certain theme.
  - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11
  - Ecclesiastes 7: 1-14
  - Ecclesiastes 12: 1-14
  - Song of Songs 2: 1-7
  - Song of Songs 3: 6-11
- The object of this assignment is to *creatively* apply what the student is learning in the classroom to their life and potentially, ministry. With each submission, the student will submit a title page and a bibliography listing the sources they used to research the meaning of the text.
- This assignment will be graded on the basis of:
  - Understanding of the meaning of the text.
  - Creativity.
  - Quality.
  - Effectiveness in communicating the meaning of the text through the artistic medium.

***DUE: March 20<sup>th</sup>***

## **Bible Memory – 20%**

- The student will memorize the following verses throughout the semester. The student will write out the verse verbatim **with a classmate to witness that it is from memory**. The student will indicate **their translation and the name of the student who witnessed them writing the verse**. The student will then write out the verse as it appears in that translation by the beginning of the class period. The verses to be memorized are:
  - Proverbs 2:6-8 ***DUE: January 30<sup>th</sup>***
  - Proverbs 9:10-12 ***DUE: February 2<sup>nd</sup>***
  - Job 1:20-21 ***DUE: February 9<sup>th</sup>***
  - Job 42:4-6 ***DUE: February 16<sup>th</sup>***
  - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 ***DUE: March 16<sup>th</sup>***
  - Song of Songs 8:6-7 ***DUE: April 3<sup>rd</sup>***

## **Bible Reading – 10%**

- The student will read the entirety of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. On the due date they will indicate how many chapters they read *this semester* out of the 93 chapters.

***DUE: April 6<sup>th</sup>***

## **Final Exam – 20%**

- The student will take a final exam covering the content of the course.

***DUE: Exam Week***

## **GRADING**

<b>Participation:</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Reading/Quizzes (Estes):</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Creative Project/Presentation:</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Bible Memory:</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Bible Reading:</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Final Exam:</b>	<b>20%</b>

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. **(See NBC Sample Paper - 2022.)** Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due at the **beginning of the class period** on the day that they are assigned.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

**LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

**Reading: 400 pages.**

### WISDOM LITERATURE CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	SUBJECT	READING	ASSIGNMENT
1/16	Syllabus Review		
1/19	Intro to Wisdom Literature		
1/23	Intro to Wisdom Literature		
1/26	Proverbs	Proverbs (Estes and Bible)	Proverbs Quiz
1/30	Proverbs		Proverbs 2:6-8
2/2	Proverbs		Proverbs 9:10-12
2/6	Job	Job 1-14 (E and B)	Job 1-14 Quiz
2/9	Job		Job 1:20-21
2/13	Job	Job 15-42 (E and B)	Job 15-42 Quiz
2/16	Job		Job 42:4-6
2/27	Ecclesiastes	Eccles. 1-5 (E and B)	Eccles. 1-5 Quiz
3/2	Ecclesiastes		
3/6	Ecclesiastes	Eccles. 6-12 (E and B)	Eccles. 6-12 Quiz
<b>3/9 &amp; 3/13</b>	<b>No class</b>		
3/16	Ecclesiastes		Eccles. 12:13-14
3/20	Presentations		Project/Presentation
3/23	Presentations		
3/27	Song of Songs	Song of Songs (E and B)	Song of Songs Quiz
3/30	Song of Songs		
4/3	Song of Songs		Song of Songs 8:6-7
4/6	Review		Bible Reading
4/12-13	Exam Week		Final Exam

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Ryan P. O'Dowd. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.

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Clines, David J. A. *Job 1-20*. Word Biblical Commentary 17. Dallas, TX: Word, 1989.

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Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. The New American Commentary. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1993.

Hess, Richard S. *Song of Songs*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.

Longman III, Tremper. *The Fear of the Lord is Wisdom: A Theological Introduction to Wisdom in Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Book of Ecclesiastes*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Song of Songs*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.

Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs Chapters 1-15*. The New International Commentary of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

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