



BOT252-1 WISDOM LITERATURE
FALL SEMESTER 2022

I. INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Jon Korkidakis

Contact Information: jdmjkork@gmail.com

Preferred mode of communication is email. My policy is to respond to a student within 24 hours.

All course syllabi, notes, PowerPoints, and other resources will be available on the school website myHeritage (heritage.populi.web.com). They will also be available on my personal website, jkorkidakis.com. If you go to my website to the Academics tab you will find the resources under Wisdom Books.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an in-depth study of the Wisdom literature of the Hebrew Old Testament primarily found in Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and The Song of Songs. Attention will be given to the nature of the genre and how it affects our theological understanding of God and creation. The themes, literary styles, and messages of each book will be studied in order to comprehend their contributions to the body of literature known as Wisdom. Lastly, we will endeavor to make application of the material to the present and appreciate its relevance for today.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Ryan P. O'Dowd, *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Kreeft, Peter, *Three Philosophies of Life*, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.

Excerpt: Estes, Daniel J., *Song of Songs in The Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005, pages 393-438.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

In support of the general educational objectives of Heritage, this course will specifically address the following objectives:

Outcome	Assessment Methods
Character and Attitude-Based Outcomes: The student will . . .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be immersed in the text, theology, and practical application of Wisdom Literature. • Be able to show evidence of a deepening relationship with God by understanding the difference between knowledge and wisdom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the biblical text and textbook reading schedule and be graded on completion. • The class experience is designed to enliven a student’s faith with evaluative measures being evidenced in the way a student responds, participates, and develops throughout the week. • Produce a paper on character formation.
Skills-Based Outcomes: The student will . . .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasp the basic outline, themes, content, literary techniques, and theological arguments of the Wisdom Books. • Be able to articulate a theological theme or concept based on the Wisdom genre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corresponding lecture notes and quizzes will guide the student in their ability to grasp these key concepts. • The student will write a research project that will allow in-depth theological analysis.
Knowledge-Based Outcomes: The student will . . .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to understand the unique historical and theological contributions of the Wisdom Literature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student will complete a final exam that will test them on the academic and theological teachings of the course.

V. WRITING STYLE AND MARKING SCHEMA

1. Spelling, syntax, and grammar may account for up to 10% of the grade for any written assignment.
2. All Heritage guidelines regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will be followed. Please familiarize yourself with the Heritage pamphlet on Academic Misconduct for more information. Note that papers may be submitted to a plagiarism review service.
3. Papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian writing style. Heritage guidelines in the publication “Heritage Manual of Style” are to be followed as an initial guide. The Heritage library has a reference section that will provide you with

additional information about style requirements. Improper use of the required style may result in a grade reduction of up to 10%.

4. Papers are to be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with Footnotes set in 10-point Times New Roman font. If submitting a hard copy, the paper must be printed on plain paper.

VI. CONFIDENTIALITY AND RECORDS

1. At times students may elect to speak of personal matters of a confidential nature within the context of a class session. All students within that class are to maintain the confidentiality of such information. Breach of this condition may result in dismissal from the class with resultant failure.
2. Copies of selected samples of student work may be retained for the purposes of institutional assessment. The use of such material will be restricted to documented institutional assessment processes.
3. Any recordings (audio, visual, distance ed.) taken or distributed in the class or course are for the sole purpose of the student enrolled in the course and are not to be distributed or shared in public or private forum without the express consent of the school.

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

1. **Monitoring:** Attendance may be taken by having the student sign a sheet of paper, or by the professor, and will be recorded on myHeritage. Students can track their attendance there.
2. **Absences:**
 - a. Attendance will be monitored according to college policies which indicate, for this class, 75% required attendance. Although class attendance will be taken daily, you are responsible for keeping track of your total absences. More than 25% absences will normally result in an automatic failing grade for the course.
 - b. Instructors may assign additional work in order to cover lost time and content.
 - c. Instructors may designate special attendance requirements surrounding specific classes within the schedule or outside-of-class activities that form part of an assignment for the course.
 - d. Students must be aware that they may be subject to additional requirements set by any government assistance plan (such as OSAP) in which they participate.

3. Coming Late/Leaving Early: Class begins promptly at the subscribed time and a late arrival may be counted as a 1/3 of an absence. This includes coming in late from breaks.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

1. Due Dates: Assignments are due by midnight of the assigned day. Late written assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per 24-hour period. The penalty begins from the time the paper is originally due. Late papers will be accepted up to 7 days from when originally due. Papers may be date and time stamped by the General Office or through electronic submission to the instructor. See note below for weekly assignments.
2. Accepted Media: Papers are to be submitted through accepted programs such as Word, Pages, Open Office, Scrivener, etc. Papers produced in basic text edit formats will not be deemed compatible with course expectations and will be rejected. See below for further instruction on electronic submissions.
3. Electronic Submission: Electronic submissions are allowed and actually preferred for the assignments and papers. They can be posted to myHeritage on the assigned day. All electronic submissions must be in PDF format.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. READING

Due Date: Dec. 12, 2022
Percentage of overall mark: 5%

Description: Each student is expected to complete all assigned readings in their entirety. Students will be asked to declare their reading at the end of the semester. You can submit your reading percentage through a note on myHeritage or by using the Reading Log form attached to this syllabus in Appendix C.

2. QUIZZES

Due Dates:	Proverbs	October 3
	Job	November 7
	Ecclesiastes	November 28
	Song of Songs	December 12

Percentage of overall mark: 40% (The 4 Quizzes will be marked out of 10 for a course total of 40%)

Description: There will be 4 quizzes based on the readings from the course textbooks and class notes. The Quizzes will consist of one question. They will be given at the beginning of the assigned class and have a time allotment of 20 minutes.

3. CHARACTER FORMATION PAPER

Due Date: Oct. 31, 2022

Percentage of overall mark: 25%

Description: The student will write a paper focusing on the following:

What are the key differences between biblical wisdom and general knowledge, and how does biblical wisdom contribute to the formation of character?

This is a research paper with references, footnotes, and bibliography. The grading scheme will use the same rubrics as the theological research paper that is listed in Appendix A. Overall length of paper is 8-12 pages.

4. THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Due Date: Dec. 12, 2022

Percentage of overall mark: 30%

Description: The student will complete a 15-20-page research paper with references, footnotes, and bibliography. See Appendix A for the specific details and a list of possible topics.

If you decide to write on a topic not included in the list in Appendix A, please make sure to get approval before starting, thereby ensuring the problem meets the course outline and expectations.

VIII. ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a course is approximately 2 hrs. for every in-class assigned hour. That means that for a student to anticipate a normal grade in a course which presents no unusual difficulties then he or she should prepare to spend approximately 70-80 hrs. additional work outside of the classroom per course in order to achieve an average grade.

<i>Note: The following times listed are approximate and will vary by student.</i>			
Reading	Quizzes	Character Paper	Research Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs – 10 hoursCourse Textbooks – 20 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research and Studying – 5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research and Compiling – 10 hoursWriting – 10 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research and Compiling – 10 hoursWriting – 10 hours

IX. CLASS SCHEDULE

OTWL – Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction

3 PHIL – Three Philosophies of Life

ESTES – Excerpt from Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms

Date	Lecture	Subject / Topic	Readings				Assignments
			Biblical Text	OTWL	3 PHIL	ESTES	
Sep 12	1	Syllabus Overview Introduction to Wisdom					
Sep 19	2	Introduction to Wisdom Proverbs	Prov 1-10	13-72			
Sep 26	3	Proverbs	Prov 11-20	73-99			
Oct 3	4	Proverbs	Prov 21-31	101-125			Quiz #1
Oct 10		Thanksgiving – No Class		127-165			
Oct 17	5	Job	Job 1-10	167-187	1-12; 61-76		
Oct 24		Reading Week – No Classes	Job 11-20	261-288; 290-326	76-95		
Oct 31	6	Job	Job 21-31	188-229			Character Formation Paper
Nov 7	7	Job	Job 32-42	231-259			Quiz #2
Nov 14	8	Ecclesiastes	Ecc 1-4		15-36		
Nov 21	9	Ecclesiastes	Ecc 5-8		36-58		
Nov 28	10	Ecclesiastes	Ecc 9-12		99-116	393-416	Quiz #3
Dec 5	11	Song of Songs	S of S 1-4		116-140	416-438	
Dec 12	12	Song of Songs Wisdom Today	S of S 5-8				Quiz #4 Research Project Due Reading Log Due

X. COURSE GRADING SCHEME

Reading	5%
Quizzes (4)	40% (4 X 10%)
Character Formation Paper	25%
Theological Research Project	30%

XI. APPENDIX A

THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The student will research one of the following topics and write a 15-20 page (double spaced) paper documenting findings and synthesizing conclusions. The more sources you cite the more comprehensive your paper will be.

The guidelines for marking are based on the following components: (These apply to both the Theological Research Project and the Character Formation Paper)

Grading:	Quality of introduction
	Comprehensiveness of outline
	Content
	Referencing (footnotes/bibliography)
	Conclusions
	Spelling and form

Topics:

The following is a list of possible topics. If you decide to write on a topic not listed here, please make sure to get prior verbal approval for your topic in order to ensure that it meets the criteria of the course.

- The Egyptian wisdom sayings and their place in the canon of the Old Testament.
- The function of an Old Testament Sage and how Jesus fulfills that role?
- The nature of “proverbial wisdom” in relation to absolute truth.
- How the wisdom genre of the Old Testament is used in the New Testament.
- The relationship between “Hokmah” in Hebrew and “Sophia” in Greek.
- The “fear of the Lord” as the central motif of Old Testament wisdom.
- The way of the righteous versus the way of the wicked – as presented in the wisdom literature.
- Justice and judgment in the wisdom literature.
- Apocalyptic overtones in the wisdom literature.
- The wisdom literature and how it relates to the Abrahamic covenant?

- Applying the principles of Old Testament wisdom to a modern world.
- The teachings of Proverbs that are specifically directed to youth.
- Sexual immorality and adultery as presented in the wisdom literature.
- What are the warnings against those who would reject the wisdom sayings?
- The place of wisdom in creation as presented in Proverbs 8.
- Reconciling proverbs that seem to teach opposing truths.
- The relationship of wisdom to biblical humility.
- The definition of a fool as presented in the wisdom literature.
- The view of the afterlife as presented in the wisdom literature.
- The place of the social, moral, and created order as presented in the wisdom literature.
- The development of a person's character as presented in Proverbs.
- Virtue in Proverbs.
- The Proverbs 31 woman, the culmination of wisdom's work.
- The argument for an early dating for Job.
- The role of Satan and our understanding of this doctrine in the Book of Job.
- The nature of God's providence and sovereignty in the Book of Job.
- The place of suffering in the Book of Job.
- The paranormal in the Book of Job – a study of Job 4:12-21.
- The hope of Job – a study of Job 19:23-27.
- The nature of the arguments presented by Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.
- Elihu, the angry youth of inexperience.
- The "Spirit" in the Book of Job.
- The identity of Leviathan and Behemoth in the Book of Job.
- Wisdom defined by Job: an exposition of Job 28:12-28.
- God's resume and the place of creation theology in the Book of Job – with particular attention to chapters 38-41.
- Job's response to God in 42:1-6 – the true nature of wisdom displayed.
- The identity of Qoheleth, the Teacher, in Ecclesiastes.
- The Hebrew etymology and understanding of the term, "meaningless."
- "Under the Sun," as the residence of all that is meaningless.
- Coming before God: A study of Ecclesiastes 5:1-7.
- Wisdom found in the unexpected: An exposition of Ecclesiastes 7.
- An exposition of Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 as it relates to the book as a whole.
- The essence of love as presented in the Song of Songs.
- Spiritualized and allegorical interpretations of the Song of Songs and how they relate to the wisdom genre?
- Sexual allusions as presented in the Song of Songs.
- The literary high point in the Song of Songs: An exposition of 8:6-7.

XII. APPENDIX B

LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

	Knowledge	Thinking/Understanding	Communication	Application
A level Excellent	Thorough information, Proper sourcing of information, Clear, Concise, Accurate	Logical and Effective Order, Sophisticated or Original development; Sophisticated and/or logical original analytical framework; Honest and clear self presentation where applicable	Introduction clean & engaging, Conclusion summarized main points & points to additional possibilities; Organization & transitions sophisticated	Correct use of footnotes & bibliography; Use of language virtually free from error (spelling, grammar); level/style of language appropriate
B level Very Good	Sufficient Information; Appropriate sourcing, Clear, concise, accurate	Generally logical order; Accurate Observations and analysis; Attempts at honest and clear self presentation	Introduction clear; Conclusion accurately summarizes main points; Effective overall organization and transitions	Generally correct use of footnotes and bibliography; Use of language conventions is accurate
C level Satisfactory	Inclusion of some accurate information from outside sources; Attempts at clarity, conciseness, accuracy	Some lapses in order of presentation; Some observations/analysis; Some indication of accurate self presentation	Attempts to engage reader; Conclusion considers main points; Inconsistent overall organization	Inconsistent use of research and language conventions

<p>D level Inadequate</p>	<p>Limited and/or inaccurate and improperly sourced information; little research</p>	<p>Frequent lapses in order; few observations; limited and/or inaccurate analysis; Artificial presentation of self</p>	<p>Little attempt to engage reader; Limited and inconsistent overall organization</p>	<p>Frequent inconsistency in use of research and language conventions</p>
<p>Below Unacceptable</p>	<p>Inaccurate, Undone, and/or improperly sourced information</p>	<p>Little or no order, Almost no independent observations; Clearly inaccurate analysis; Avoidance of presentation of self</p>	<p>No attempt to engage reader; No rational organizational scheme</p>	<p>Improper or no use of research conventions; Continuous errors in use of language</p>

XIII. APPENDIX C

This Reading Log is to be submitted on the last day of class (December 12, 2022).

NOTE: If you have not completed the readings in their entirety, please indicate what percentage you did complete.

Name: _____.

Textbook	Percentage Read	Initials
Bartholomew, Craig G. and Ryan P. O'Dowd, <i>Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction</i> .		
Kreeft, Peter, <i>Three Philosophies of Life</i>		
Excerpt: Estes, Daniel J., <i>Song of Songs in The Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms</i>		