

**North Portland Bible College**  
**OTS 205—Hebrew Wisdom Literature**  
**Winter 2018**  
**January 8-March 23, 2018**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Examine and enjoy the unique insights in Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and other texts. This course will overview the text, culture, and interpretative themes of Israel's Wisdom Literature, including extra-biblical Wisdom works. The course also will explore themes such as, The Fear of the Lord, the two paths and key wisdom words. Connections to the New Covenant and early Christian writings will also be explored in Israel's wisdom context.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

At the end of the course the learner will be able to:

1. Identify the major themes of the Wisdom Literature
2. Demonstrate, through the means of quizzes, a working knowledge of these themes demonstrated in each of the Wisdom Books
3. Identify key passages or ideas contained in the New Covenant Scripture and how the author utilizes the wisdom theme for his readers.
4. Have a working knowledge of the interpretative principles of Wisdom Literature

**READING ASSIGNMENT:** The student will be responsible for reading Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and Job from any reliable version of the Scripture. Textbook is "An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books" by C. Hassell Bullock (ISBN 0-8024-4144-0) Assigned reading will be listed in the weekly outline.

Supplemental reading: Periodic readings in commentaries, handouts, and articles will be distributed for reading by the instructor to the student. Any commentary work will be discussed beforehand.

**Assignments:**

1. The student will complete the reading as described above and turn in a written statement of completed reading.
2. The student will complete quizzes given in class and a final exam paper. The final exam will be a reflection paper on any wisdom topic of their choice that they wish to explore further. Length will be no more than 3 pages. Bibliography must be included.

**Evaluation and Grading Policy:**

Letter grades will follow the "Academic Policies" section of the Catalog (pg. 13)  
Grades will be weighed based upon the following percentage criteria:

1. Attendance and class participation 20%
2. Reading Assignments 30%
3. Quizzes and final 50% (25% each)

#### Late assignment policy

A grace period of 2 (two) days will be given for incomplete assignments that have not been pre-arranged with the instructor and NPBC Administration. Upon completion, students must e-mail or call the instructor by 3:00 PM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. A 5% grade reduction per day will be given for work turned in after the 3:00 pm cut off without prior approval from instructor. **Extensions can be granted with advanced permission or in emergency situations.**

#### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

The format for all papers will follow the MLA standards listed in the Student Handbook. All work must have a **Bibliography**, and appropriate **source citation**.

#### Academic Integrity in writing:

All written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and constitutes a serious breach of scholarship standards at North Portland Bible College. When quoting the work of an author or an author's ideas used in papers, all sources must be documented, citing source of the information, author and page of the document.

## OTS 205—Introduction to the Wisdom Literature Class Schedule

| <b>Week</b>                               | <b>Date</b>        | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Reading/Assignment</b>           |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1 General class orientation</b>        | <b>January 9</b>   | <b>Intro to the Wisdom Literature</b>                    | <b>None</b>                         |
| <b>2 Wisdom Lit. outside of Scripture</b> | <b>January 16</b>  | <b>Wisdom from Judaism and other sources</b>             | <b>Bullock pg 25-40</b>             |
| <b>3 Wisdom for Living #1</b>             | <b>January 23</b>  | <b>Proverbs 1-15</b>                                     | <b>Bullock pg. 155-163, 168-170</b> |
| <b>4 Wisdom for Living #2</b>             | <b>January 30</b>  | <b>Proverbs 16-31</b>                                    | <b>Quiz #1 Bullock pg. 180-186</b>  |
| <b>5 Wisdom in Life's Perspective</b>     | <b>February 6</b>  | <b>Book of Ecclesiastes—futility and the fear of God</b> | <b>Bullock pg 189-203</b>           |
| <b>6 Wisdom in Love</b>                   | <b>February 13</b> | <b>Song of Solomon as Wisdom literature</b>              | <b>Bullock pg. 223-241</b>          |
| <b>7 Wisdom in Praise</b>                 | <b>February 20</b> | <b>Selected study of Wisdom Psalms</b>                   | <b>Bullock pg 122-128, 140</b>      |
| <b>8 Wisdom in Sorrow</b>                 | <b>February 27</b> | <b>Book of Job and its contribution to Wisdom</b>        | <b>Quiz#2 Bullock pg 63-85</b>      |
| <b>9 Wisdom in a New Day</b>              | <b>March 6</b>     | <b>Wisdom themes from the Gospels and James</b>          | <b>Class Handout</b>                |
| <b>10 Wisdom in the Early Church</b>      | <b>March 13</b>    | <b>Study of the Didache as NT wisdom</b>                 | <b>Class Handout</b>                |
| <b>11 Review and Final</b>                | <b>March 20</b>    | <b>Final exam</b>  | <b>Final Exam</b>                   |

## OTS 205—Wisdom Literature Additional Resources

### General Works

1. Dictionary of the Old Testament, edited by Alexander and Baker, IVP 2003  
ISBN 978-0-8308-1781-8 vol. 3 Wisdom and Poetry
2. The Literature of the Bible by Leland Ryken Zondervan 1980 ISBN 0-310-32411-4
3. Walking in Wisdom by William Mouser IVP 1983 ISBN 0-87784-846-7
4. Wisdom Literature and Psalms by Roland Murphy Abingdon Press 1983 ISBN 0-687-45759-9
5. Zondervan Bible Backgrounds Commentary edited by John Walton vol. 5 Zondervan Publishing ISBN 978-0-310-25577-2
6. Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament by G.K. Beale and D.A. Carson Baker Academic Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI 49516 2007 ISBN 978—0-8010-2693-5
7. Old Testament Wisdom by James Crenshaw WJK Press 1998 ISBN 978-0-664-23459

### Technical/Semi-technical works

1. Wisdom in Israel by Gerhard von Rad Abingdon Press 1981 ISBN 0-687-45757-2
2. Hear My Son by Daniel Estes Eerdmans Publishing 1997 ISBN 0-80284404-9
3. Proverbs, edited by Rabbi Nossom Scherman Artscroll Press 1998 ISBN 1-57819-277-3
4. The Didache by David Flusser and Huub van de Sandt Fortress Press 2002 ISBN 90-232-3763-3
5. Proverbs by Charles Bridges Banner of Truth 1846, reprint 1998 ISBN 0-85151-088-4

*"Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, she haKol eyeh beDvaro".*

(Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, that everything will be according to His Word.)