Wisdom and Character Formation  
October 3–10, 2017 
Dave Bland  
Doctor of Ministry Seminar  
(BMIN7500)

**Syllabus**

**Accessibility**
HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

- Email: dbland@harding.edu
- Office Phone Number: 901–432–7722

**Credit Hour Workload**
For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

**Textbooks**
Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab ([http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/](http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/)) for correct ISBN’s and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books. By going through our website, HST will receive some credit from the order. Thanks for your support.

**Students with Disabilities**
It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

**Library Resources**
If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site ([www.hst.edu](http://www.hst.edu)) for information concerning library services to students. Under the
“library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

All students in this course will use Canvas (available at http://elearning.harding.edu/). Distance students will use the video platform www.Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation

Equipment Requirements for using Zoom:

1. **Ear buds with microphone required.** Apple Earbuds with mic have worked flawlessly and are required. (Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic - Standard Packaging – White) Amazon https://www.amazon.com/Apple-MD827LL-EarPods-Remote-Mic/dp/B0097BEG1C/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1490297738&sr=8-3&keywords=apple+earbuds
2. **Additional monitor for remote students required.** Used monitor is okay.
3. Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera. On-ground students are encouraged to bring their laptops with camera to class and connect to the Zoom meeting with their computer.
4. Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred), Google Chrome, or Microsoft Internet Explorer.
5. Latest version of Zoom software. This does change periodically without notification.

Canvas can be accessed at http://elearning.harding.edu/. If you have problems gaining access to the Canvas system, contact technical support for students by calling (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.
When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor. Of course, there are many email providers, and many students and professors hold more than one email address. To promote timely and secure communication about class related issues, students and professors will only use Canvas email.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.

The Doctor of Ministry program has established three outcomes to achieve. More focus is placed on achieving Numbers 2 & 3 in this seminar:

1. Demonstrate the ability to apply research tools to a particular ministry problem and effectively address the problem through managing resources available in the local ministry context.

2. Exhibit the ability to think theologically about ministry challenges.

3. Demonstrate effective skills in oral, written, or media performance that will increase one’s communication and ministerial effectiveness appropriate to one’s particular ministry context.

4. Specific outcomes related to this seminar:
   a. To facilitate the integration of wisdom into one’s own life and enhance the development of one’s character.
   b. To gain an understanding of the theological themes of Wisdom Literature.
   c. To lead students to view the minister as a sage and incorporate principles of wisdom into the daily responsibilities of ministry.
   d. To equip students to preach and teach from Wisdom Literature.

Required Text Books:


**Required Articles** *(These will be discussed on Canvas; You are required to make one initial post, then respond to one other by the end of that particular week. Each article is located in the respective discussion forum.)*:

- Pemberton, Glenn. “It’s a Fool’s Life: The Deformation of Character in Proverbs,” *Restoration Quarterly*, v. 50, no. 4 (2008), 213-224. (**First Post Due September 13**)
- Youngblood, Kevin. “Cosmic Boundaries and Self-Control in Proverbs,” *Restoration Quarterly*, vol. 51, no 3 (2009), 139-150. (**First Post Due September 20**)

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Book Reviews**
   a. Write a review of the four assigned textbooks.
   b. The reviews should be 3-4 pages in length and follow the IDEA format. Here is a summary of the IDEA format:
      i. Devote a paragraph to **Identify** (identify the author and the context of the book), one page to **Describe** (or summarize) and two pages to **Assess** (or evaluate). **Use three other reviews on the books to aid you in your assessment part of the review.**
      ii. Limit to no more than four pages double-spaced.
   c. See above for the due date of each book review.

2. **Write a six-page paper reflecting on your own ministry context.**
   b. Using the above essay as a starting point, in what ways can you incorporate the sage model in your ministry? Of the nine characteristics, choose three or four you’d like to work on. Be very specific about how you would work on them and incorporate these qualities into your ministry.
   c. **Due November 10th.**
3. Write a fifteen-page paper that addresses some component of character formation or transformation. This paper must be grounded in a component of wisdom theology. Use Turabian format and Times New Roman font.
   a. The paper must use at least twelve different resources including four or five from the “Character Resources Bibliography” found at the end of this syllabus (in addition to the two textbooks listed in that bib.).
   b. In addition to the fifteen-page paper, take one more page to summarize or outline how you will use your material to teach or preach a series of sermons or class lessons in your congregation. Below are some possibilities. If you have another idea, that would be fine but run it by me first.
      • The role of creation in character formation
      • The relationship of food and eating to one's character
      • Character and justice/injustice
      • Wisdom virtues and character formation
      • The contribution of the proverb to character formation
      • Wealth and character formation
      • Community and character formation
      • Other
   c. **Due December 1st.**

Grading Scale
1. Each book review 75 pts (300 total)
2. Discussions on Articles (125 pts)
3. Sage as a Model for Ministry Paper (100 pts)
4. Wisdom and Character Paper (250 pts)
5. Final Exam (100 pts)
Tentative Schedule
October 3–10, 2017
8:15-11:30am  1:00-4:30pm

Tuesday 8:15-10:50 General Introduction
Tuesday 1:00-4:30 Introduction to Wisdom Literature
Definition of Wisdom
Wednesday 8:15-10:50 Wisdom and Character Formation
Wednesday 1:00-4:30 Proverbs 1–9: Preparation for Gaining Wisdom
Proverbs 10–15: The Fundamentals of Wisdom
Thursday 8:15–4:30 Proverbs 16–22: Managing Life’s Complexities
Thursday 1:00–4:30 Proverbs 25–31: The Maturation of Character
Friday 8:15-10:50 Wisdom and Creation Part 1: The Church’s Responsibility
To the Environment
Friday 1:00-2:30 Wisdom and Creation Part 2: The Church’s Responsibility
To the Environment
Friday 2:45–4:30 Ecclesiastes
Saturday 9:00-12:00 Ecclesiastes
Saturday 1:15-2:30 Ecclesiastes
Monday 8:15-10:50 Job: The Debates
Monday 1:30-4:30 Job: The Whirlwind Speeches
Tuesday 8:15-10:50 Wrap up
Final Exam

Character Resources Bibliography


Bland, Dave, Webb, Sean. Creation, Character, and Wisdom: Rethinking the Roots of

Bland, Dave, Fleer, David. Eds. Preaching Character: Reclaiming Wisdom’s Paradigmatic


General Bibliography on Proverbs and Wisdom


Cook, Johann.  The Septuagint of Proverbs: Jewish and/or Hellenistic Colouring of the LXX Proverbs.  VTSup 69. Leide, Brill, 1997.


Scherer, Silvia. Wisdom Has Built Her House: Studies on the Figure of Sophia in the Bible. Liturgical, July 2000.


Waltke, Bruce K. "The Book of Proverbs and Ancient Wisdom Literature."
Bibliotheca Sacra 136 (July-September 1979): 221-38.


**Material that Contextualizes the Sentence Literature**


Theology of Wisdom


Preaching from Proverbs


McKenzie, Alyce M. “Out of Character! Preaching Biblical Wisdom in a Secular Age.”


McKenzie, Alyce M. Hear and Be Wise: Becoming a Teacher and Preacher of Wisdom.

Parsons, Greg. “Guidelines for Understanding and Proclaiming the Book of Proverbs.”


Sermons from the Proverbs


**Popular and Contemporary Proverbial Lore**


Covey, Stephen R. *First Things First*. New York: Fireside, 1994. Covey says that the book is based on wisdom. Throughout he refers to the principles of "wisdom literature." Appendix C is devoted to the recurring themes of wisdom literature and a bibliography this literature.


Mieder, Wolfgang. Ed. *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*. Published annually by the University of Vermont.


Web site by Ted Hildebrant:
http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/OTeSources/20-Proverbs/Text/Bibliography/Proverbs-Bibliography.htm#B

Further Bibliography on Character Formation


Larson and Larson (1976) Values and faith: Activities for family and church groups Minneapolis: Winston


Select Bibliography for Ecclesiastes


Popular Works


Sermons on Ecclesiastes


Bibliography on Job

Alden, Robert, L. Job, New American Commentary Nashville: Broadman Press, 2005(?).


