



Wisdom and Character Formation
Dave Bland
(BMIN7500)

October 3–10, 2017
Doctor of Ministry Seminar

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/>) 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) 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](http://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:

- Limburg, James. *Encountering Ecclesiastes: A Book for Our Time*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-8028-3047-0 **Due September 1st.**
- Bland, Dave. *Proverbs and the Formation of Character*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-4982-2164-1 **Due September 15th.**

- Brown, William, P. *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, And Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6793-3 **Due October 20th**.
- Brooks, David. *The Road to Character*. New York: Random House, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-8129-9325-7 **Due November 3rd**.

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.:**)

- Davis, Ellen F., "Surprised by Wisdom: Preaching Proverbs," In *Preaching the Luminous Word: Biblical Sermons and Homiletical Essays*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, (2016), 138–152. **(First Post Due September 6)**
- 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)**
- Davis, Ellen F., "Wisdom or Sloth? The Character of Work," in *Scripture Culture and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP (2009), 139–154. **(First Post Due September 27)**
- Ian Provan, "Fresh Perspectives on Ecclesiastes: "Qohelet for Today," in *The Words of the Wise are like Goats: Engaging Qohelet in the 21st Century*. Eds. Mark Boda, Tremper Longman III, and Christian Rata. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns (2013), 401–416. **(First Post Due Oct 4)**

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.
 - a. Read Dave Bland, "Wisdom and the Sage as a Model for Ministry." Unpublished essay. The essay is uploaded on our canvas homepage.
 - 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. *Proverbs and the Formation of Character*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2015.

Bland, Dave, Webb, Sean. *Creation, Character, and Wisdom: Rethinking the Roots of Environmental Ethics*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2016.

Bland, Dave, Fler, David. Eds. *Preaching Character: Reclaiming Wisdom’s Paradigmatic Imagination for Transformation*. Abilene: ACU Press, 2010.

- Brooks, David. *The Road to Character*. New York: Random House, 2015.
- Clouse, Bonnidell. *Teaching for Moral Growth: A Guide for the Christian Community*. Wheaton: Bridgpoint, 1993.
- Covey Stephen M. R. *The Speed of Trust*. New York: Free Press, 2006.
- Hunter, James Davison. *The Death of Character: Moral Education in an Age Without Good or Evil*. New York: Basic Books, 2000.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *What Does the Lord Require? A Guide for Preaching and Teaching Biblical Ethics*. Grand Rapids: BakerAcademic, 2009.
- Peterson, Christopher, and Martin E.P. Seligman. *Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Reid, Robert and Lucy Hogan, *The Six Deadly Sins of Preaching: Becoming Responsible for the Faith We Proclaim*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012.
- Wells, David. *Losing Our Virtue: Why the Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Willimon, William, "Preaching in an Age That Has Lost Its Moral Compass," *Journal for Preachers* 18 no 3 (1995): 20-26.
- Wright, N. T. *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*. New York: HarperOne, 2010.

General Bibliography on Proverbs and Wisdom

- Alster, Bendt. The Instructions of Suruppak: A Sumerian Proverb Collection. Mesopotamia. Copenhagen Studies in Assyriology, vol. 2. Copenhagen: Akademisk Forlag, 1974.
- _____. Proverbs of Ancient Sumer: The World's Earliest Proverb Collections. 2 vols. Bethesda, MD: CDL Press, 1997.
- Alter, Robert. The Art of Biblical Poetry. BasicBooks, 1985.
- Alter, Robert. The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: A Translation With Commentary. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2010.
- Atkinson, David. The Message of Proverbs. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1996.
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- Barré, Michael L. Ed. Wisdom, You Are My Sister: Studies in Honor of Roland E. Murphy. Washington: Catholic Biblical Association, 1997.
- Barton, Stephen C. ed. Where Shall Wisdom Be Found? Wisdom in the Bible, the Church and the Contemporary World. Edinburgh, Scotland: T & T Clark, 1999.
- Bartholomew, Craig, G. "Qoheleth in the Canon?! Current Trends in the Interpretation of Ecclesiastes." Themelios 24 3(1999): 4-20.
- Bartholomew, Craig, G. Reading Ecclesiastes: Old Testament Exegesis and Hermeneutical Theory. Analecta Biblica, 1 39. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1998.
- Bartholomew, Craig G. Ecclesiastes. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.
- Beardslee, William. "Uses of the Proverb in the Synoptic Gospel." Interpretation 24 (1970): 61-73.
- Bergant, Dianne. What Are They Saying About Wisdom Literature? New York: Paulist Press, 1984.
- Bland, Dave. "Proverbs, by Leo Perdue." Major review. Interpretation (January, 2002): 88-89.
- Bland, Dave. "The Biblical Quest for Wisdom." Major Review of Roland Murphy's The Tree of Life. Interpretation 46 no 2 (1992): 183-184.
- Bland, Dave. "The Use of Proverbs in Two Medieval Genres of Discourse: "The Art of Poetry" and "The Art of Preaching." Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship. Vol. 14 (1997): 1-21.

- Bland, Dave. "Formation of Character in the Book of Proverbs." Restoration Quarterly 40 no 4 (1998): 221-237.
- Bland, Dave. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. Joplin: College Press NIV Commentary, 2002.
- Bland, Dave. "A Rhetorical Perspective on the Sentence Sayings of the Book of Proverbs." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, 1994.
- Bland, Dave. "Conversation as a Resource for Character Formation in Proverbs," in And the Word Became Flesh: Studies in History, Communication And Scripture in Memory of Michael W. Casey. Edited by Thomas H. Olbricht and David Fleer (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2009), 143-152.
- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. Wisdom and Law in the Old Testament. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983.
- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. Sage, Priest, and Prophet. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox Press, 1995.
- Boda, Mark, Tremper Longman III, Christian Rata, eds. The Words of the Wise are like Goads: Engaging Qohelet in the 21st Century. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2013.
- Bostrom, Lennart. The God of the Sages: The Portrayal of God in the Book of Proverbs. Stockholm: Coniectanea Biblica, OT Series 29, 1990.
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- Clifford, Richard J. The Wisdom Literature. In Interpreting Biblical Texts series. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.
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