



## HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Wisdom and Character Formation  
Dave Bland  
(BMIN7500)

June 7-11, 2021  
Doctor of Ministry Seminar  
HSTLIVE

### 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](mailto:dbland@harding.edu)

#### 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.

#### 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 took it 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. 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

This seminar is only offered on HSTLIVE. In addition, all students in this course will use **Canvas** (available at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>). 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](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.
6. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327722>.

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:**

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 and the character of the church where one ministers.
  - 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:

- Longman, Tremper. *The Fear of the Lord is Wisdom: A Theological Introduction to Wisdom in Israel*. Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 2017. ISBN: 9780801027116. **Due May 21**
- Brown, William, P. *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, And Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. ISBN: 9780802867933 **Due June 4.**

- Limburg, James. *Encountering Ecclesiastes: A Book for Our Time*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006. ISBN: 9780802830470 **Due June 18.**
- Bland, Dave. *Proverbs and the Formation of Character*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2015. ISBN: 9781498221641 **Due July 2.**
- Pemberton, Glenn. *A Life That is Good: The Message of Proverbs in a World Wanting Wisdom*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018. ISBN: 9780802875679 **Due July 16**

#### Course Requirements:

1. Throughout the week of class (June 7–11) we will meet on zoom. Our meeting password: 9014327722
2. Book Reviews
  - a. Write a review of the five 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.
3. 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 and incorporate them into your ministry.
  - c. **Due May 14.**
4. Term Project. 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. So, the first three or four pages must provide a theological reflection on the topic you chose. **This theological section of the paper is due on the last day of our intensive course, June 11.** 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 by Bland and Pemberton that are listed in that bibliography).
  - b. Below are some possible topics. If you have another idea, that would be fine, but run it by me first.
    - The role of creation in character formation
    - How the relationship & discipline of eating relates to one’s character
    - Character and justice/injustice

- Wisdom virtues and character formation (E.g. choose a particular virtue, such as self-control, integrity, contentment, humility, etc. and develop it from the wisdom books). You could also choose a vice.
  - The contribution of the proverb to character formation
  - Wealth and character formation
  - Community and character formation
  - Look for ways to choose a topic that might contribute to your final DMin project (check with instructor)
  - Choosing other topics related to your interests are welcomed (check with instructor)
- c. **In addition to the fifteen-page paper**, take a couple of pages to summarize or outline how you will use your material to teach or preach a series of sermons or class lessons in your congregation.
- d. **Due July 28.**

#### Grading Scale

1. Each book review 75 pts (375 total)
2. Theological Reflection on Term Project (75 pts)
3. Sage as a Model for Ministry Paper (100 pts)
4. Wisdom and Character Paper (200 pts)
5. Final Exam (100 pts)

## Tentative Schedule

June 7–11

8:15-11:30am 1:00-5:00pm

Monday 8:15-10:50	General Introduction
Monday 1:00-5:00	Introduction to Wisdom Literature Definition of Wisdom
Tuesday 8:15-10:50	Wisdom and Character Formation
Tuesday 1:00-5:00	Proverbs 1–9: Preparation for Gaining Wisdom Proverbs 10–15: The Fundamentals of Wisdom
Wednesday 8:15–11:30	Proverbs 16–22: Managing Life’s Complexities
Wednesday 1:00-5:00	Proverbs 25–31: The Maturation of Character
Thursday 8:15-10:50	Wisdom and Creation: The Church’s Responsibility To the Environment
Thursday 1:00-5:00	Ecclesiastes
Friday 8:15–10:50	Ecclesiastes/Job
Friday 1:00–5:00	Job & 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.
- Brooks, David. *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*. New York: Random House, 2019.
- 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.
- Pemberton, Glenn. *A Life That is Good: The Message of Proverbs in a World Wanting Wisdom*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.
- 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

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- Alter, Robert. The Art of Biblical Poetry. BasicBooks, 1985.
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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.
- Bellis, Alice Ogden. Proverbs: Wisdom Commentary. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2018.
- 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.
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