

<b>Unit Code</b>
B7229
<b>Unit Name</b>
Wisdom Literature
<b>Unit Weighting</b>
9 Credit Points
<b>Type of Unit</b>
Intermediate
<b>Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions</b>
9 B Credit points
<b>Academic Staff .</b>
Randall Edwards, BA (Northwest College 1971), MDiv (Emanuel, 1976), MA(Rel) (Emmanuel, 1976). The faculty register lists all faculty accredited to teach this course unit
<b>Curriculum Objectives</b>
This course unit explores the place of wisdom in Ancient Israel and the theological issues it raises within that faith community. Building on the skills developed in previous biblical studies, it develops the critical exegetical and analytical skills of the student through the examination of specific texts from Proverbs, Job or Ecclesiastes.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) reconstruct the historical, literary, social and theological contexts of wisdom within Ancient Israel.</li> <li>2) critically compare and contrast the different theologies that are reflected in the wisdom literature of the Old Testament</li> <li>3) exegete selected passages from Proverbs, Job or Ecclesiastes</li> <li>4) interpret the role and place of wisdom within Ancient Israel and its response to God and life</li> <li>5) relate the application of a theme or text to a contemporary audience or community</li> </ol>
<b>Content</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wisdom in the Ancient world</li> <li>2. Historical, cultural, and religious context of wisdom in Ancient Israel</li> <li>3. The place and role of wisdom in the faith and life of Israel</li> <li>4. Theological themes found in the wisdom literature</li> <li>5. Exegesis of selected passages within the Proverbs, Job or Ecclesiastes</li> </ol>
<b>Teaching Methods</b>
Lectures, tutorials, field work, student presentations, seminars – in class and/or online.
<b>Assessment Profile</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A reflective essay or an examination question on the nature of wisdom in the Ancient world [Outcome 1]</li> <li>2. A critical essay on some aspect of wisdom in Ancient Israel (i.e., a theological theme, the role of wisdom, the context of wisdom) [Outcomes 2, 4, 5]</li> <li>3. A comprehensive exegesis of a selected passage from Proverbs, Job or Ecclesiastes. (essay, written or oral exam, practical presentation in field placement) [Outcomes 3, 4]</li> </ol>
<b>Representative References</b>

- Ballard, Harold Wayne, & Tucker, W. Dennis (eds.). *An Introduction to Wisdom Literature and the Psalms: Festschrift Marvin E. Tate*. Macon, GA: Mercer Press, 2002.
- Bartholomew, Craig G. *Ecclesiastes (BCOT)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.
- Bartholomew, Craig G. And O'Dowd, Ryan P. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
- Crenshaw, James L. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Louisville: Westminster, 2010.
- Hubbard, David A. *Job 21 – 42 (WBC)*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.
- Lucas, E. *Exploring the Old Testament: The Psalms and Wisdom Literature*, vol. 3. London: SPCK, 2003.
- Murphy, Roland Edmund. *The Tree of Life: An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Murphy, Roland Edmund. *Proverbs (WBC)*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.
- Shields, Martin A. *The End of Wisdom: A Reappraisal of the Historical and Canonical Function of Ecclesiastes*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbraus, 2006.
- Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapter 15 – 31 (NICOT)*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Weeks, Stuart. *An Introduction to the Study of Wisdom Literature*. New York: Continuum, 2010.