

Saint Louis Christian College
BOT321 – Proverbs and Wisdom Literature
Michael Pabarcus - Instructor
Three Semester Hours Credit

Fall 2014
Prerequisite: BBI211, BOT101

Wednesday/Friday
7:15-8:30 a.m.

Mission Statement

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

College Core Values

The Faculty, Staff, and Administration of Saint Louis Christian College embrace and promote the following values in the design and delivery of our programs:

Bible Knowledge— Saint Louis Christian College is a Bible college, where every baccalaureate graduate pursues a major in Biblical and theological studies. The Bible's message informs our understanding of the purpose and predicament of human life, the history of the world, the nature and mission of the Church, and the nature and goal of ministry

Christian Character— Saint Louis Christian College believes that servants of Christ must live by the example and teaching of Christ. We believe that the classical virtues of Wisdom, Courage, Self-control, Justice, Faith, Hope, and Love are exemplified by the life of Christ. He, in perfect humility, taught us first to love God and then to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Ministry Skills— Because our graduates are called to be servant-leaders in their chosen fields of ministry, they possess the skills to relate to people of many backgrounds, the heart to serve them in their brokenness, and the judgment to effectively apply the Scriptures to life's diverse situations. Students are challenged and helped to identify and develop their spiritual gifts and are placed in settings to practice those gifts skillfully.

Christian Worldview— A broad base of academic knowledge is fundamental to becoming an educated person who effectively reasons and interacts in society. At the center of a Christian view of life and the world is the proposition that humans and the universe in which they live were created by the God who has revealed Himself in the Scriptures. God is the source of all truth, not just religious truth; and the Bible provides the basis for the ordering of all knowledge. The curriculum at Saint Louis Christian College integrates thought and life across a broad academic range and fosters in students a lifelong appreciation for the independent value of knowing.

Christian Community— Saint Louis Christian College is a diverse community of believers united by Christ in mission and purpose. The intimacy of our campus provides a unique atmosphere for developing lifelong relationships. However, our community extends beyond the boundaries of our campus and into the city in which we live, the church that we serve and the world we want to reach.

Course Description

Students examine the biblical proverbs and selected wisdom portions of other Old Testament books, identifying major themes developed in this literature. Attention is also given to the relationship of canonical and non-canonical wisdom literature. 3 Credits

Course Rationale

This course contributes in part to student achievement of the following Biblical Education Division objectives

1. Given instruction in the Bible and in biblical theology, the student will exhibit a knowledge of the messages of the various Old and New Testament books and the saving message of the Bible as a whole.
2. Shown how to use tools and sound methods for interpreting the Bible, the student will demonstrate the ability to properly interpret, apply and communicate Scripture.

Course Objectives

As a result of this study, the student will:

1. Explain the usage of stylistic devices such as parallelism in Hebrew poetry.
2. Comprehend the general nature of Hebrew wisdom as it fits into the context of Ancient Near Eastern literature.
3. Discuss the issues of authorship, date, composition, and interpretation of the books.
4. Recognize that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” and understand how this theme is expounded positively in Proverbs and negatively in Ecclesiastes.
5. Summarize the teaching of the Song of Songs on marriage and human sexuality.
6. Preach and/or teach effectively from the wisdom and poetic books of the Old Testament.

Course Requirements

Participation - Attendance in class is required. Attendance records will be maintained and factored into the student's participation grade. Students with absences over 7 will be in violation of the College's "25% rule" and accordingly will be administratively withdrawn with a grade of F for the course. Tardies will be noted. Three tardies will be equivalent to an absence. A tardy is defined as arriving up to 20 minutes late for class or leaving 20 minutes early. Arriving more than 20 minutes after the start of class or leaving 20 minutes or more early will be counted as an absence.

Moreover, the student is expected to actively participate in the lectures and course discussion. The instructor will evaluate the student's engagement in classroom activities and factor this into the student's participation grade. Failure to take consistent class notes, sleeping in class, walking out of class for a period of time exceeding five minutes, carrying on private conversations in class or any other forms of inappropriate behavior will negatively affect the student's participation grade.

Participation will be factored as ten percent of the student's grade.

Reading - The textbooks for this course are:

Bible: New International Version.

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0801038884

The student will be required to read the text as set forth in the attached course schedule. To give evidence that this has been completed the student will be required to submit a *Course Reading Report Form* (TEMPLATE, p. 8) on the assigned date.

Examinations - Major examinations will be given according to the following schedule: Oct. 17, Dec. 13-15 (Comprehensive Final).

Devotional Presentations: - The student will be required to present two devotions during the semester. These devotions will be 3-5 minutes in duration. They will cover a brief (5-10 verses) section of the book which is being discussed during that class period. This devotion should briefly explain the passage and apply it to modern life. Appropriate passages for these devotions are listed in the course schedule below. Devotions will be graded on the basis of [1] accuracy of exegesis (50%); [2] appropriateness of application (50%).

Term Paper - The student will be required to submit an eight-page paper in which he/she reflects theologically upon a major theme or exegetical issue in the wisdom literature. The student will choose the specific topic for this project in consultation with the instructor. Appropriate topics include the following:

- The authorship and date of the book of Ecclesiastes
- The book of Proverbs and practical wisdom in other ancient near eastern cultures
- The personification of wisdom in the book of Proverbs
- The sovereignty of God in the wisdom literature
- The authorship and date of the Song of Songs
- The interpretation of the Song of Songs

This paper must be done according to the rules for style set forth in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. It must also demonstrate that research has been done in at least ten sources. Internet sources may comprise only half of the student's references. Papers will be graded in light of the following factors: [1] adequacy and accuracy of exegesis (30%) [2] depth of theological reflection (30%) [3] depth of research (10%) [4] structure 15%) [5] style (5%) [6] grammar and spelling (5%) [7] format (5%). Due: November 14.

Course Assessment

The student's final grade will be determined according to the following formula.

Participation	10%
Reading: Biblical Text	10%
Reading: Textbook	10%
Devotionals	10%
Examinations	30%
Term Paper	30%

Course Schedule

Aug. 20 Course Introduction	Aug. 22 Survey of Ancient Near Eastern Wisdom Literature
Aug. 27 Solomon and Old Testament Wisdom I Kings 3-4	Aug. 29 The Fear of the Lord in Old Testament Wisdom
Sep. 3 Introduction to Proverbs Estes, 213-224	Sep. 5 Proverbs on Successful Living Pv. 1:1-4:27
Sep. 10 Infinite Influence in Missions – No Class	Sep. 12 Proverbs on Successful Living Pv. 5:1-9:18
Sep. 17 Proverbs on Successful Living Pv. 10:1-16:33 Estes, 224-245	Sep. 19 Proverbs on Successful Living Pv. 17:1-22:16 Estes, 245-269
Sep. 24 Proverbs on Successful Living Pv. 22:17-24:34	Sep. 26 Proverbs on Successful Living Pv. 25:1-29:27
Oct. 1 Proverbs on Successful Living Pv. 30:1-31:31	Oct. 3 Fall Break – No Class
Oct. 8 Mid-term Examination	Oct. 10 Introduction to Ecclesiastes Estes, 271-285
Oct. 15 Enjoying Life as a Gift of God Ecc. 1:1-2:26 Estes, 285-308	Oct. 17 Enjoying Life as a Gift of God Ecc. 1:1-2:26
Oct. 22 Understanding the All-Encompassing Plan of God Ecc. 3:1-5:20 Estes, 308-334	Oct. 24 Understanding the All-Encompassing Plan of God Ecc. 3:1-5:20
Oct. 29 Explaining and Applying the Plan of God Ecc. 6:1-8:15 Estes, 334-356	Oct. 31 Explaining and Applying the Plan of God Ecc. 6:1-8:15
Nov. 5 Removing Discouragements and Applying the Plan of God Ecc. 8:16-12:14 Estes, 356-392	Nov. 7 Removing Discouragements and Applying the Plan of God Ecc. 8:16-12:14
Nov. 12 Introduction to Song of Songs Estes, 393-404	Nov. 14 Courtship SOS 1:1-3:11 Estes, 404-416
Nov. 19 Wedding SOS 4:1-5:1 Estes, 416-421	Nov. 21 Growth in Marital Love SOS 5:2-8:4 Estes, 421-438
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Break No Class	Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Day No Class
Dec. 3 Questions and Answers	Dec. 5 Course Conclusion
Dec. 9-11 TBD Final Examination	

Course Student Learning Resources (Select Bibliography)

Commentaries

Alden, Robert L. *Proverbs*. Grand Rapids; Baker Book House, 1983.

Delitzsch, Franz. "Proverbs." In vol. 6: *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon*. Translated by M. G. Easton. Commentary on the Old Testament. 10 vols. N.p.; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1973.

Dillow, Joseph C. *Solomon on Sex*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1977.

Eaton, Michael A. *Ecclesiastes*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1983.

Gaebelein, Frank, ed.. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol 5. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

Glickmann, S. Craig. *A Song for Lovers*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1980.

Kaiser, Walter. *Ecclesiastes: Total Life*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1979.

Kidner, Derek. *The Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*. The Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Chicago: Inter-Varsity Press, 1964.

Leupold, H. C. *Exposition of Ecclesiastes* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1952.

Longman, Tremper, III. *How to Read Proverbs*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

_____. *Proverbs*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

_____. *The Book of Ecclesiastes*, in *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Scott, R. B. Y. *Proverbs-Ecclesiastes*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1965.

Seow, Choon-Leong. *Ecclesiastes*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Internet Sites for Old Testament Research

www.bible.org

www.biblegateway.com

www.biblenotes.net

www.biblestudy.org

www.blueletterbible.org

www.otgateway.com

Course Information

Late Policy - Papers are due during the class period on the day the paper is due. Penalties will be assessed to any papers which are turned in late.

Missed Examinations – See the institutional form included in the syllabus.

Homework Assignments - All homework assignments must be legible (typed, neatly written, or printed). Your grade will be dropped if your paper is sloppy and not readable. Daily assignments and examinations must be folded lengthwise with the student's name and mailbox number on the outside of the paper.

Keep All Papers – It is important that you keep all papers in case a question arises regarding their submission/grade or the accuracy of your final grade.

Cell Phones – Cell phones/texting is not permitted during class sessions.

Computers – Computers may be used to take notes only. Web surfing during class will result in loss of computer privileges.

Test Decorum – Students are not allowed to bring any materials besides a pen or a pencil into the classroom on the day a major examination is administered. No notebooks, coats, backpacks, headphones, etc. are allowed. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Academic Honesty - Any cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" or ZERO being given for the assignment on which it is found.

Special Academic Circumstances - Students with a diagnosed learning disability, please see the instructor privately to discuss assessment measures that would enhance your ability to learn.

Adjustment of Syllabus - The above schedule, procedures, and assignments are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Instructor Availability – The instructor is available during his stated office hours listed or may be contacted at the telephone numbers or e-mail addresses listed below.

Michael Pabarcus

Campus Contacts: 1-314-837-6777 (x1501) or mpabarcus@slcconline.edu

Home Contacts: 1- 314-541-9343 or mikeslcc@hotmail.com

Office Hours	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:15-8:30 AM		BOT101 OT Survey	BOT321 Proverbs and Wisdom	BOT101 OT Survey	BOT321 Proverbs and Wisdom
8:45-10:00 AM	Faculty/Ministry Team Meetings	Office	Office	Office	Office
10:15-11:30 AM	Faculty/Ministry Team Meetings	Chapel	Good Samaritan Ministries	Office	Chapel
11:30-12:30 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Good Samaritan Ministries	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 - 1:30 PM	GHY241 Civil War (1:00- 4:15)	Office	Office	Office	Office
1:30 – 2:45 PM					
2:45 – 5:00 PM					

Course Reading Report Form

LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, *who speaks the truth from his heart.* Psalm 15:1-2

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Date and Assignment: _____

Answer honestly the following questions regarding today's reading assignment.

To what extent did you carefully read today's assigned texts?

- ☐ I carefully read the entire assignment (95%)
- ☐ I carefully read a portion of the assignment. What percentage? _____
- ☐ I skimmed the assignment. (60%)
- ☐ I did not read the assignment. (0%)

Proverbs and Wisdom Literature Term Paper Scoring Guide

	F (60%)	D (75%)	C (82%)	B (90%)	A (97%)
Adequacy and Accuracy of Exegesis (30%)	The exegesis provides an explanation of the chosen subject which contained significant errors.	The exegesis provides a superficial or somewhat erroneous explanation of the chosen subject.	The exegesis provides an accurate but somewhat superficial explanation of the chosen subject.	The exegesis provides an accurate explanation of the chosen subject.	The exegesis provides a accurate and insightful explanation of the chosen subject.
Depth of Theological Reflection (30%)	The paper discussed the subject in a manner which contained significant errors or which left its meaning unclear to the listener.	The paper discussed the subject in a superficial and possibly erroneous manner.	The paper discussed the subject in a somewhat superficial manner.	The paper discussed the subject with adequate depth.	The paper discussed the subject in a profound and insightful manner.
Depth of Research (10%)	The paper makes use of three or fewer resources.	The paper makes use of five or fewer resources.	The paper makes adequate use of five to ten resources.	The paper makes adequate use of ten or more resources.	The paper makes studied and critical use of ten or more resources.
Structure (15%)	The paper does not follow a logical sequence with smooth transitions.	The paper barely follows a logical sequence with smooth transitions.	The paper partly follows a logical sequence with smooth transitions.	The paper mostly follows a logical sequence with smooth transitions.	The paper clearly follows a logical sequence with smooth transitions.
Style (5%)	The paper does not contain complete and unified paragraphs, varied and consistent sentences, and precise and appropriate diction.	The paper barely contains complete and unified paragraphs, varied and consistent sentences, and precise and appropriate diction.	The paper partly contains complete and unified paragraphs, varied and consistent sentences, and precise and appropriate diction.	The paper mostly contains complete and unified paragraphs, varied and consistent sentences, and precise and appropriate diction.	The paper clearly contains complete and unified paragraphs, varied and consistent sentences, and precise and appropriate diction.
Grammar and Spelling (5%)	The paper does not demonstrate proper usage of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and spelling.	The paper barely demonstrates proper usage of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and spelling.	The paper partly demonstrates proper usage of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and spelling.	The paper mostly demonstrates proper usage of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and spelling.	The paper clearly demonstrates proper usage of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and spelling.
Format (5%)	The paper does not demonstrate proper usage of MLA format, and documentation.	The paper barely demonstrates proper usage of MLA format, and documentation.	The paper partly demonstrates proper usage of MLA format, and documentation.	The paper mostly demonstrates proper usage of MLA format, and documentation.	The paper clearly demonstrates proper usage of MLA format, and documentation.

Proverbs and Wisdom Literature Devotion Scoring Guide

	F (60%)	D (75%)	C (82%)	B (90%)	A (97%)
Accuracy of Exegesis (50%)	The exegesis provides an explanation of the chosen text which contained significant errors.	The exegesis provides a superficial or somewhat erroneous explanation of the chosen text.	The exegesis provides an accurate but somewhat superficial explanation of the chosen text.	The exegesis provides an accurate explanation of the chosen text.	The exegesis provides a thoughtful explanation of the chosen text.
Appropriateness of Application (25%)	The devotion applied the text in a manner which contained significant errors or which left its meaning unclear to the listener.	The devotion applied the text in a superficial and possibly erroneous manner.	The devotion applied the text in an accurate but somewhat superficial manner.	The devotion applied the text accurately and adequately.	The devotion applied the text in a profound and insightful manner.
Fluency of Presentation (25%)	The devotion was presented in a boring manner.	The devotion was presented in a haphazard manner.	The devotion was presented in a mundane manner.	The devotion was presented in a pleasing manner.	The devotion was presented in a compelling manner.



SAINT LOUIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

TEST MAKEUP FORM

(Please print legibly)

Students apply in the Academic Office for permission to make up a test if prevented at the original time by sickness or emergency. The word “test” refers to midterms, finals, and other tests so identified by the professor including writing or other projects that count as a final exam; it does not include minor periodic quizzes. This form must be filed with the Academic Office within 72 hours of the original test date, accompanied by the stipulated fee. Please note that completion of the form requires approval by the teacher and the Academic Dean. Students who miss a test because of an approved “walk” are exempt from the fee. The test should be made up within one week of the date on which it was administered.

1. **Student Section:** The student requesting the makeup test is to complete this section and is responsible for processing this with **72 hours** of the original test date.

Name _____ Phone # _____ - _____ - _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Original Test Date _____

Reason for makeup test:

☐ Sickness: _____

☐ Emergency: _____

Approval: ☐ **Professor** _____

☐ **Academic Dean** _____

Fee: ☐ **Paid**

Form: ☐ **Date Received** _____ **By:** _____

In-Library Test Form on back side of this form

2. **Faculty Section:** The faculty member granting the makeup test is to complete this section. Please do not fill out this side of the form until the front side of this form is completed and signed by the Professor and Academic Dean.

Professor's Name: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

.....

Student's Name: _____

Date when test is to be completed: _____

Amount of time student has for test: _____ Hour _____ Minutes

Materials student **MAY** use other than pen or pencil: _____

_____.

_____.

_____.

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Professor wants to be notified when test is complete by:

☐ E-mail: _____

☐ U.S. Mail: _____

☐ Telephone: () _____ - _____

Library Worker Signature: _____

Date: _____