



## BBL 135: Wisdom Literature

### Student Syllabus for the Adult Degree Programs

#### Course Description

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This course explores the primary works of wisdom literature in the Old Testament (Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) along with related materials elsewhere in the Bible. In doing so, the course maintains a focus on Jesus Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3 ESV).

#### Course Introduction

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Every person is on a quest. Life involves movement along a pathway in the pursuit of a goal or a mix of goals. The questions that each person must ask themselves on this quest include: Where am I going, and why? How can I reach my goal(s) in life? What is the best way for me to live? How are my goals and decisions in life impacted by my understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ?

The Bible offers guidance for exploring and answering these questions. Wisdom is explained, personified, modeled, and articulated in both broad conceptual terms as well as very specific applications. Along the way, the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job point out that an acknowledgement and understanding of God’s sovereignty is both the starting point and the guiding light in the attainment of wisdom.

#### Course Outcomes

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Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Define what biblical “wisdom” means as articulated in the Old and New Testament.
2. Explain the essential guidance provided by the wisdom literature in the Old Testament (Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) along with select wisdom-related passages in some of the Psalms and in the New Testament Epistle of James.
3. Identify and describe the distinctive content, theological significance, and collective message of wisdom literature in the Bible.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with passages within the Old Testament wisdom literature that anticipate the life and work of Jesus Christ.
5. Describe the importance of integrating wisdom into one’s own life and enhancing the development of one’s character.

## Course Texts

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*ESV value thinline Bible.* (2016). Crossway.

ISBN-13: 978-1433550652

ISBN-10: 1433550652

Kidner, D. (1985). *The wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes: An introduction to wisdom literature.*

InterVarsity Press.

ISBN-13: 978-0877844051

ISBN-10: 0877844054

Robertson, O. P. (2017). *The Christ of wisdom: A redemptive-historical exploration of the wisdom books of the Old Testament.* P&R Publishing.

ISBN-13: 978-1629952918

ISBN-10: 1629952915

### *Textbook Disclaimer*

The textbooks for this course were chosen because their primary content directly relates to the objectives of this course. At times, there may be items or issues that are not presented from a proper Christian worldview. As such, the textbooks do not represent an endorsement by Geneva College or the relevant academic department at Geneva College.

## Learning and Physical Disabilities Policy

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Geneva College values diversity and inclusion and recognizes disabilities as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive, ultimately leading to the success of our students in and beyond college. Therefore, Geneva College complies with the ADA as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by affording reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations should contact Geneva's Student Success Center (SSC) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the SSC before or during the first week of classes. (Some accommodations may take time to put into place, so it is advised to request this appointment as early as possible.) Legally, no retroactive accommodations can be provided. Accommodations for disabilities are available only as recommended by the SSC. Students whose accommodations are approved will be provided confidential letters which students should review and discuss with their instructors in relation to course requirements. Students who have questions about their right to benefits or have grievances under these statutes should contact the Director of the SSC. For more details, visit the [Student Success Center website](#) or call 724-847-5005.

## The Grading System in the ADP

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The grading scale for the Adult Degree Program is A, B, C, D, and F. Geneva includes pluses (+) and minuses (-) in the determination of the grade point average (GPA). Grade points are assigned for each semester hour of credit earned according to the following system:

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Explanation
<b>A</b>	<b>93.00% - 100.00%</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90.00% - 92.99%</b>	<b>3.7</b>	
<b>B+</b>	<b>87.00% - 89.99%</b>	<b>3.3</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>83.00% - 86.99%</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80.00% - 82.99%</b>	<b>2.7</b>	
<b>C+</b>	<b>77.00% - 79.99%</b>	<b>2.3</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>73.00% - 76.99%</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>70.00% - 72.99%</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
<b>D+</b>	<b>67.00% - 69.99%</b>	<b>1.3</b>	
<b>D</b>	<b>63.00% - 66.99%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>Less than Satisfactory</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>60.00% - 62.99%</b>	<b>0.7</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>&lt; 60.00%</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>No Credit Given</b>
<b>WX, WP, WF</b>			<b>Withdrawal</b>

## Policy on Academic Honesty

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Geneva College has adopted a campus wide policy on academic honesty; the main portions of which are summarized here. Students should become aware of the fuller policy found in Appendix A of the student handbook.

When an instructor has reason to believe that dishonest behavior has occurred, the parties involved should be confronted as soon as possible by the instructor and notification made to the Department of Professional and Online Graduate Studies (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Sanctions may be levied on the student, which could range from an informal warning to expulsion, based on the seriousness of the student's offense (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Students may appeal any disciplinary action by following the procedure laid out in the College's Policy on Academic Honesty (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Students are encouraged to visit [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org) in order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism as well as a number of other academic standards. This website also provides directives as to how to avoid committing this act and how to properly cite academic sources.

## Turnitin Policy

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Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Students must agree to the End User License Agreement (EULA) for Turnitin. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on Turnitin.com. Assignments that are not submitted through Turnitin will not be graded and will not receive credit.

## Participation Policy

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In the online environment, **participation is marked by the completion of an academic event in each session (week) of the course.** Academic events include, but are not limited to, submission of a class assignment, participation in class discussion forum, or completion of a quiz/exam.

**If no academic event is completed within the first session (Week 1) of a course, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course.** Beyond the first session, if no academic event is completed for a class session, the student will be considered as having not participated in that week of class, which in some cases may result in zeros on the missed assignments and a half-letter grade deduction from the student's final course grade.

**If a student does not complete an academic event for two consecutive sessions, the student will either be administratively withdrawn from the course or will receive a final course grade of F,** depending on how much of the course has transpired at the time of the second week of nonparticipation. For more details, please review Geneva's Student Handbook ([Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#)).

## Course Evaluation

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Criteria	Points Breakdown	Points
Discussion Forums (8)	30 points each	240 points
Written Assignments (4)	60 points each	240 points
Quizzes (4)	30 points each	120 points
Applied Summary Paper	One Submission	170 points

Total		770 points
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## Assignment Descriptions

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### *Discussion Forums*

Class participation is monitored by postings and responses in the discussion forum. Typically, class participation is composed of two parts:

- a. Part 1 – Requires you to go to your discussion forum and post a response to a question or prompt that is written in your syllabus by 11:55 pm (EST) Wednesday of your scheduled session week. Your instructor will generally respond to your post within 24 hours. Depending on the nature of the assignment, the instructor may have a follow up question for you, ask you for clarification or further details, or direct your conversation to someone else for rebuttal.
- b. Part 2 – Respond back to your instructor’s post. In addition, post a response to at least two of your fellow classmates’ postings, using 1 or 2 paragraphs. Your response should further the discussion (e.g., ask a question, provide further information or examples, or introduce a different opinion). In particular, one response to a classmate **MUST** be in the form of a question that seeks to further the conversation. Your question must be posed by 11:55 pm (EST) Friday of the scheduled session week so that your classmate has adequate time to answer it.

Likewise, if a question is posed to you by Friday night, you are also required to answer it.

Part 2 of these online activities (response to instructor, response to classmates’ questions of you, and responses to your classmates) must be completed by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of each session.

**NOTE:** How to earn full credit in discussion forums:

1. Become familiar with the discussion forum rubric, which is available to you in all of your Moodle classroom discussion forums.
2. Be thoughtful in your responses and incorporate examples from your personal and professional experiences and references to the course material (e.g., readings, lecture, videos, audio clips, scripture, etc.) when appropriate. Remember to cite all sources and references according to proper APA style.
3. Respond to the discussion contributions of at least 2 peers and be sure to adequately address all posts your instructor may pose to you throughout the week. This level of participation is **REQUIRED** as the minimum in all discussion forums (see the rubric for more detail).

Your posting and responses will be graded by your instructor. For a detailed description of your responsibility in discussion forum postings, please see the “Interacting in the Online Environment”

section in the ADP Student Handbook.

## Written Assignments

Throughout this course, students will complete four written assignments that will require them to delve deeper into the course materials and apply the content to their lives and thinking. Specific instructions for completing these written assignments can be found in the course outline below.

- Session 1: Written Assignment 1 – What is Wisdom?
- Session 3: Written Assignment 2 – Fear of the Lord as the Beginning of Wisdom
- Session 5: Written Assignment 3 – Meaning in Life
- Session 7: Written Assignment 4 – Christ in the Old Testament Wisdom Literature

Each of these written assignments will be graded on content, style, and timeliness. They should adhere to all page length requirements and typical APA style and formatting (double spacing, proper APA citations, etc.).

All written assignments are due by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of the designated session week.

## Quizzes

During this course, there will be four quizzes. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and they will cover several sessions' readings as assigned in *The Wisdom of Proverbs*, *Job* and *Ecclesiastes* and *The Christ of Wisdom* texts, as well as other assigned readings and course materials.

- Session 2 – Students will take an online quiz worth 30 points
- Session 4 – Students will take an online quiz worth 30 points
- Session 6 – Students will take an online quiz worth 30 points
- Session 8 – Students will take an online quiz worth 30 points

Students will be allowed to consult their text and notes when taking online quizzes. However, quizzes will be timed, and students will need to have a working knowledge of the material before taking the quiz. There will simply not be enough time to “look up” every answer in your text.

If a student does not take the quiz by Saturday at 11:55 pm (EST) of the designated session week, they will not have an opportunity to make it up.

## Applied Summary Paper

The Applied Summary Paper provides students with an opportunity to focus on the learning objectives of this course and to interact with the materials that were read, discussed, and written about throughout BBL 135.

Part A: Revise Written Assignments 1-4 using instructor feedback and corrections. Be sure to include transition sentences/paragraphs where appropriate in order to connect each of the revised paper parts so that they flow together as one comprehensive document.

Part B: After revising Written Assignments 1-4, craft the final section of your paper (drawing from and referring to the Bible and the readings and lectures provided in this course as you see fit) by responding to the following in 3-5 pages:

1. Briefly explain the ideas of “foolish person,” “folly,” and “lack of wisdom” as used in the Bible. How is foolishness, as generally understood in today’s Western culture, different from foolishness from a Biblical perspective?
2. Define in your own words the theological concept of “common grace” and explain how the wisdom literature in the Bible articulates and acknowledges God’s common grace. Discuss two examples (one each from Proverbs and Ecclesiastes).
3. Compare how the wisdom literature in the Bible can be a helpful and relevant guide to someone who is not a believer in the Gospel of Jesus Christ with how the same literature serves as a helpful and relevant guide to someone who claims to be a follower of Christ.
4. If someone were to ask you how they could have (more) wisdom, how would you respond? Write out your answer as a step-by-step guide with at least four steps (but not more than seven steps). Each step should be supported by a reference to one or more verses from the wisdom literature of the Bible.
5. How has this course helped you to calibrate your spiritual journey?

Next, add an introductory paragraph to your Applied Summary Paper. This paragraph should precede Part A in the document and include an introduction to your paper as a whole.

Additionally, add a conclusion paragraph to your Applied Summary Paper. Your conclusion should summarize the overall purpose and findings of your paper.

In total, the Applied Summary Paper should be 11-17 pages in length (not including cover sheet and reference page) and adhere to typical APA style and formatting (double spacing, proper APA citations, etc.).

The Applied Summary Paper is due by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday Session 8.

## Professional Skills in Your Online Courses

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All courses in your Geneva College Online program will provide you with an opportunity to develop valuable skills that can positively influence your professional and career development. Each course at Geneva provides numerous opportunities to develop skills employers desire in their employees and job candidates in areas including, but not limited to, written communication, research, critical thinking, and decision-making. However, targeted skill sets are also developed through the learning in particular courses.

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to add these particular skills to your bank of professional assets:

### Synthesize/ Integrate



Adept at forming structures, patterns, and connections from information, ideas, and images

### Decision-Making Skills



Skilled in initiating, structuring, and carrying out steps to complete projects and tasks

### Consultation Skills



Skillful in seeking outside opinions and thoughts to synthesize into one's desired course of action

### Written Communication Skills



Ability to organize knowledge and beliefs into convincing arguments and to convey meaning through well-constructed text