

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

Wisdom Literature

MARCH 15 – MAY 9, 2023

8-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills one BT and the BTS experience
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

This course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$300.00

Registration deadline:

February 8, 2023

Course Description and Objectives

Biblical wisdom literature addresses difficult and probing questions of the meaning of life, freedom and responsibility, divine-human interaction, suffering and the problem of evil, the function of praise and lament, and the proper ethics that flow from a proper theology. These books are devoted to understanding the world and human life through observation and experience. Based on a tradition of such observations, wisdom literature seeks to make sense of life and to recommend the appropriate behavior for a successful life. Since this literature is experiential, different answers are given, and often in contrast to other theological views expressed throughout the Old Testament. In this class, we will discuss the perspectives presented by the wisdom traditions, especially as manifested in the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes. In addition, how the trajectories of wisdom traditions continued into the Dead Sea Scrolls, the New Testament, and the Apocryphal books of Sirach (Ben Sira/Ecclesiasticus) and the Wisdom of Solomon will be discussed.

Course Objectives:

- Gain understandings of the perspectives presented in the biblical Wisdom literature.
- Appreciate the value of these books for theology and contemporary issues in Christian life.
- Address concerns raised by these books, and to make sense of them theologically.
- Practice interpretation of selected passages or themes within these books.

Instructor: Steve Schweitzer

Steve Schweitzer is Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Theological Seminary. Steve completed his PhD at the University of Notre Dame (2005), taught Old Testament at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and then came to Bethany in 2009. He teaches a seminar on Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah and a course on Science Fiction and Theology. Steve and his wife, Jill, have 3 children. They attended Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in South Bend, Indiana for nine years before coming to Bethany. They attend Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren in the Southern Ohio district.

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**Course Withdrawal Refund
Policy**100% of course fee prior to
registration deadline50% from the registration
deadline to the first day
of classNo refunds will be given
once the class has begunExceptions require the
approval of the Director of
the Brethren Academy**To earn CEU credit**

Participant will

- Meet the attendance
requirement- Complete the assigned
reading- Engage in the course through
participation- Complete reduced
assignments as outlined in the
syllabus**Required Text**

The Bible, in any of the following standard translations: NRSV, NLT, NIV, NASB, KJV.

Clifford, Richard J. The Wisdom Literature. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998. ISBN: 0687008468.

All other course reading assignments will be available via the Moodle site as PDFs.

Expectations

Online learning requires students to be disciplined in their time management. Students are expected to spend 10 hours per week in course-related work

For online learning, students will need an email account, a laptop or desktop, basic computer skills, and access to the internet using an updated web browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Edge, Google Chrome, or Mozilla Firefox. Some courses may also require Zoom or Skype. If your computer is four years old or less, you should have the capabilities for this course. If you have questions about specifics, please contact the Brethren Academy.

During a Brethren Academy course or event, you may be included in photographs or sound /video recording. Such photos and recordings, including quotes from you, may be included and identified in news articles, informational brochures, or social media on behalf of the Brethren Academy and/or Bethany Theological Seminary. If you wish to be excluded from such publications, please contact the Brethren Academy in writing by the start date of the course or event.

Wisdom Literature – March 15 – May 9, 2023[Register online](#) or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:

Brethren Academy * 615 National Road West *Richmond, IN 47374

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best contact phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I will be taking this course for: ____ TRIM credit ____ EFSM credit ____ CEUs (2) ____ Personal Enrichment

Course Fee: \$300 payable to Brethren Academy Registration February 8, 2023