

1. **Prerequisites:** One year of Hebrew and One year of Greek.

2. **Course Description:** This course studies the Book of Wisdom in its entirety with a view to appreciate the theological worldview formulated for a Jewish community at a time of great cultural upheaval in the clashing Roman, Hellenistic and Judaic cultures. The literary structures of each major part of the Book of Wisdom provide a context for interpreting the ideas put forward often in dramatic fashion. The study of literary structures and rhetorical devices displayed in the text provides the dominant methodology for exploring the work.

3. **Outcomes:** Students who successfully complete the course will demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- 3.1 An understanding of the literary structures and the genre of the entire work.
- 3.2 A knowledge of the philosophical currents in Alexandria which intersect with the Jewish work.
- 3.3 An appreciation of the author's adaptation of other biblical passages in forging a coherent argument for faithfulness.
- 3.4 An ability to read and translate effectively several chapters of the Greek Text.

4. **Assignments:**

- 4.1 By weekly preparations of selected texts for reading in Greek
- 4.2 Major paper Outline with area of interest, method and selected bibliography
- 4.3 Depending on the number of students, each student presents a seminar of one hour on a specific topic to be determined from the course outline at the beginning of the course. .
- 4.3 Major paper of 15-20 pages.

5. **Grading:**

- 5.1 Greek Readings: 10%
- 5.2 Major paper Outline: 10%
- 5.3 Seminar(s): 30%
- 5.4 Major Paper: 50%

**Course Outline**

- 1 Introduction : genre, historical circumstances, literary structure, philosophical currents, biblical allusions.
- 2 The Literary Structure of the entire work in three parts.
- 3 Wis 1-2 Exhortation to Justice -- The Trial

- 4 Wis 3-4 The Dyptichs
- 5 Wis 5:1-6:21 The Judgment
- 6 Wis 6:22--8:21 Praise of Wisdom
- 7 Wis 9-10 Prayer for Wisdom
- 8 Wis 11-12 Midrash on the Exodus
- 9 Wis 13-15 Critique of Idolatry
- 10 Wis 16-19 The Judgment of God against lawlessness and for righteousness
- 11 Biblical sources used throughout the work
- 12 Philosophical currents of the work
- 13 The theological argument of the work.

**Assignments:**

We will meet every second week for an hour to read selected passages of the Greek text which you will have thoroughly prepared.

(Wisdom 1; 3; 8; 9; 13; 19).

Depending on the number of students, each student will present one or two seminars of one hour of the topic for the week.

An outline of your essay topic is due on March 8th

The essay is due on April 17th, 2009 the last day of exam week.

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