Seán Charles Martin, M.A., S.T.L., S.T.D.

3 credits

Course description:

A study of the wisdom books of ancient Israel: Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes), Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), and the Wisdom of Solomon. Participants in the course will examine the literary forms in which the wisdom of Israel took shape, as well as the historical and cultural circumstances that account for the composition and preservation of this collection. Those enrolled in the class will also investigate prominent themes in the wisdom literature like the problem of evil, the purpose of human suffering, the good life, and the role of the Law.

Outcomes of the course:

By the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

- To identify the central themes of Wisdom Literature through close readings of selected passages from the Books of Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes), Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), and the Wisdom of Solomon;
- To situate Wisdom Literature in the canon of Scripture and in the literary/religious traditions of ancient Israel's neighbours;
- To become familiar with the exegetical tools proper to contemporary Scripture study in the Roman Catholic tradition

Required Texts:

- Any contemporary translation of the Bible, e.g., NRSV, NABRE, NJB, etc.
- David Penchansky, *Understanding Wisdom Literature: Conflict and Dissonance in the Hebrew Text* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

Calendar:

Class meets weekly, on Tuesdays from 3:45 PM to 6:15 PM.

Evaluation:

Class presentation: 25%Exegetical Paper: 75%