This is a study of the concept of “wisdom,” represented by the Hebrew root H-K-M, which is expressed as a noun as hokmah (and also hokmot), as a verb as hakam, and as an adjective as hakam. This word is especially common in the Book of Proverbs.

Using an English concordance that is keyed to Hebrew words, find the common Hebrew noun for “wisdom” (commonly transliterated as hokmah). Note that conventions of transliterating Hebrew words will differ (i.e., you will also find this word transliterated chokhma). If you have any questions about this, consult with the professor.

1. How many times does hokmah occur in Prov. 1-9? In the Book of Proverbs? (2 pts.)

2. How many times does the root H-K-M occur in Proverbs in all its forms? Sort your answer by parts of speech hokmah (n.), hokmot (n.), hakam (vb.), hakam (adj.), and then give an overall total. (2 pts.)

3. List all the different ways in which this root (H-K-M, in all its forms) is translated in English in a given version of the Bible. For this, you will need to consult an exhaustive concordance of a certain version (KJV, NIV, RSV, etc.). Find the word “wisdom” in English, which should point you to the different forms of H-K-M behind it. Then, such a concordance should indicate what other English word(s) it has used to translate H-K-M. Indicate which version you are using, and make a listing of all the English words you discover that translate H-K-M in that version. (4 pts.)

4. What are some different Hebrew terms that relate H-K-M? (4 pts.)
   A. Start by listing all the related English words in Prov. 1:2-7 (“understanding,” “discernment,” etc.), along with the Hebrew terms behind them.
   B. Choose three of these Hebrew terms and, using your exhaustive English concordance, see how they are translated elsewhere in your English version. That is, you may find that a given Hebrew term in Prov. 1:2-7 is translated differently elsewhere, due to differing contexts. (You can also access this by checking the index in the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis (ed. W. VanGemeren), vol. 5, pp. 9–216.)

5. Now—and only now—read one or two reference sources on “wisdom” (Bible dictionary or encyclopedia, or theological word book), and summarize any additional information found there that you did not glean in your own study. This section should not be more than ½ page in length. Indicate which source(s) you used. (4 pts.)

6. Conclude with 1/4 to 1/3 page connecting your insights into the word’s meaning back into Proverbs 1:2-7. In other words, this word-study exercise is not simply a labor for its own sake, but rather in the service of understanding Prov. 1:2-7 better. Make this connection in your concluding remarks. (4 pts.)