



Course Syllabus

OTS310 L00.A

OT Intensive: Ecclesiastes

Spring 2019

Class Information

Day and Time: Tuesday 1:30-4:00 pm

Room Number: E207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Kevin R. Warstler, Ph.D.

Instructor Email: kwarstler@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214.818.1331

Instructor Office Hours: Monday 1-4pm; Tuesday 10-11am, 4-6pm; Thursday 10-11am

Course Description and Prerequisites

An intensive study of selected books in the English Bible. This course may be repeated for credit when the book differs. The course will emphasize the background, structure, and content of the book of Ecclesiastes with special emphasis on its relationship to biblical theology, ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature, and philosophy. (Prerequisite: OTS101; Prerequisite may be taken concurrently: OTS201)

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, the student should demonstrate the following:

1. Know the background, structure, and argument of the book of Ecclesiastes;
2. Evaluate various interpretations of the book of Ecclesiastes with the purpose of developing your own thinking and interpretation of the book;
3. Discuss the content of the book in relation to philosophical thought, particularly as it relates to a world-and-life view; and
4. Develop principles of application from the book of Ecclesiastes that can be applied to a contemporary audience.

Required Textbooks

1. Bartholomew, Craig G. *Ecclesiastes*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014. (978-0801097447)
2. Eaton, Michael A. *Ecclesiastes*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009. (978-0830842186)
3. Kreeft, Peter *Three Philosophies of Life*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989. (978-0898702620)

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Bible Reading (10%): You are responsible to read the book of Ecclesiastes twice. It is suggested that you read it through the first time in conjunction with your commentary reading. The second reading should be done at the end of the course after you have thought through the text in more detail. You will report the percentage of completion of the Bible reading at the end of the semester.

2. Commentary and Supplemental Reading (20%): You are responsible to read the commentaries (Bartholomew and Eaton) by the end of the semester. It is best to do your first Bible reading in conjunction with your commentary reading. Supplemental readings will be required periodically and the material will be provided on Canvas at least one week before the reading is due. These readings are not included on the course outline/calendar even though they will be part of your required reading. You will report the reading in your study journal and it will be graded in conjunction with the grading of the journal.
3. Kreeft Reflection Paper (30%): You are to read Peter Kreeft, *Three Philosophies of Life* and write a 3-4 page, single-spaced paper reflecting on Kreeft's ideas regarding the three books: Job, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. Pay particular attention to his view of Ecclesiastes and how it relates to the other two books. For this paper, you are not summarizing his views but you are including your own thoughts and evaluation of his ideas based on your own knowledge of these books and your study of Ecclesiastes in this course.
4. Study Journal (40%): You will keep a study journal for the book of Ecclesiastes containing observations, questions, and interactions derived from the reading of the biblical text and commentaries. The journal may be in electronic format or hardcopy. If you choose to use a hardcopy, it is suggested that the pages are detachable so you will be able to turn in the entries for grading without affecting the next entry. Each journal entry needs to be identified as the date due for the required work. The study journal must include the following sections for each journal entry:
 - (1) identification of the required Bible reading
 - (2) a summary of the biblical text
 - (3) observations and questions related to the interpretation of the biblical text
 - (4) identification and percentage completed of the required commentary and supplemental readings
 - (5) observations related to the commentary and supplemental readings
 - (6) a brief discussion of answers to the questions raised in the Bible reading with special attention to the contributions of the commentary and supplemental readings
 - (7) at least two specific and contemporary applications from the biblical text

When there is no requirement for Bible reading for a particular week or there is supplemental reading that is not directly related to the passage covered that week, the entry for those readings will include numbers 4 and 5 only. On the week that the reflection paper is due, there is no need to have a journal entry. The reflection paper will be the only written requirement for that week. The journal will be turned in periodically throughout the semester (see course outline/calendar) and a grade will be issued each time. A preliminary turnin will occur on the fourth class period (February 12) but it will not be included as one of the grades. Its purpose is to evaluate and provide feedback on the journal entries to that point.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from

college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course, or if a student has a learning disability, please inform the professor so assistance can be provided.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Blackboard and CAMS: Criswell College uses Blackboard as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data.

Students needing assistance with either of these resources should contact the Campus Software Manager at cbutler@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students Jeff Campbell, at jcampbell@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, students can email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu or call 214.818.1348.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	In-Class Topic	Commentary Reading Due	Assignment Due
1	January 22	Introduction to the Course, Syllabus		
2	January 29	Introduction to Hebrew Wisdom Literature	Bartholomew, 17–59 (Intro., before the section called “Text”) Eaton, 17–46 (Intro., Sections 1-5)	
3	February 5	Introduction to Ecclesiastes	Bartholomew, 59–99 Eaton, 46–62 (Intro., before “Commentary”)	
4	February 12	Ecclesiastes 1	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 1 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 1	Preliminary Journal Turnin (not graded)

5	February 19	Ecclesiastes 2	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 2 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 2	
6	February 26	Ecclesiastes 3	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 3 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 3	Journal through Ecclesiastes 3
7	March 5	Ecclesiastes 4	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 4 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 4	
	March 11-15	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
8	March 19	Ecclesiastes 5	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 5 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 5	
9	March 26	Ecclesiastes 6	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 6 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 6	Journal Ecclesiastes 4–6
10	April 2	Kreeft, <i>Three Philosophies of Life</i>		Kreeft Reflection Paper
11	April 9	Ecclesiastes 7	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 7 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 7	
12	April 16	Ecclesiastes 8	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 8 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 8	
13	April 23	Ecclesiastes 9	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 9 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 9	Journal Ecclesiastes 7–9
14	April 30	Ecclesiastes 10	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 10 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 10	
15	May 7	Ecclesiastes 11–12	Bartholomew, Ecclesiastes 11–12 Eaton, Ecclesiastes 11–12	Journal Ecclesiastes 10– 12
16	May 13-17	NO CLASS OR FINAL EXAM		

Selected Bibliography

- Bartholomew, Craig G. *Ecclesiastes*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms, edited by Tremper Longman III. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
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- Farmer, Kathleen A. *Who Knows What Is Good? A Commentary on the Books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Fox, Michael V. *A Time to Tear Down and a Time to Build Up: A Rereading of Ecclesiastes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
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- Fredericks, Daniel C., and Daniel J. Estes. *Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary, edited by David W. Baker and Gordon J. Wenham. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 2010.
- Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. New American Commentary, Vol. 14, edited by E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.
- Gordis, Robert. *Koheleth, The Man and His World: A Study of Ecclesiastes*. New York: Schocken Books, 1951.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *Ecclesiastes: Foundations for Expository Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
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- Kidner, Derek. *The Message of Ecclesiastes: A Time to Mourn and a Time to Dance*. The Bible Speaks Today, edited by J. A. Motyer. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1971.
- Kreeft, Peter *Three Philosophies of Life: Ecclesiastes, Life as Vanity, Job, Life as Suffering, Song of Songs, Life as Love*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.

- Krüger, Thomas. *Qoheleth*. Translated by O. C. Dean, Jr. Hermeneia : A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible, edited by Peter Machinist et al. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- Lohfink, Norbert. *Qoheleth*. Translated by Sean McEvenue. Continental Commentaries. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
- Longman, Tremper III. *The Book of Ecclesiastes*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, edited by R. K. Harrison and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
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- Ryken, Philip Graham. *Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters*. Preaching the Word Series. R. Kent Hughes, ed. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
- Seow, Choon-Leong. *Ecclesiastes: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Volume 18C. The Anchor Bible, edited by William Foxwell Albright and David Noel Freedman. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Whybray, R. N. *Ecclesiastes*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.