



Class Information

Day and Time: Mondays 10:45 a.m – 1:15 p.m.

Room Number: E209

Contact Information

Instructor Name: David Brooks

Instructor Email: dbrooks@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1324

Instructor Office Hours: M 2 – 4; Tu 10 – 11; Th 4:30 – 5:30; and by appointment

Course Description and Prerequisites

An advanced study of the books of Job through Malachi, emphasizing their historical context, literary features, purpose, unity, interpretative problems, and the contribution of these books to biblical theology and godly living.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course you should be able to do the following:

- A. Describe the historical background, purpose, theme, genres, and overall structure of each book;
- B. Identify the major historical, critical, and hermeneutical issues in the books;
- C. Articulate the features of ancient Near Eastern thought and its relation to the OT;
- D. Analyze a psalm acknowledging its specific genre
- E. Present a comprehensive explanation of prophecy in the OT;
- F. Evaluate and articulate the arguments for and against multiple authorship of the book of Isaiah; and
- G. Show the contemporary relevance of the messages of these books.

Required Textbooks

- A. The Holy Bible.
- B. Merrill, Eugene H., Mark F. Rooker, and Michael A. Grisanti. *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2011. (ISBN: 9780805440317)
- C. Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006. (ISBN: 978-0-8010-2750-5)

Course Requirements and Assignments

- A. **4 exams.** The exams are on Canvas and are based on the class sessions and textbook readings in Merrill, Rooker, and Grisanti. The format is multiple choice. See the Class Calendar below for due dates.
- We study the prophets in chronological sequence, not canonical. Note the following sequence:
Exam 1: Poetry, wisdom, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
Exam 2: Prophecy, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah
Exam 3: Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Obadiah
Exam 4: Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Joel, Zechariah, Malachi
- B. **Literary Analyses: Psalms.** Write literary analyses of two psalms, using the principles of Hebrew poetry and psalms genres outlined in class. This must be your work and not the result of commentaries. You may consult commentaries and word-study books for an explanation of biblical words.
- C. **Isaiah paper.** In four to six (4 – 6) pages give the main reasons for dividing Isaiah among multiple authors), the major views of the authorship if there were more than one author, and the major defenses of the traditional view that there was just one human author. Discuss how multiple authorship affects your view of inspiration of the Scripture. Use scholarly sources, footnotes, and Turabian format. Consult and follow the *Criswell Manual of Style*. Highlighted volumes in the bibliography at the end of this syllabus are sources that are relevant. They are a mixture of conservative (traditional) and liberal (“critical”). Conservatives are often critical, but those who do not accept the Bible’s presentation of itself even after questioning and investigating the information have largely co-opted the term.
- D. **Prophecy paper.** In four to five (4 – 5) pages discuss the nature of prophecy (e.g. ecstatic or rational, foretelling, forth telling), its major features, proposed forms (e.g. form criticism), and its relevance for our contemporary age. Use scholarly sources, footnotes, and Turabian format. Consult and follow the *Criswell Manual of Style*.
- E. **Textbook reading.** Read pages 361-562 of Merrill, Rooker, and Grisanti, *The World and the Word*.
- F. **Paper choice.** Choose one of the following four topics and write your research and conclusions in a five- to six-page paper:
1. Purpose of Elihu’s speeches in Job 32-37
 2. Comparison of the Instruction of Amenemope to Prov 22:17—24:22
 3. Compare and contrast Ecclesiastes with “A Pessimistic Dialogue between Master and Servant”
 4. Compare the literal and figurative interpretations of Ezekiel’s temple in Ezekiel 40-48
5. **Book chapter summary.** Write a summary of Walton’s book, with one full page to summarize each chapter—but you do not need to write more than one page per chapter. Focus on the main point of the chapter and then his major supports for and implications (if he gives implications) of that main point. For each chapter, give a sentence showing how this chapter relates to the previous one. Keep your work concise and direct. Since any references are to the same book, footnotes are not

appropriate. If you quote directly from the book, note the page number in parentheses, for example: (p. 37) or if plural (pp. 37-38).

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

You are expected to be in class for each session. If you must miss for illness, family illness, work emergency or some other justifiable reason, contact the professor ahead of time. You will be responsible for acquiring the notes for the session from a classmate. See below for general attendance information.

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

Assigning grade definitions (i.e., above average, average, below average) is optional. Please delete the last column below if not assigning definitions. Additionally, delete these instructions when completing syllabus.

			Grade Definitions (optional)
A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour	
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour	
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour	
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour	
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour	
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour	
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour	
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour	
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour	
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour	
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour	
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour	

Weighted Grading: *The following are the proportions of your grade for each type of assignment*

- Tests 50%
- Literary analysis 5%
- Isaiah paper 10%
- Prophecy paper 10%
- Textbook reading 5%
- Book summary 10%

- Paper choice 10%
- Total* 100%

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

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate

discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

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

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@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, at deanofstudents@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, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

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	Content	Reading Assignments	Written Assignments
1	Jan 20	MLK Day		
2	Jan 27	Syllabus, timeline, poetry, wisdom, Job		
3	Feb 3	Job	MRG, chap 39; part 7 intro	
4	Feb 10	Psalms	MRG, chap 40	
5	Feb 17	Proverbs	MRG, chap 41	Psalms analyses
6	Feb 24	Ecclesiastes	MRG, chap 42	

Week	Date	Content	Reading Assignments	Written Assignments
7	Mar 2	Song of Songs, prophecy, Jonah	MRG, chap 43, part 6 intro, to chap 31	Exam 1: Poetry through Song of Songs
Week of March 16 – 20: Spring Break—no classes meet				
8	Mar 9	Amos, Hosea	MRG, chaps 27, 29	
9	Mar 23	Isaiah	MRG, chap 23	Isaiah paper
10	Mar 30	Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah	MRG, chaps 32, 33, 35	
11	Apr 6	Habakkuk, Jeremiah (I)	MRG, chaps 24, 34	Exam 2: Prophecy through Micah
12	Apr 13	Jeremiah (II), Lamentations, Obadiah	MRG, chaps 30, 44	Prophecy paper
13	Apr 20	Ezekiel, Daniel (I)	MRG, chaps 25, 26	Exam 3: Nahum through Obadiah
14	Apr 27	Daniel (II), Haggai, Joel	MRG, chap 28, 36	Paper choice
15	May 4	Zechariah, Malachi	MRG, chaps 37, 38	Book summary
16	May 11			Exam 3: Ezekiel through Malachi, textbook reading

Selected Bibliography

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