

**CRISWELL  
COLLEGE**



**On-Campus Course Syllabus  
OTS 510 L01.A  
Old Testament Intensive: Isaiah  
Spring 2021**

**Class Information**

**Day and Time:** Monday 8:00 am – 10:45 am

**Room Number:** E205

**Contact Information**

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Joel Reemtsma

**Instructor Email:** jreemtsma@criswell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 907.690.1423

**Instructor Office Hours:** NA (meet by appointment)

**Course Description and Prerequisites**

An intensive study of selected books in the English Bible. (Course may be repeated for credit when the Bible book differs; Prerequisite: OTS 101; Prerequisite may be taken concurrently: OTS 201).

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Identify the main features of the content, structure, design, and style of Isaiah;
2. Explain the main historical-critical debates surrounding the composition of Isaiah;
3. Identify the main exegetical challenges within Isaiah and offer reasonable solutions;
4. Integrate geographic and cultural insights of the ancient Levant into interpretation of Isaiah;
5. Articulate general prophetic principles of the Old Testament and their application in Isaiah;
6. Explain the message and purpose of Isaiah as well those of its major pericopes;
7. Relate the message and themes of Isaiah to those of the New Testament
8. Apply theological truth from Isaiah to the modern Christian life.

**Required Textbooks**

The Holy Bible. Use your preferred version as long as it is a translation, not a paraphrase.

Oswalt, John N. *Isaiah*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

(ISBN: 978-0310206132) *\*\*ebook / Kindle is approved for use*

Sandy, D. Brent. *Plowshares & Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic*.

Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 2002. (ISBN: 978-0830826537)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

### A. Reading (20%)

Students are required to read the biblical book of Isaiah according to the course schedule below. The reading is due on the day the selected passages will be discussed. Students are also required to read the course textbooks in selected passages according to the course schedule. **In addition, students must read one academic book-length treatment of a topic in Isaiah of their choosing.** Some further articles, book sections, and other passages of Scripture may be required (to be provided by the professor). All reading will be reported via online reading quizzes in CANVAS, unless otherwise noted. No late work will be accepted in the reading category. However, partial credit will be given.

### B. Exegetical Assignments (30%)

Students will be required to complete **eight** of ten exegetical assignments that will be given. They may choose to complete all ten, but only the first **eight** submitted will be graded. These assignments will be keyed to the passages selected for discussion according to the course schedule below. Exegetical assignments are due on the day that these portions of Scripture are discussed in class, to be submitted electronically via CANVAS. Exegetical assignments will not be accepted late, except by special approval.

### C. Exams (30%)

There will be two exams: a mid-term and a final exam. They will cover both course lectures and the reading. potential exam questions will be distributed beforehand in a study guide provided by the professor. The dates of the exams are as follows:

Mid-Term Exam	<b>March 22</b>	Final Exam	<b>May 10</b>
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### D. Research Paper Paper (20%)

Students will write a 10–15 page research paper on a controversial topic in Isaiah. This paper may address a theological, exegetical, text-critical, or historical-critical issue, and the topic must be approved by the professor. Students must cite a minimum of three academic commentaries, three academic journal articles, and three specialized book-length studies. (A chapter in a collection will suffice for these last.) Students will explain the current state of debate, survey the options, and support their preferred position with evidence and argument. They will also articulate the exegetical and theological consequences of their position. Finally, students will offer a brief, informal presentation of their research to the rest of the class.

## 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	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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:writingcenter@criswell.edu) or calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Topic/Event	Reading Assignments
Jan 25	Intro to the Course; Contexts of Isaiah	Syllabus
Feb 1	Contexts II; Intro to Isaiah	Sandy Chs. 1–3; Oswalt pp. 7–66
Feb 8	Isaiah 1–6	Sandy Ch. 4; Oswalt pp. 71–133
Feb 15	Isaiah 7–12	Oswalt pp. 134–195
Feb 22	Isaiah 13–23	Oswalt pp. 196–277
Mar 1	Isaiah 24–27	Sandy Ch. 5; Oswalt pp. 278–313
Mar 8	Isaiah 28–35	Oswalt pp. 314–395
Mar 15	<i>Spring Break — No Class</i>	
Mar 22	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
Mar 29	Isaiah 36–39	Sandy Ch. 6; Oswalt pp. 396–439
Apr 5	Isaiah 40–48	Oswalt pp. 440–543
Apr 12	Isaiah 49–55	Sandy Ch. 7; Oswalt pp. 544–604
Apr 19	Isaiah 56–66	Oswalt pp. 605–703
Apr 26	Summary of Isaiah / Flex Lecture	<b>(Research Paper Due)</b>
May 3	Isaiah in the New Testament	Selected NT passages TBA
May 10	<b>Final Exam</b>	

*\*Please note that this course schedule is a plan, not a prophecy. That is, it is contingent upon our progress!*



## On-Campus Course Syllabus

### ADDENDUM FOR SP-21

OTS 510 L01.A

Isaiah

In the event that Criswell College has to close the campus to on-campus classes in during the SP-21 semester, this addendum specifies how your instructor intends to adjust the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

The course requirements, assignments, calendar, and attendance requirements from the syllabus for this course are replicated below.

### Course Requirements and Assignments

#### E. Reading (20%)

Students are required to read the biblical book of Isaiah according to the course schedule below. The reading is due on the day the selected passages will be discussed. Students are also required to read the course textbooks in selected passages according to the course schedule. **In addition, students must read one academic book-length treatment of a topic in Isaiah of their choosing.** Some further articles, book sections, and other passages of Scripture may be required (to be provided by the professor). All reading will be reported via online reading quizzes in CANVAS, unless otherwise noted. No late work will be accepted in the reading category. However, partial credit will be given.

#### F. Exegetical Assignments (30%)

Students will be required to complete **eight** of ten exegetical assignments that will be given. They may choose to complete all ten, but only the first **eight** submitted will be graded. These assignments will be keyed to the passages selected for discussion according to the course schedule below. Exegetical assignments are due on the day that these portions of Scripture are discussed in class, to be submitted electronically via CANVAS. Exegetical assignments will not be accepted late, except by special approval.

#### G. Exams (30%)

There will be two exams: a mid-term and a final exam. They will cover both course lectures and the reading. potential exam questions will be distributed beforehand in a study guide provided by the professor. The dates of the exams are as follows:

Mid-Term Exam    **March 22**

Final Exam    **May 10**

If the course has gone to remote learning for either of the exams, then exams will be distributed online via CANVAS one week prior to the due date. The exams will be open-book and time-limited. Students must submit their exams by 9:30 am on the due date, and then login to discuss them virtually.

#### H. Research Paper Paper (20%)

Students will write a 10–15 page research paper on a controversial topic in Isaiah. This paper may address a theological, exegetical, text-critical, or historical-critical issue, and the topic must be approved by the professor. Students must cite a minimum of three academic commentaries, three academic journal articles, and three specialized book-length studies. (A chapter in a collection will suffice for these last.) Students will explain the current state of debate, survey the options, and support their preferred position with evidence and argument. They will also articulate the exegetical and theological consequences of their position. Finally, students will offer a brief, informal presentation of their research to the rest of the class.

### **Remote Class Sessions: Identity and Participation Verification**

In the event of a decision to move to remote learning, students will be expected to participate in synchronous class sessions online to take place at the same time as originally listed in the syllabus: Monday from 8:00am—10:30am. Students must log in at the appropriate time with both video and audio turned on for the duration of class (except for breaks approved by the instructor). Students will be expected to respond immediately to questions or prompts given by the instructor throughout the class. Students may use fixed or mobile devices so long as they can maintain both audio and video with sufficient bandwidth. Failure to log in to class will constitute an absence unless approved by the instructor. Absences may bring about a grade penalty at the instructor's discretion.