



**On-Campus Course Syllabus**  
**OTS 310 L1**  
**Proverbs**  
**Fall 2021**

**Class Information**

**Day and Time:** Thursday 7:30p–10:30p  
**Room Number:** E211

**Contact Information**

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Joel Reemtsma  
**Instructor Email:** jreemtsma@criswell.edu  
**Instructor Phone:** 907.690.1423  
**Instructor Office Hours:** N/A (appointment only)

**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 this course students should be able to:*

1. Identify the main features of the content, structure, and style of Proverbs;
2. Compare and contrast the message of Proverbs to the wisdom of other ANE cultures;
3. Articulate the role of proverbial wisdom in the life of ancient Israel;
4. Explain the value of proverbial wisdom in shaping godly men and women;
5. Exposit proverbial wisdom for the benefit of lay audiences;
6. Connect the theological themes of Proverbs with those of the New Testament.

**Required Textbooks**

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

O'Dowd, Ryan P. *Proverbs*. The Story of God Bible Commentary, edited by Tremper Longman III and Scott McKnight, vol. 15. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017.  
*ISBN 9778-0-310-49113-2*

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

### A. Reading (15%)

Students will read selected portions of the course textbook as well as the selected text of Scripture **in the calendar week prior** to the class in which the topic is discussed. In other words, students must proceed at roughly the same pace through the book of Proverbs, which will facilitate quality discussion for the texts and topics at hand. Students will report their reading progress on reading quizzes in CANVAS.

### B. Participation (5%)

Students must participate in class discussion in order to receive the highest marks. They will be graded on the degree and quality of their participation according to the best judgment of the professor. Naturally, failure to keep up with the reading will result in poorer participation. A participation score will be assessed at the end of the semester.

### C. Exegetical Assignments (30%)

For the 11 selected portions of Scripture corresponding to sessions 3–14 (see course schedule below), students will have the opportunity to choose six exegetical assignments to complete. Each assignment is worth 5% of the total grade. These assignments will be distributed electronically via CANVAS at least one week prior to their due date.

### D. Memorization (20%)

Students will memorize 20 separate sayings from 20 different chapters of the book of Proverbs. They will submit a two-page report detailing the accuracy of their recall, why they chose their proverbs, and what it means to them personally. (Instructions and Template to be provided.)

### E. Synthesis Paper (30%)

Students will write a 10–15 page paper (double spaced) addressed to a lay church audience which surveys the following topics: (a) the nature of wisdom, (b) the role of wisdom in Israelite society, (c) the content, style, and message of Proverbs, (d) the influence of proverbial wisdom on the rest of Scripture, and (e) the application of proverbial wisdom to modern Christian life. Instructions for this paper and a rubric will be distributed in class. (Instructions and Example to be provided.)

## **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. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## **Campus Closure**

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

## Grading Scale

			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	

## 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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment**

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college’s academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student’s course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student’s work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

## **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 instructor, 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 Supports**

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 contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu). Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoringcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@criswell.edu) or by calling 214.818.1373.

## **Course Outline/Calendar**

#	Date	Topic	Assn Due	Textbook Readings
1	8/19	Introduction to the Class The Way of Wisdom		
2	8/26	Historical Criticism of Proverbs Wisdom in Israel and the ANE World		O'Dowd 17–49
3	9/2	The Value of Wisdom (Prov 1–4)	Ex 1	O'Dowd 51–115
4	9/9	The Seduction of Folly (Prov 5–7)	Ex 2	O'Dowd 116–147
5	9/16	Lady Wisdom (Prov 8–9)		O'Dowd 148–174
6	9/23	Proverbs of Solomon I (Prov 10–13)	Ex 3	O'Dowd 175–223
7	9/30	Proverbs of Solomon II (Prov 14–17)	Ex 4	O'Dowd 224–264
8	10/7	Proverbs of Solomon III (Prov 18–22:16)	Memorization Ex 5	O'Dowd 265–310
9	10/14	Anonymous Wisdom (Prov 22:17–24:34)	Ex 6	O'Dowd 310–338
10	10/21	Proverbs of Solomon IV (Prov 25–29)	Ex 7	O'Dowd 339–393
11	10/28	Proverbs of Agur (Prov 30)	Ex 8	O'Dowd 394–416
12	11/4	The Wise Woman (Prov 31:10–31)	Ex 9	O'Dowd 417–431
13	11/11	Proverbs in the Old Testament (TBA)		
14	11/18	Proverbs in the New Testament (TBA)	Ex 10	
	11/25	<i>Thanksgiving—No Class</i>		
15		Flex Lecture		
	12/9	<i>Exam Week — No Class</i>	Synthesis Paper	