

Exegesis in the Hebrew Bible -
ECCLESIASTES

HEBI 95013

Three Semester Hours

Instructor:

Sandoval

Prerequisites:

Admission to Brite Divinity School's Advanced Programs (ThM; PhD) and/or permission of the Instructor.

Description of Content:

An advanced study of the book of Ecclesiastes in Hebrew. Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the historical, literary, theological, and ethical dimensions of Ecclesiastes and the current state of scholarly discussions on the book.

Class Procedures:

Reading, translation, exegetical analysis and discussion of the Hebrew Book of Qohelet; discussion and critical analysis of significant secondary literature; short class presentations.

Requirements:

1. Regular attendance, full participation in class
2. Regular preparation and reading/translation of the Hebrew text of Qohelet into English
3. Short writing assignments on secondary literature (about 3 pages each)
5. One critical, formal book review or "Report on Recent Qohelet Scholarship" and oral presentation of the review/report (about five pages)
6. Final Critical Essay (10-12 pages) that either engages two assigned readings and asks students to present a brief synthesis of their broad interpretive positions vis-à-vis Qohelet; or an exegetical paper on Qoh. 7:23-29.

Required Texts:

The Hebrew Bible [*and* any translation].

Bagnall R. and P. Derow, eds. *The Hellenistic Period* (Historical Sources in Translation) (Blackwell, 2004) **E-Book available via TCU Library**. [We will read many of the translations of texts in this volume].

Desmond, W. *Cynics*, (Univ. Calif Press, 2008), **E-book available via TCU Library** [We will read all but the final chapter of this book].

Erskine, A. *A Companion to the Hellenistic World* (Blackwell, 2005) **E-Book Available via TCU Library** [We will read only a few select essays from this volume].

Fox, Michael V. *A Time to Tear Down & A Time to Build Up* (Eerdmans, 1999/ Wipf & Stock ISBN-10: 1608994961; ISBN-13: 978-1608994960; \$50 [We will read only a portion of this book, chapters 2-7 and Excurses I-III; **pages will be supplied by the instructor**; as the commentary section of this book can be helpful with translating the Hebrew of Qohelet, class members may wish to purchase the text].

Koosed, J. *(Per)mutations of Qohelet: Reading the Body in the Book* (T&T Clark, 2006); [we will read only chapter 5 of this book; **pages will be supplied by the instructor**].
Meyer, S. *Ancient Ethics: A Critical Introduction* (Routledge, 2008); [we will read only chapters 4-5 of this book; **pages will be supplied by the instructor**].

Nickelsburg, G. and J. Vanderkam, *1 Enoch: The Hermeneia Translation* (Fortress, 2012) **E-book available via TCU Library** [We will read only “the Book of the Watchers”; “the Book of the Luminaries”; and the “Parables”].

Schams, C. *Jewish Scribes in the Hellenistic Period* (JSOT Press, 1998) **E-book available via TCU Library** [We will read only chapter 4 of this book].

Tamez, Elsa. *When the Horizon’s Close: Rereading Ecclesiastes*. Wipf & Stock, 2006 [1998]; ISBN-10: 1597528552; ISBN-13: 978-1597528559 \$23 [Students *might* choose to read only the introduction and conclusion for a final paper; **pages will be supplied by the instructor**].

Wills, L. *Ancient Jewish Novels: An Anthology* (Oxford, 2002); **E-book available via TCU Library** [We will read only “The Tobiad Romance”].

Lisa M. Wolfe, *Wisdom Commentary: Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes)* (Liturgical Press, 2020). **E-book available via TCU Library** [We will read essentially all of this text.]
Other texts may be assigned and made available through TCU Online:

Recommended:

Krüger, T. *Qoheleth: A Commentary on the Book of Qoheleth* ISBN: 9780800660369 \$55 **E-book available via TCU Library** [This commentary may be helpful for translations of the Hebrew of Qohelet].

Other texts as noted in and made available through TCU Online:

Grading Procedures:

Hebrew translation	10%
Class Participation and leadership	10%
All short writing assignments	35%
Critical Book Review/Scholarship Report	20%
Final Critical Essay	25%