

Course Description

Course Number: BI 239 W

Course Title: Crisis and Hope in Ecclesiastes

Name of Instructor: Lydia Hernández-Marcial

Semester and Year: Spring 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This one-credit course will explore the topics of crisis and hope in the book of Ecclesiastes in light of its historical context and the application of selected pericopes for preaching, teaching, and counseling. The pericopes will be considered from multicultural contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To explain the postexilic context of Ecclesiastes
- To explore Ecclesiastes to identify the topics of crisis and hope in this wisdom writing.
- To analyze Ecclesiastes employing multicultural lenses and compare/contrast with the student's context.
- To apply selected passages of Ecclesiastes for preaching, teaching, and counseling in times of crisis.

PROCEDURE:

- Lectures
- Small Groups
- Case Studies
- Other activities

EVALUATION:

- Participation in class discussion (small groups and plenary)
- Critical Reflective Journal (Diary)
- Weekly submission of 2–3 questions for class on the biblical passage and the readings

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Required

Tamez, Elsa. *When the Horizons Close: Rereading Ecclesiastes*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2000.

Recommended

Brown, William P. *Ecclesiastes*. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2000.

Christianson, Eric S. *Ecclesiastes through the Centuries*. Blackwell Bible Commentaries. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

Davis, Ellen F. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

Fox, Michael V. *A Time to Tear Down and a Time to Build Up: A Rereading of Ecclesiastes*. Reprint Ed. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2010.

Plantinga Pauw, Amy. *Proverbs and Ecclesiastes: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015.

Wolfe, Lisa M. *Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes)*. Wisdom Commentary 24. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2020.