
Dr. Christopher Cone

I. Course Description:

The course will examine Biblical worldview as revealed in the Book of Ecclesiastes: its grounding in epistemological and metaphysical first principles, and its practical application in ethics and social political ramifications. The course will also offer a comparison and contrast of philosophical systems that are grounded in sources other than the Biblical text. The course will follow a topical outline, handling epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and social political systems.

II. Course Objectives

1. To understand the basic structure and key points of the Book of Ecclesiastes.
2. To understand the order and relationship between epistemology, metaphysics, ethics and social political systems
3. To understand the Biblical worldview as presented in the Book of Ecclesiastes.
4. To answer key questions such as:
 1. What is good?
 2. Is there absolute meaning in life?
 3. How can we know anything with certainty?
 4. How should we then live?
 5. To recognize the expectations God has for us in our daily walk

III. Course Textbooks

Required Texts:

Christopher Cone, *Life Beyond the Sun*, Tyndale Seminary Press, 2009, ISBN: 978-0-9814791-4-9

Recommended Texts for Additional Study:

Cornelius Van Til, *Christian Apologetics*, P&R Publishing, 2003, ISBN: 978-0-87552-511-2

David A Noebel, *Understanding the Times*, Summit, 2006, ISBN:0-936163-00-3

IV. Evaluation of Student Performance

1. Class Attendance – for Campus students, due to the concentrated nature of the lectures, one unexcused class absence will reduce final grade by a letter grade. A 2nd unexcused absence will result in an additional research assignment required for a passing grade. A 3rd unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. Online students must listen to the recorded lectures in their entirety and must fulfill all other format-specific requirements in order to receive a passing grade, including occasional interaction with the Advising Professor/Instructor. If the Online student is not responsive to Advising Professor/Instructor communication, the student may become inactive and receive a grade of incomplete on the course (I).
2. Reading Assignments and Accountability – All students will read the required reading as outlined in Section V-Course Outline & Assignments. All students will write a 1-2 to 1-page summary over the assigned reading.
3. Research Assignments –
 1. All students will write a 5-page report answering the following question: “How should we view our existence on earth and what obstacles are there to such an appropriate view?”
 2. All students will write a 3-5 page paper on each of the three following subjects. There will be an additional title and bibliography page using a minimum of 6 sources on each.
 1. Summarize the flow and highlights of Ecclesiastes.
 2. Identify and summarize any philosophical system of interest discussed in the textbook.
 3. Answer the question: What is good?

4. **Course Exams** – There will be no course exams.
5. **Online Interaction** – Online students will have three online assignments each module: (1) email reading accountability to the Advising Professor/Instructor; (2) email a brief (50-75 words) observation of a key point from that module's lecture; and (3) respond to Advising Professor/Instructor questions and observations.
6. **Campus students** will submit assignments as directed by the Professor.
Online Students will submit assignments directly to the Advising Professor/Instructor.
7. **Scoring Rubric**

Assignments	Campus	Online
Attendance or Online Participation	Pass/Fail/Reduction	25
Reading Component (Reading & Accountability)	30 (40 if no exams)	25
Research Component (Papers & Projects)	40 (60 if no exams)	25 (50 if no exams)
Exam Component (if applicable)	30 (if applicable)	25 (if applicable)
Total Points:	100	100

V. Course Outline & Assignments

Class 1 – Introduction: The Quest for Meaning (Eccl 1:1-11)

Class 2 – Epistemology Part 1

Reading Component– Students will read pages 17-20; 45-86 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.

Class 3 – Epistemology Part 2

Reading Component – Students will read pages 133-176; 315-328 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.

Class 4 – Metaphysics Part 1

Reading Component – Students will read pages 187-218; 403-426 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.

Class 5 – Metaphysics Part 2

Reading Component – Students will read pages 359-390 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.

Class 6 – Ethics Part 1

Reading Component – Students will read pages 21-44; 87-132 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.

Class 7 – Ethics Part 2

Reading Component– Students will read pages 177-186; 219-234; 313-314; 427-454 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.
Research Component –First two papers due.

Class 8 – Social Political Ramifications Part 1

Reading Component – Students will read pages 235-250; 301-312; 391-402 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.

Class 9 – Social political Ramifications Part 2

Reading Component – Students will read pages 251-300; 329-358 of the text and write a % to 1-page summary over the required reading.
Research Component – Final papers due.

VI. Tyndale General Policies and Procedures

Assignment Format

All assignments and coursework are to be turned in via student Tyndale email. Students are not required to turn in assignments in hard copy. Students must send any required notes, questions, papers, etc. via email as separate attachments in .doc, docx, or pdf format.

Coursework should be submitted directly to the Professor/Instructor (for Campus and Learning Center students) or to the Advising Professor/Instructor (for Online students). The subject line for all submitted coursework should be formatted as follows to ensure receipt of the material:

<i>Campus Students:</i>	Professor Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title (e.g.: C, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper#1)
<i>Learning Center Students:</i>	LC Location, Campus Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name (e.g.: Mason, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith)
<i>Online Students:</i>	Online Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title (e.g.: O, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper#1)

Electronically submitted coursework will be returned along with a final grade via email after the course has been graded.

Assignment Due Dates

Campus/Learning Center students will submit all assignments according to the schedule as outlined in the syllabus. Final assignments are to be submitted no later than the last class period of the semester.

Online students will submit all assignments at their own pace, but must maintain interaction with Advising Professor/Instructor throughout the duration of the course.

Writing Guidelines

All research papers and theses are to follow Turabian guidelines as found in Kate L. Turabian *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 7th Ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). All students are required to purchase a copy of *A Manual for Writers* to ensure the proper format. All work is to follow these guidelines:

1. Font & Font Size: Times New Roman, 12 point
2. Double space
3. 1-inch margins (File – Page Setup – Margins)
4. Indent paragraphs .5 inch (Format– Paragraph – Indent left)
5. Page numbers – lower center or upper right –beginning with the first page of text, but not on title page; Arabic numbers only (e.g., 1, 2; not Roman numerals); no other header or footer
6. Title page; then title again on page one (for formal papers)
7. In essay-type papers, ALWAYS write logically, persuasively, focused on the assigned topic; include a succinct introduction that informs the reader concerning the subject of your paper, and a succinct conclusion that summarizes your main points and expresses your resulting conclusion.
8. Use footnotes rather than endnotes, except in dissertation/thesis, where section endnotes are also acceptable.
9. All work should be proofread, as errors in spelling, grammar, and syntax will reduce assignment grade.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is against Tyndale policy, and any act of plagiarism will result in disciplinary action up to student dismissal from further study at Tyndale. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to quoting materials without proper citing or reference. Cutting and pasting of online and other materials requires proper citing via quotation marks and footnote.

Contact

If you anticipate difficulty in meeting any of these requirements, please contact your Professor (for Campus/Learning Center students) or your Advising Professor/Instructor (Online students) as soon as possible. A complete review of all Tyndale policies and procedures can be found in the [Tyndale Theological Seminary and Biblical Institute Academic Catalog](#).