Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta  Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
Fall 2010  E-mail: jyeo@rts.edu
Mondays, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  August 30 – December 06

RTS Catalog Description:
This overview of the literature, history, and themes of Judges through Esther gives particular attention to the relevance of these books for the church and world today. This is a 2 credit hour course.

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE
To gain an adequate comprehension of the Historical Books of the Old Testament from Judges through Esther- including their background, content, interpretation, and criticism- in order to effectively communicate the revealed truths of the Old Testament as it relates to Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

This course shall attempt to accomplish the following goals:
1) present an expository approach to the development of redemptive history from the early history of Israel to the post-exilic period;
2) examine major theological themes including covenant (e.g., Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic), election, the sovereignty of God, the wars of Yahweh, etc;
3) acquaint the student with the historical events of the Historical Books as well as pertinent literary and legal parallels found in ancient Near Eastern history;
4) acquaint the student to the geography and topography of Palestine;
5) introduce and evaluate the salient features of several interpretive methodologies to the Old Testament, including: Source Criticism, Redaction Criticism, Form Criticism, Tradition Criticism, Comparative Religions, Canonical Criticism, and New Literary Criticism;
6) evaluate current scholarship on critical matters such as the authorship, dating and unity of the Historical Books pertaining to the critical theory surrounding the so-called “Deuteronomistic History”;
7) aid the student in preparation for the preaching of the texts highlighting Christological approaches such as typology, promise/fulfillment, and redemptive-historical.

II. BOOK LIST

Required Textbooks-
Recommended Textbooks-
[*- denotes highly recommended]  
III. COURSE SCHEDULE

August 30- Syllabus Review and Course Requirements
Prolegomena: An Introduction to the Deuteronomic Theology of the Historical Books

September 09- Labor Day, No Class

September 13- What is Old Testament Historiography?
The Critical Theory of the “Deuteronomistic History” (DtrH) Explained and Evaluated
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapters 1-2; 10
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 1

September 20- The Book of Judges
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 12 (Judges)
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 8
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 7

September 27- The Book of Ruth
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 12 (Ruth)
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 9

October 04- The Book of 1 Samuel
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 13
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 10
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 8

October 11- Fall Break, No Class

October 18- The Book of II Samuel
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 14
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 8
Midterm Examination Review

October 25- Mid-Term Exam

November 01- The Book of 1 Kings
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 15
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 11
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 9

November 08- The Book of II Kings
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 16
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 10
Chart of the Kings of Israel & Judah Due
November 15- The Book of I & II Chronicles  
*Assignment:* Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 17  
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 12

November 22- No Class

November 29- The Book of Ezra-Nehemiah  
*Assignment:* Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 18 (*Ezra-Nehemiah*)  
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 13  
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 11

December 06- The Book of Esther  
*Assignment:* Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 18 (*Esther*)  
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 14  
*Final Examination Review*  
Theological Theme Paper Due (12/09)

December 13- Final Exam

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be read, completed, and/turned in on or before the due dates scheduled. In fairness to students who do their work on time, late assignments will be reduced one letter grade per day. If more time is needed on any assignment, reasonable excuses will be accepted.

A. Chart of the Kings of Judah and Israel  
Prepare a chart of the all the major kings of Judah and Israel, including the kings of the United Monarchy. Helpful resources include: Eugene H. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987); and Edwin R. Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965). The Chart is worth 10% of your course grade.

B. Paper  
Write a 10-12 page paper on a major theological theme found in the Historical Books. As an integral part of the paper, show and discuss how these themes relate to the overall narrative plot found in these books providing at least three examples. More details will be announced. The paper is worth 30% of your course grade.

C. English Bible Reading  
Each student is required to read the books of Judges through Esther during the course of this semester. The final exam will ask whether or not the student has successfully fulfilled this requirement.

D. Examinations and Attendance
There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Each exam is worth 100 points and is equivalent to 60% of the course grade collectively. Exams will not be “made up” without previous notification. Attendance is strongly encouraged as class participation will be observed and evaluated by the instructor.

V. GRADING

A. Scale. The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

- **A** (97-100)  **C** (80-82)
- **A-** (94-96)  **C-** (78-79)
- **B+** (91-93)  **D+** (75-77)
- **B** (88-90)  **D** (72-74)
- **B-** (86-87)  **D-** (70-71)
- **C+** (83-85)  **F** (below 70)

B. Basis for computation

- Midterm Examination 30%
- Final Examination 30%
- Thematic Paper 30%
- Chart of Kings 10%