COURSE DESCRIPTION: "An introduction to [Hebrews,] the General Epistles [minus 1-3 John,] and Revelation that includes the history, setting, theme, purpose, and message of each book" (2009-2011 RTS Catalog, p. 68). As we have time, we will also discuss the New Testament canon.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In addition to objectives indicated above, several other objectives will be pursued in this class:
1. To gain/expand on a working knowledge of the content of these biblical books, including outlines of each;
2. To highlight each book's theological importance and contribution to the canon;
3. To whet students' appetites for further study and teaching/preaching of this relatively neglected portion of God's Word;
4. To discuss the canon of the New Testament;
5. To encourage students who have had Greek to continue to use it;
6. To foster greater love for, obedience to, and worship of our triune God.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. English Bible (translation of student's choice; professor will use NIV) (You must read each of the biblical books covered in this course at least one time.)
2. Greek New Testament (if you have had at least Greek I & II and Greek is required for your degree program; if not, there will be additional reading assignments [on reserve in the library], indicated below [NO GREEK]) (selected texts)
ed., Zondervan (CM) (selected chs.)
5. W. Hendriksen, More Than Conquerors, Baker (all)
6. C. M. Pate, Four Views on the Book of Revelation, Zondervan (all)
9. C. P. Venema, The Promise of the Future, Banner of Truth (chs. 8-12)

Several additional reading assignments (on reserve) will also be made during the semester as indicated in the Tentative Course Outline below. Please note that it is assumed that each student will personally and carefully do all the assigned reading.

COMPUTER USE IN CLASS: You may use a computer in class for purposes of this class only (e.g., note taking, writing essays on exams). Please do not abuse this policy by other uses during class (e.g., surfing the net, doing work for other classes, playing games or videos, etc.). Violators of this policy will be prohibited from all use of a computer in class.

COURSE PROCEDURES: Given the volume of material to be covered, much of the course will be devoted to lecture. The professor reserves the right to defer answering questions until a break or after
class. Students may always email questions to the professor (direland@rts.edu). The general outline of the course is indicated on the Tentative Course Outline below. **It should be noted that most of our time and attention in this course will be devoted to Hebrews and Revelation.** The student is expected to be present and on time each time the class meets, unless providentially hindered.

**COURSE GRADE/ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Reading Quizzes**—Ten quizzes will be given throughout the semester covering the content of the required reading. Each quiz will be worth 10 points for a total of 100 points for the quizzes, and will be short answer in nature. The reading quizzes will *not include* translations or substitute reading (NO GREEK); that material will be covered on the exams.

2. **Two exams.** Two exams will be given—a mid-term and final—covering outlines, biblical content, Greek translation and parsing AND vocabulary (for M.Div. students) OR substitute reading and memorization (for others), and lectures. Each exam will be worth 200 points. There will also be a question on each exam asking whether you personally completed all the assigned reading, and, if not, what percentage you *did* read. The reading-report question will be worth *an additional 25 points* on each exam; each exam will be worth a total of 225 points.

   The biblical content component of the exams will be chapter identification; the mid-term will cover Hebrews and James, and the final 1 & 2 Peter, Jude, and Revelation.

   M.Div. students will be asked to translate and parse several of the assigned verses on each exam. They will also be tested on **Greek vocabulary**—on the mid-term, all of Mounce (*50X and above*); on the final, Trenchard (down to 20 times; pp. 134-41). Several extra sessions will be scheduled throughout the semester to read/discuss the assigned Greek texts with the professor. These sessions will be optional and will not figure directly in the grade for the course. The intent is to provide a means to encourage students to work on the Greek assignments throughout the semester rather than just before exams.

   Other students (non-M.Div. or M.Div. without Greek 1, 2, and Exegesis) will be tested on substitute reading assignments (see Tentative Schedule below) and memorization. These students are to memorize the assigned texts below (from the translation of their choice), and will be asked on the exams to specify the translation and write out verbatim several of the assigned verses. **The passages to be memorized are as follows:** for the mid-term—Heb 4:14-16; Heb 13:20-21; and James 1:2-4; for the final—1 Pet 2:9-10; 2 Pet 1:19-21; Jude 24-25; and Rev 5:9-10.

3. **Reading Report**—There will be a question on each exam asking whether or not you personally completed all the assigned reading (including translations or substitute reading), and, if not, what percentage you *did* read. The question will be worth **25 points** on each exam, for a total of 50 points for the course.

   The student's cumulative points will be divided by the total possible points (550) to arrive at a percentage which will then be given a letter grade according to the RTS Catalog (p. 45).
TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE/ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| AUG 30 | Syllabus; Introduction to Course & Hebrews; Hebrews 1:1-4  
CM: Ch. 19  
Translation: Hebrews 1:1-4 (translate and parse all verbs & verbals)  
NO GREEK: G. Vos, *The Teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews*, Ch. I (on reserve) |
| SEP 6  | No Class (Labor Day) |
| SEP 13 | Hebrews 1:5—4:13  
*READING QUIZ #1* (CM and Thielman for Aug 30 and Sep 13)  
Thielman: Preface, Introduction, Chs. 23, 31  
Translation: Hebrews 2:1-4; 4:1-5  
NO GREEK: Vos, *Hebrews*, Chs. II & III |
| SEP 20 | Hebrews 4:14—8:13  
*READING QUIZ #2*  
Translation: Hebrews 6:1-9  
NO GREEK: Vos, *Hebrews*, Chs. IV-V |
| SEP 27 | Hebrews 9:1—13:25  
| OCT 4  | James  
*READING QUIZ #3*  
CM: Ch. 20  
Thielman: Ch. 24  
Translation: James 2:18-26  
NO GREEK: Guthrie, *NTI*, “James” |
| OCT 11 | No Class (Reading Week, Oct 11-15) |
| OCT 18 | MID-TERM EXAM (Hebrews & James) |
| OCT 25 | 1 Peter  
*READING QUIZ #4*  
CM: Ch. 21  
Thielman: Ch. 30  
Translation: 1 Peter 3:18-22 |
NOV 1  

2 Peter/Jude

*READING QUIZ #5

CM: Chs. 8, 22, 24
Thielman: Chs. 25-26
Translation: 2 Peter 1:16-21; Jude 1-4
NO GREEK: Guthrie, *NTI*, “2 Peter” & “Jude”

NOV 8  

*READING QUIZ #6

Introduction to Revelation; Revelation 1-3

CM: Ch. 8
Hendriksen: Chs. 1-6
Pate: Introduction & Ch. 1
Thielman: Ch. 32
Venema: Ch. 8
Translation: Revelation 2:1-7
NO GREEK: Guthrie, *NTI*, “Revelation”

NOV 15  

*READING QUIZ #7

Revelation 4—11

Carson: Sermons on Revelation (RTS 2004 Missions Conference)
Hendriksen: Chs. 7-10
Pate: Ch. 2
Venema: Ch. 9
Translation: Revelation 5:1-5

NOV 22  

*READING QUIZ #8

Revelation 12—19

Carson: Sermons on Revelation
Hendriksen: Chs. 11-13
Pate: Ch. 3
Venema: Chs. 10 & 12
Translation: Revelation 12:1-6
NO GREEK: Clouse, *Millennium*, “Dispensational Premillennialism” (position & responses)

NOV 29  

Revelation 20—22

*READING QUIZ #9

Carson: Sermons on Revelation
Hendriksen: Ch. 14
Pate: Ch. 4 & Conclusion
Venema: Ch. 11
Thielman: Chs. 33-34
NO GREEK: Clouse, *Millennium*, “Postmillennialism” & “Amillennialism” (positions & responses)
DEC 6  *New Testament Canon*

*READING QUIZ #10*

CM: Ch. 26

Ridderbos: All


TBA  FINAL EXAM (*1 & 2 Peter, Jude, Revelation, NT Canon*)
**Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

**Course:** NT522 HEBREWS-REVELATION  
**Professor:** Dennis Ireland  
**Campus:** Jackson  
**Date:** Fall 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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</table>
| **Articulation (oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Moderate | 1. Essays on exams  
2. Outlines, biblical content tested on exams |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong | 1. Detailed exposition of Heb-Rev  
2. Assignments in Greek text of all books; tested on exams  
3. Frequent reference to Greek text in class |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | 1. Discussion of interpretive issues in terms of Reformed theology, including Westminster Standards  
2. Emphasis on how the letter to the Hebrews contributes to Biblical Theology and understanding of OT |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | 1. Personal application to students/Christian ministry throughout exposition  
2. Need for perseverance and defense of sound doctrine |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | 1. Emphasis on how this part of canon contributes to NT/biblical theology  
2. Biblical perspective on suffering as Christians and danger of false teaching; God’s sovereignty (Revelation) |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Strong | 1. Charitable and fair summary of alternate evangelical views, esp. of the book of Revelation (differences in these matters are not a matter of orthodoxy) |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Minimal | 1. Occasional mention of how certain texts might be preached  
2. Emphasis on Rev 2-3 as possible sermon series (themes, headings, etc.) |
<p>| <strong>Worship</strong> | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Minimal | 1. Emphasis on worship scenes and themes in Revelation |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Emphasis on how themes in Heb-Rev might help God’s people in own lives and ministries 2. Call for perseverance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Discussion of Apostle’s Creed (‘descended into hell’) 2. How Christians are to face persecution</td>
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