General Information

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Class hours: Monday 6 - 9 p.m.
Office hours: Monday 1– 3 p.m.
Tuesday 11 – 12 p.m.
Thursday 11 – 12 p.m.
Friday 1 – 2 p.m.

Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to deepen our experience and understanding of God’s Word found in the prophetic books of the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the Twelve Minor Prophets. We will do this by gaining a familiarity with the message of the prophets and its meaning both for the ancient audience and for the believing community acquainted with the prophetic ministry of Jesus Christ. Emphasis will be placed on historical setting, literary structure, and the theological system communicated by the prophets and their biblical interpreters.

Students will be required to demonstrate:
1. a familiarity with the content of the prophetic books,
2. a grasp of the theological issues and patterns that arise from these books, and
3. an ability to interpret the books in light of the person of Jesus Christ and communicate their message to others.

Course Materials

ISBN: 978-0310263418

ISBN: 978-0801038600

Selected readings on reserve in the library.
Course Assignments

- Reading assignments are to be completed by their due dates. (10%)
- Weekly quizzes will test comprehension of reading assignments and outlines of prophetic books. (20%)
- Mid-term and final exams will test material discussed in class and in reading assignments. (40% = 20% each)
- Student papers will treat a passage from Isaiah, aiming to explain its meaning and significance within the book of Isaiah and the Scriptures as a whole, including its significance to the apostolic witness, the contemporary Church, and our future hope. Treatments will rely on scholarly research, a close reading of the English text (those students who know Biblical Hebrew can use this as an opportunity to exercise that knowledge), and personal reflection. (30%)
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Course Objectives Related to MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes*</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the</em></td>
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<td><em>following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this</em></td>
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<td><em>course to the MDiv outcomes.</em></td>
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<td><em>As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</em></td>
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### 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.
- **Rubric:** Strong
- **Mini-Justification:** Knowledge of the prophetic books and theology therein will be presented and articulated in class discussion and written assignments.

### 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.)
- **Rubric:** Strong
- **Mini-Justification:** The course is primarily concerned with the prophetic books of the OT. Research will be approached as a means to interpretation and exhortation.

### Reformed Theology
- Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.
- **Rubric:** Strong
- **Mini-Justification:** Reformed notions of the biblical interpretation and the prophetic office and function will be thoroughly examined in this class.

### Sanctification
- Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.
- **Rubric:** Moderate
- **Mini-Justification:** Rigorous, prayerful engagement with the biblical text for the purpose of learning, spiritual growth and maturity is encouraged.

### Desire for Worldview
- Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.
- **Rubric:** Moderate
- **Mini-Justification:** Study of the OT prophets will hone students’ perspective on the world and their role in it.

### 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.)
- **Rubric:** Moderate
- **Mini-Justification:** Study of the prophetic books provides an avenue through which faithful scholars communicate the teaching of Scripture in a way that is less bound by native culture.

### Preach
- Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.
- **Rubric:** Strong
- **Mini-Justification:** Capacity to work with the prophetic genre of the OT will enhances a student’s ability to interpret and preach from Scripture.

### Worship
- Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.
- **Rubric:** Minimal
- **Mini-Justification:** The topic of worship is limited to its presence in the text of the prophetic books, and the role of Scripture as a means of grace.

### Shepherd
- 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.
- **Rubric:** Minimal
- **Mini-Justification:** Again, knowledge of the prophetic books enhances knowledge of Scripture in general and ability to shepherd scripturally.

### Church/World
- Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.
- **Rubric:** Moderate
- **Mini-Justification:** Knowledge of the prophetic books will help students develop categories for church / world involvement.