

Hermeneutics – 2ON702

*Reformed Theological Seminary
Fall 2010*

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores a wide range of subjects related to responsible interpretation of the Bible. Particular passages of Scripture are the focus of discussions and practical exercises. This course meets Wednesdays, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, August 25 - December 06. (3 hours.)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Tremper Longman III, *How to Read the Psalms* (InterVarsity Press, 1988). ISBN 13: 978877849414

Richard L. Pratt, *He Gave us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1993). ISBN 13: 9780875523798

Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* (InterVarsity Press, 2003). ISBN 13: 9780851112985

Scott R. Swain, *Trinity, Revelation, and Reading: A Theological Introduction to the Bible and Biblical Interpretation* (T & T Clark, forthcoming). This book is available in electronic form from the professor.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reading Quizzes (50 % of final grade): On a regular basis, students will be quizzed on the readings that have been assigned for that particular class period. In order to prepare for these quizzes, students may bring one page of notes that they personally have taken on that day's assigned readings to use during the quiz.

2. Skills Development Exercises [SDEs] (50 % of final grade): The skills required for faithful biblical interpretation are to a significant degree more "caught" than "taught." Consequently, certain assignments will be devoted to the development of interpretive skills. These assignments will have *homework, library, and classroom* components. Class participation is a vital aspect of this assignment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I will provide a schedule of assignments on the first day of class.

OFFICE HOURS

My office hours are Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. If this time is not convenient for you, please email me (sswain@rts.edu) and I will be happy to schedule a meeting with you at a different time.