REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
NEW YORK CITY  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
Genesis-Joshua 09OT508  
3 credits  

Fall Semester, 2015  
6:30-10:00 pm on Sept 10, 24; Oct 8, 29; Nov 12; Dec 3  
6:30 -9:30 pm - *via video and live conference on Sept 17; Oct 1, 15, 22; Nov 5, 19  
[*Note: even the classes by video and live conference will meet together in the NYC classroom]

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove, Ph.D.

Contact Information:  
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770-952-8884

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the first six books of the Old Testament, with special attention on exegesis and use of these texts in ministry contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Comprehension:  
1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible of the books Genesis-Joshua.  
2. To increase your understanding of the message(s) of the books Genesis-Joshua, both separately and together.

Competence:  
1. To sharpen your ability to understand and interpret Genesis-Joshua.  
2. To sharpen your ability to interpret the books Genesis-Joshua in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.  
3. To sharpen your ability to teach and preach the books Genesis-Joshua in the context of the local church.  
4. To prepare those called to pastoral ministry for licensure and ordination exams at their local church assemblies and examination boards.

Character:  
1. To sharpen your application of the themes of the books Genesis-Joshua in your personal spiritual life.  
2. To be a person of growing faith, hope, and love based on the work of God as revealed in these books.

REQUIRED READINGS:  

- Biblical books of Genesis-Joshua in two English translations of the student’s choice.  
- Richard Pratt, *He Gave Us Stories* (RP)  
- T. Desmond Alexander, *From Paradise to the Promised Land* (TDA)  
• M. Barrett (ed.), *Four Views on the Historical Adam* (FVHA)

**REQUIREMENTS:**

*Attendance:* Students are required to attend class lectures and discussions. If you know you cannot make it to a portion of a class session, notify the instructor in advance. Excessive absence will impact a student’s final grade and can even result in failing to pass this class.

*Reading:* Students should complete all readings by the deadlines in the course schedule below.

*Class Preparation:* Throughout the semester the class will be assigned several passages to which to apply the skills taught up to that point in this class. Students should come to class the next week prepared to discuss the passage and their analysis of it, including presentation to the class of their findings. Students should produce a SHORT (approx. 2 pages) written summary of their work, which will be handed in to the professor. This assignment should be submitted as a .pdf file before the start of class each week via Canvas.

*Final Project:* Students who have taken Hebrew are required to write an exegetical paper for this class. Students who have not taken Hebrew may instead choose one of two paper options below. Papers should be 15-20 pages, double-spaced and should interact both with the material discussed in class sessions and the secondary readings. Additional research is required for these papers and must be demonstrated both in the paper itself and in its bibliography. (If a student has taken Hebrew and wishes to pursue one of the paper options below, this can be discussed with the professor, but will only be granted if the student can demonstrate proficiency in the writing of an exegetical paper, usually done by providing a strong exegetical paper from a previous OT class.)

Bible Study Option: Students may prepare a Bible study covering the Jacob narratives (Gen 25:19-36:40). This study must include a participant guide with relevant questions for the passages studied and a leader’s guide which includes introductions to each section and answers to the questions in the participant guide. Studies will be graded based on their use of the materials in this class and their practical relevance for ministry use. An “A” study would be “shovel ready,” able to be distributed to a church home group or other Bible study group without editing.

Sermon Manuscript Option: Students may prepare five sermons covering one passage from each of the books of the Pentateuch. Sermons should demonstrate responsible usage of the Biblical text, appropriate Christocentric preaching, and strong homiletic preparation.

This paper/assignment will be due December 11, 2015 at 5:00 PM and submitted via Canvas.

Note: Students who are interested in doing additional graduate study beyond their RTS degree MUST contact the instructor in advance, as these requirements may be adjusted to better prepare the student for his or her future course of study.
**TOTAL GRADE**: The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:
   - Class Preparation: 50%
   - Paper: 50%
Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system. The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades based on each student’s attendance at class and participation in classroom discussion.

**EXTENSION POLICY**: All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**:
NOTE: The course schedule is ALWAYS subject to revision based on the needs of the class.

**Sept 10**
- Topics:
  - Spiritual Reading
  - Kingdom of God, Creation, and the Image of God
  - Types of Analysis
- Reading Due:
  - Gen 1-2
  - TDA ch. 1-10
  - SO

**Sept 17**
- Topics:
  - Narrator/Evaluative Framework (2 videos)
- Reading Due:
  - RP ch.1-4

**Sept 24**
- Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  - Gen 1-2
- Topics:
  - Days of Creation
  - Historical Adam
• Reading Due:
  o TGD
  o FVHA

Oct 1
• Topics:
  o Characterization (2 videos)
• Reading Due:
  o Gen 3:1-11:9
  o RP 6

Oct 8
• Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  o Gen 32:22-32
• Topics:
  o Gen 3:1-11:9 (Primeval History)
  o Gen 11:10-25:18 (Abraham)
  o Gen 25:19-36:40 (Jacob)
• Reading Due:
  o Gen 11:10-36:40
  o TDA ch. 11-12

Oct 15
• Topics:
  o Structures and Scene Division
  o Plot
• Reading Due:
  o RP ch.7-9

Oct 22
• Topics:
  o Time and Space (2 videos)
• Reading Due:
  o RP ch.7 (review)

Oct 29
• Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  o Gen 42-45
• Topics:
  o Gen 37-50 (Joseph)
  o Exodus
• Reading Due:
  o Gen 37-50
  o Exodus
  o TDA ch.13-16

Nov 5
• Topics:
  o Scene Depiction
  o Stylistic Devices
• Reading Due:
  o RP ch.7 (review)

Nov 12
• Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  o Num 22-24
• Topics:
  o Leviticus (Holy Living)
  o Weather and Agriculture
  o Numbers (Grumbling in the Desert)
• Reading Due:
  o Leviticus
  o Numbers
  o TDA ch. 17-20

Nov 19
• Topics:
  o Geography
  o Archaeology & Canaanite Religion
• Reading Due:
  o RP13-16

Dec 3
• Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  o Josh 9:1-10:15
• Topics:
  o Deuteronomy (Life in Covenant)
  o Joshua (Taking the Land)
• Reading Due:
  o Deuteronomy
  o Joshua
  o TDA ch.21-24

OFFICE HOURS:

I am available Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 in Atlanta (via phone). I will also be arriving earlier in the day on Thursdays to be available before class. I am always also available by separate appointment.

I enjoy sharing thoughts with students, so do not hesitate to contact me. The contact information given above is for your use, and you should feel free to contact me as much as you wish. I will respond as promptly as possible.