4OT510: JUDGES - ESTHER
Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta        Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
Spring 2012: February 3 & 4, March 2 & 3, March 23 & 24        E-mail: jyeo@rts.edu
Fridays 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Saturdays 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

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 (N.B.: Reading assignments should be read in preparation for each class.)

February 03/04-

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

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

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

March 02/03-

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

- The Book of II Samuel
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 14
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 8

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

- The Book of II Kings
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 16
Provan/Long/Longman, Chapter 10

March 23/24-

The Book of I & II Chronicles
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 17
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 12

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

- The Book of Esther
Assignment: Arnold/Beyer, Chapter 18 (Esther)
Longman/Dillard, Chapter 14

Final Examination Review
**ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:
Theological Theme Paper Due: May 11, 2012
Final Examination Due: May 18, 2012

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, only reasonable excuses will be accepted.

A. Paper
Write a 10-12 page paper on a major theological theme found in the Historical Books. The paper should be double-spaced, 12 pt. font, and closely follow Turabian in academic style. More details will be announced. The paper is worth 50% of your course grade.

B. 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 and to what percentage.

C. Examination and Attendance
There will be a final exam. The final exam is worth 100 points and is equivalent to 50% of the course grade. The final exam will not be “made up” without previous notification. Attendance is required for successful completion of the course. Attendance is strongly encouraged as class participation will be observed and evaluated by the instructor.

D. 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 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

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)
V. GRADING
A. Scale. The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(97-100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(94-96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(91-93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>(88-90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>(86-87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(83-85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>(80-82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>(78-79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>(75-77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>(72-74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>(70-71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>(below 70)</td>
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B. Basis for computation
- Final Examination: 50%
- Thematic Paper: 50%

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REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

| Course:  | 4OT510: Judges to Esther |
| Professor: | Dr. John J. Yeo |
| Campus:  | Atlanta |
| Date:    | 11/23/11 |

**MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students write a paper on a topic within the Historical Books that deals with biblical and theological themes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Students must read the entire Historical Books corpus and incorporate their theological understanding of Scripture in a research paper. No original languages are required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Some key Reformed doctrines will be discussed and analyzed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Practical emphases on sanctification will be learned from the Historical Books.</td>
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</tbody>
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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.

**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.)

**Reformed Theology**: Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

**Sanctification**: Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desire for Worldview</th>
<th>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Practical emphases on conformity to the Word of God will be discussed during the course.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>The “Winsomely Reformed” ethic will be tested as students evaluate different theological perspectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The Historical Books will be expounded and their theological emphases discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>The Historical Books interact with what Biblical worship entails. This should inform and challenge students as they engage the topic.</td>
</tr>
<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>Minimal</td>
<td>The course should assist students in teaching the Historical Books to their churches.</td>
</tr>
<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>Discussions related to different theological emphases in the larger evangelical church will be analyzed.</td>
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