

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-

Arnold, Bill T. & Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Longman III, Tremper & Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994, 2006.

Provan, Ian, V. Philips Long, & Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Recommended Textbooks-

[*- denotes *highly recommended*]

- Clowney, Edmund. *Preaching Christ From All the Scriptures*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2003.
- Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary On Genesis-Malachi*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of the God In the Bible*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2002.
- _____. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
- *Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Historical Books*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Hill, Andrew E. & John H. Walton. *Old Testament Today*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.
- *Howard, David. M., Jr. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1993.
- *Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel: From the Bronze Age through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- _____. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable & Relevant?* Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.
- *Kline, Meredith G. *Kingdom Prologue*. South Hamilton, MA: M.G. Kline, 1993; reprinted by Two Age Press, 2000.
- *_____. *The Structure of Biblical Authority*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975; reprinted by Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1997.
- Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- *Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.
- Pratt, Richard L., Jr. *He Gave Us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narrative*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1990.
- Strom, Mark. *The Symphony of Scripture*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1990.
- Thiele, Edwin R. *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.
- VanGemeren, Willem. *The Progress of Redemption*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948.
- *Wright, Paul. *Holman QuickSource Bible Atlas*. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2000.

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 Deuteronomistic 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.

A (97-100)	C (80-82)
A- (94-96)	C- (78-79)
B+ (91-93)	D+ (75-77)
B (88-90)	D (72-74)
B- (86-87)	D- (70-71)
C+ (83-85)	F (below 70)

B. Basis for computation

Final Examination	50%
Thematic Paper	50%



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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.	Strong	Students write a paper on a topic within the Historical Books that deals with biblical and theological themes.
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.)	Moderate	Students must read the entire Historical Books corpus and incorporate their theological understanding of Scripture in a research paper. No original languages are required.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Some key Reformed doctrines will be discussed and analyzed.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Practical emphases on sanctification will be learned from the Historical Books.

Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Practical emphases on conformity to the Word of God will be discussed during the course.
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.)	Minimal	The “Winsomely Reformed” ethic will be tested as students evaluate different theological perspectives.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	The Historical Books will be expounded and their theological emphases discussed.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	The Historical Books interact with what Biblical worship entails. This should inform and challenge students as they engage the topic.
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.	Minimal	The course should assist students in teaching the Historical Books to their churches.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Discussions related to different theological emphases in the larger evangelical church will be analyzed.