

## ISAIAH - MALACHI (4OT516)

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta

Spring Semester 2012, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.  
E-mail: jyeo@rts.edu

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An expository study of the message and times of the prophets, emphasizing the themes of the Day of the LORD, judgment, restoration, promise and fulfillment, Messiah, kingdom, and the new people of God. A Reformed biblical-theological approach (i.e., redemptive-historical method) will be used in order to unfold the meaning of the (Latter) Prophetic corpus in relation to its covenant Old Testament context. Its relation and significance to the New Testament will also be discussed.

### II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course:

- 1) The student will be familiar with a couple of key interpretive approaches: a) the grammatico-historical method and b) the biblical-theological/redemptive-historical method.
- 2) The student will be able to identify the message, historical context, and literary structure of each prophetic book. In addition, the student will be familiar with certain key passages found within the Prophetic corpus that will have been examined and expounded in class (e.g., Isaiah 53; Daniel 9; etc.).
- 3) The student will be familiar with the office and function of the Prophets (i.e., prophetism) and their significance in both Old and New Testaments.
- 4) The student will be acquainted with the main interpretive issues concerning the interpretation of prophecy (e.g., conservative vs. liberal views of authorship/dating; genre considerations (e.g., literal or figurative/symbolic); literary structure (e.g., the use of recapitulation); etc.
- 5) The student will see the remarkable development of the Messianic promise found earlier in the Old Testament, e.g., Genesis 3:15, 49:10-12; Num. 24:15-19; 2 Samuel 7:14-16; etc., during the prophetic period.

### III. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

#### **Required:**

- 1) Tremper Longman III & Raymond B. Dillard, *Introduction to the Old Testament*, Second Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006).
- 2) O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Prophets* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006). This is the HARDCOVER, UNABRIDGED edition. Please refer to the following link for the hardcover, unabridged edition:  
[http://www.amazon.com/Christ-Prophets-O-Palmer-Robertson/dp/0875525644/ref=reader\\_auth\\_dp](http://www.amazon.com/Christ-Prophets-O-Palmer-Robertson/dp/0875525644/ref=reader_auth_dp)
- 3) John J. Yeo, *Plundering the Egyptians: The Old Testament and Historical Criticism at Westminster Theological Seminary (1929-1998)* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2009).

- 4) **\*\*Supplementary Readings:**
- i. “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions,” by Richard L. Pratt, Jr. in *The Way of Wisdom*, edited by J.I. Packer & S.K. Sonderlund (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000), pp. 180-203.
  - ii. “How Many Isaiahs Were There and What Does It Matter? Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship” by Richard L. Schultz in *Evangelicals & Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics*, edited by V. Bacote, L.C. Miguélez, & D.L. Okholm (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2004), pp.150-170.

***Suggested Resources:***

- 1) Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.
- 2) Chisholm, Robert B. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- 3) Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- 4) \*Kline, Meredith G. *Images of the Spirit*. South Hamilton, MA: Meredith G. Kline, 1986. In print, this book has been subsequently reissued by Wipf & Stock.
- 5) Meier, Samuel A. *Themes and Transformations in Old Testament Prophecy*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.
- 6) McConville, J. Gordon. *A Guide to the Prophets*. Exploring the Old Testament, Vol. Four. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.
- 7) \*Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, reprint 1992.
- 8) \*Williams, Michael J. *The Prophet and His Message: Reading Old Testament Prophecy Today*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2003.
- 9) Wood, Leon J. *The Prophets of Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.
- 10) \*Young, Edward J. *My Servants the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952.

**IV. ASSIGNMENTS**

**1) Assigned Readings:**

- i. *Primary Literature*: Each student is required to read the entire (Latter) Prophetic corpus.
- ii. *Secondary Literature*: Each student is required to read the select portions in Longman and Dillard (see syllabus), the entire text by Robertson, selected texts in Yeo as well as the supplementary readings (see below).
- iii. *Supplementary Readings* (see above, III.4)

- 2) **Midterm and Final Examinations (50% of Course Grade):** Study guides will be provided for each. The date of each exam is given below.

Please note that there will be a question on the final examination regarding the percentage of the readings you have completed.

- 3) **Theological Paper (50% of Course Grade):** Requirements for this paper will be outlined in class. The theological paper is due on May 11, 2012.

V. **COURSE SCHEDULE** (N.B. The reading assignments are due the following week.)

**February 02: Prolegomena**

*Introduction to the Course and Syllabus Overview*

Lecture 1: **Introduction to the Prophets**

(In preparation for this lecture, it is recommended that students read beforehand chapters 1-7 in Robertson's *The Christ of the Prophets*.)

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 409-419; 435-442.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 201-254.

**February 09**

Lecture 2: **Ninth/Eighth-Century Prophets: Obadiah & Joel**

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 397-408; 420-434; 443-448.

**February 16**

Lecture 3: **Eighth-Century Prophets: Hosea, Amos, & Jonah**

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 449-455; 301-320.
- *Plundering the Egyptians*, pp. 135-152; 232-252; 279-289 (You are also assigned the endnotes.)
- \*\*\*"How Many Isaiahs Were There and What Does It Matter?: Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship" by Richard L. Schultz in *Evangelicals & Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics*, edited by V. Bacote, L.C. Miguélez & D.L. Okholm (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 2004), pp.150-170.

**February 23**

Lecture 4: **Eighth-Century Prophets: Micah & Isaiah**

**March 01**

Lecture 5: **Eighth-Century Prophet: Isaiah** (*continued*)

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 456-476
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 255-282.

<b>March 08</b>
-----------------

Lecture 6: **Seventh-Century Prophets: Nahum, Zephaniah, & Habakkuk**

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 321-353.

<b>March 15</b>
-----------------

Lecture 7: **Seventh-Century Prophets: Jeremiah & Lamentations**

**Midterm Exam Review** (Study sheet will be handed out in class)

<b>March 22</b>
-----------------

**Midterm Examination**

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 354-370.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 283-318.

<b>March 29</b>
-----------------

Lecture 8: **Exilic Prophets: Ezekiel**

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 371-396.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 319-358.
- *Plundering the Egyptians*, pp. 29-51 (You are also assigned the endnotes)

<b>April 05</b>
-----------------

**Spring Break**

<b>April 12</b>
-----------------

Lecture 9: **Exilic Prophets: Daniel**

**Reading Assignment:**

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 477-502.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 359-406.

<b>April 19</b>
-----------------

Lecture 10: **Postexilic Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi**

**Reading Assignment:**

- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 407-502.
- \*\*Richard L. Pratt, Jr., "Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions," in *The Way of Wisdom*, edited by J.I. Packer and S.K. Soderlund (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), pp. 180-203.

<b>April 26</b>
-----------------

Lecture 11: *He Gave Us Prophets* by Richard L. Pratt, Jr. (Selections from the Series) and Class Discussion

<b>May 03</b>
---------------

Lecture 12: **Prophecy and Eschatology**

Final Exam Review (Final Exam study sheet will be handed out in class)

**\*\*Theological Paper Due: May 11**

<b>May 17</b>
---------------

**Final Examination**

## VI. COURSE POLICIES

A. **Attendance** is required for the successful completion of the course. Please inform the instructor if there are scheduled absences during the course of the semester.

B. **Late Assignments** will be penalized one-half letter grade for every week (i.e., each class session) that it is not turned in.

### C. 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)

D. **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)

### E. Basis for computation

<i>Midterm Examination</i>	25%
<i>Final Examination</i>	25%
<i>Theological Paper</i>	50%


**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
 SYSTEM

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: 4OT516: Isaiah to Malachi  
 Professor: Dr. John J. Yeo  
 Campus: Atlanta  
 Date: 11/22/11

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<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"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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 Prophetic Books that deals with biblical and theological themes.
<b>Scripture</b>	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 Prophetic Books corpus and incorporate their theological understanding of Scripture in a research paper. No original languages are required.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Some key Reformed doctrines will be discussed and analyzed.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Practical emphases on sanctification will be learned from the Prophets.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	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.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	The Prophetic Books will be expounded and their theological emphases discussed.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	The Prophetic Books interact with what true worship entails. This should challenge the students as they engage the topic.

<b>Shepherd</b>	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 Prophetic Books to their churches.
<b>Church/World</b>	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.