Course Description

The purpose of this class is to deepen the student’s understanding of the Older Testament in order to see the opportunities it holds for preaching and to overcome perceived obstacles to delivering Old Testament sermons. Students will be required to write a paper on preaching from an assigned Old Testament passage and to preach a sermon demonstrating that they have mastered the course. Pre-requisites: PT506

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate and demonstrate the continuing relevance, implicit theological commitments and spiritual value of preaching Christ from the Old Testament in a responsible and coherently Christian manner.
2. Identify and describe the basic literary forms of the OT and their rhetorical effects, locating examples of these forms in their characteristic scriptural context.
3. Identify and illustrate the major distinguishing characteristics and themes of the theological traditions of as reflected in the canonical shaping of the OT, developing his interpretative model to establish a strong and balanced lifelong appreciation of the importance of preaching regularly from OT
4. Describe and demonstrate effective homiletical methods of approach that are in concert with the rhetorical strategies of significant OT forms.
5. Develop and deliver sermons from OT passages with confidence and delight for themselves and their hearers.

Identify, refine, and practice an approach to OT exegesis and exposition that provides effective theological guidelines for consistent imaginative and powerful pastoral preaching.

Course Meeting Schedule:

Classes will meet, God willing, at the Atlanta RTS campus for three weekends in September thru November 2012. We plan to meet on Friday evenings from 6.30pm – 8.30pm and on Saturdays from 8.30am – 4.00pm. Our meeting dates are September 28-29, October 19-20, November 9-10.

Textbooks


In addition, the professor will distribute certain relevant selected articles from current publications that he deems helpful to the students. These will be distributed in class.
Assignments

Each student will present a written review of each of the assigned texts. Each review will be no more than four pages double spaced – Times New Roman 12pt with one inch margins. The due date for the first assignment (the Gibson book) is October 19. The due date for the second assignment (the Goldsworthy book) is November 9. These assignments should be submitted by Email to rlesholmes@aol.com.

Each student will demonstrate the teaching of the course by preparing and preaching two written/preached sermons on Old Testament passages. Prior to preaching the student will provide a full text of the sermon to be preached to the professor. The student will choose one of these passages. The professor will assign the other.

Grades

1. First written/preached sermon 30% final grade
2. Second written/preached sermon 40% final grade
3. Each written review 10% final grade (total 20%)
4. Attendance and class participation 10% final grade

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 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 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 Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Professor:** Leslie Holmes, D.Min., LLD  
**Campus:** Atlanta  
**Date:** Fall 2012

## MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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

### Rubric

- **Strong**
- **Moderate**
- **Minimal**
- **None**

### Mini-Justification

- **Articulation (oral and written)**
  - Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.
  - **Rubric:** Strong  
  - **Mini-Justification:** Articulating and demonstrating the continuing relevance, implicit theological commitments, and spiritual value of preaching from the Old Testament in a responsible and coherently Christian manner is a vital part of this course. Two written/preached sermons on Old Testament passages are required of each student; one chosen by the student, one by professor.

- **Scripture**
  - Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scriptures 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).
  - **Rubric:** Strong  
  - **Mini-Justification:** The importance of the Old Testament’s original meaning and its relationship with the New Testament as the basis for understanding Christ’s presence in all of Scripture and how to bring it alive in preaching is emphasized.

- **Reformed Theology**
  - Significant understanding of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.
  - **Rubric:** Moderate  
  - **Mini-Justification:** Theology and hermeneutics of OT preaching and teaching will involve references to the covenants of Reformed Theology.

- **Sanctification**
  - Demonstrate a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.
  - **Rubric:** Moderate  
  - **Mini-Justification:** Discussion of applying OT texts will bring a measure of growth in student’s sanctification.

- **Desire for Worldview**
  - Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.
  - **Rubric:** Minimal  
  - **Mini-Justification:** This course will help students do this from OT texts and communicate the principles learned in preparing and preaching sermons.

- **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).
  - **Rubric:** Minimal  
  - **Mini-Justification:** Respect for other modes of understanding the OT is encouraged at all times along with the development of skills to quietly and consistently defend the students own views.

- **Preach**
  - Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.
  - **Rubric:** Strong  
  - **Mini-Justification:** This is the heart of this course. Students who complete the course should be able to articulate the Gospel of Christ as promised Messiah to believers and unbelievers.

- **Worship**
  - Knowledge of historic and modern Christian worship forms; the ability to construct and skill to lead a public worship service.
  - **Rubric:** None  
  - **Mini-Justification:** These issues are covered in other courses in our traditional RTS curriculum.

- **Shepherd**
  - Ability to shepherd a local congregation; aiding in spiritual growth; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians
  - **Rubric:** Moderate  
  - **Mini-Justification:** A growing knowledge of the pastor-teacher’s role in preaching and teaching the Old Testament as it reveals Jesus as Messiah is an important part of this course.

- **Church/World**
  - Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues
  - **Rubric:** None