

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Atlanta

COURSE SYLLABUS
Isaiah-Malachi 04OT516
3 credits

Spring Semester, 2014
Thursdays, Feb 6-May 16, 6:00-9:00 PM
N.B.: No class on Apr. 3, May 1

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove
Ph.D. Candidate: Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures
The Catholic University of America

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the Prophetic literature of the Old Testament, with special attention on the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus Christ.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Comprehension:

1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible of the books Isaiah-Malachi.
2. To increase your understanding of the message(s) of the books Isaiah-Malachi, both separately and together.

Competence:

1. To sharpen your ability to understand and interpret Hebrew prophets.
2. To sharpen your ability to interpret the books Isaiah-Malachi in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
3. To sharpen your ability to teach and preach the books Isaiah-Malachi 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 Isaiah-Malachi 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 Isaiah-Malachi in two English translations of the student's choice.
- Robert B. Chisolm, *Handbook on the Prophets* (CH)
- Provan, Long, and Longman, *A Biblical History of Israel*, pp.259-352 (PLL)
- Dillard and Longman, *Introduction to the Old Testament*, pp.301-502 (DL)
- VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*, pp. 104-211, 247-353 (VG)
- Richard Pratt, "Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions" (avail. by .pdf)

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.

Quizzes: Four take-home quizzes will be distributed during the class according to the schedule below. These quizzes are **completely closed book, including closed Bible**. Each quiz will be **due at the beginning** of the next class. These quizzes will cover the Bible reading and secondary reading due on the day they are distributed. They will concentrate primarily on the Bible reading and secondarily on the secondary reading. Particularly as regards the secondary reading, these quizzes are not meant to be extremely difficult, but students will need to have read the material and grasped its main points.

Paper: Students who have taken Hebrew are required to write an exegetical paper for this class. Students who have not taken Hebrew may instead write a theological paper. 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.

- Exegetical Paper: Students may submit an exegetical paper on a passage of their choice from the book of Isaiah.
- Theological Paper: Students should email the instructor by February 28 with a one-page (maximum) paper proposal for approval.

This paper will be **due May 16, 2014 at the last class**.

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:

Quizzes: 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 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)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

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

Feb. 6 – The Role of a Prophet, Proper Exegetical Method

Feb. 13 – Covenants and the Prophets

Reading Due: PLL 259-352

Feb. 20 – History and the Prophets

Reading Due: Jeremiah, Lamentations, CH 153-230, DL 321-353, VG 290-320

Quiz Distributed: Jeremiah and associated secondary reading; Dates

Feb. 27 – Literary Analysis and the Prophets

Mar. 6 – Purpose of Prophetic Oracles

Reading Due: Pratt, “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions”

Mar. 13 – How Prophecy is Fulfilled, First and Second Readings Questions

Reading Due: Isaiah, CH 13-152, DL 301-320, VG 247-289

Quiz Distributed: Isaiah and associated secondary reading; Dates

Mar. 20 – Developing Eschatology in the Prophets

Mar. 27 – Illustration of Assyrian Judgment Prophets – Detailed Exegesis of Micah

Apr. 3 – NO CLASS

Apr. 10 – Illustration of Assyrian Judgment Prophets – Detailed Exegesis of Micah

Reading Due: Ezekiel, Daniel, CH 231-334, DL 354-396, VG 321-353

Quiz Distributed: Ezekiel, Daniel and associated secondary reading; Dates

Apr. 17 – Illustration of Assyrian Judgment Prophets – Detailed Exegesis of Micah

Apr. 24 – Illustration of Babylonian Judgment Prophets – Detailed Exegesis of Zephaniah

May 1 – NO CLASS

May 8 – Illustration of Post-Return Prophets – Detailed Exegesis of Zechariah

Reading Due: Hosea-Malachi, CH 335-503, DL 397-502, VG 104-211

Quiz Distributed: Hosea-Malachi and associated secondary reading; Dates

May 16 – Preaching the Prophets

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 in Macon & Thursday 1:00-3:00 at the main campus. I am always also available by appointment, including before or after class.

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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<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	Quizzes, Paper
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.)	Strong	Exegetical Focus, Significant Paper, Readings
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Medium/Strong	Reformed Approach to Inspiration, Eternal Decree, and Providence essential to understanding prophets
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Close study of the Word of God sanctifies; strong devotional components of Scripture
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Material is taught thoroughly within and analyzed against redemptive-historical worldview
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.)	Moderate	Discussion and evaluation of contributions from other traditions in a respectful and honoring way
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Exegetical work that forms the

			backbone of strong preaching; frequent discussion of applications for preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Study of the Word of God should move believers to worship
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	Discussion as applicable
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Discussion as applicable