

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Atlanta

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Survey of Biblical Redemptive History – ON700  
3 credits

Summer 2015  
Monday-Friday, June 1-5, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove, Ph.D.

Contact Information:

[bfullilove@rts.edu](mailto:bfullilove@rts.edu)

770-952-8884

## **I. Purpose of the Course**

This course is designed to give you an overview of Biblical Theology and an understanding of the Redemptive History that Biblical Theology reflects. Further, the course seeks to specifically prepare you to understand the impact of Biblical Theology on your personal callings in life – vocational, family, service, and personal growth.

## **II. Course Objectives**

### **A Mind for Truth: Deepening Your Understanding**

- To understand the basic theme and story of the Bible
- To be able to responsibly interpret various genres of Biblical literature

### **A Heart for God: Transforming Your Affections**

- To understand your individual callings, both vocationally and otherwise, in light of Biblical Theology and Redemptive History
- To seek God's kingdom in your personal life

### **A Life for Ministry: Developing Your Behaviors**

- To develop as a Christian leader who has a "kingdom perspective"
- To pursue your vocation in a way which focuses on advancing God's kingdom in the world

## **III. Course Format**

This course will be taught in a one-week intensive schedule, meeting Monday-Friday, with a lunch break. The course will follow a seminar format, with periods of lecture interspersed with discussion and working sessions.

## IV. Course Texts

The main text for the course is your Bible. As much of the Bible reading as possible should be completed before the beginning of the course. The remainder may be completed before the course assignment's due date.

This will be supplemented by the following:

*Studying Theology at the Feet of Jesus*, by John Frame (available online, please read in advance of class)

*Eat This Book*, by Eugene Peterson (read by August 15)

*As Far as the Curse is Found*, by Michael Williams (read by August 15)

*Renewal as a Way of Life*, by Richard Lovelace (read by August 15)

## V. Course Requirements

### A. Attendance and Class Participation

Students are expected to attend class and participate actively in discussion. Unless due to sickness, absences must be approved in advance. Readings on the attached schedule are to be completed *before* class begins on the day for which they are assigned. Please note: due to the intensive format of this class, a student may not miss more than 1 day of class. Even a half day absence is to be avoided.

### B. Application Papers

Each student will complete one of the following two assignments:

- Major paper: Students choosing this option should write a major paper, including extra research beyond the reading assignments for this class. The paper should apply the subject matter of the class, particularly an understanding of the themes of redemptive history, to a major area of human endeavor (e.g.: "How should a church discipleship program be reshaped by a biblical understanding of redemptive history?" or "How should expository preaching include the themes of biblical redemptive history while still teaching the particular text?" or "How might the vocation of law be reshaped by an understanding of redemptive history?"). Please feel welcome to discuss potential paper topics with me. I enjoy helping students craft topics that apply the Scriptures to their particular areas of interest.
- Curriculum redesign: (This option is designed mainly for primary and secondary school teachers who are taking this class as part of their certification requirements.) Students choosing this option should work to redesign their teaching curriculum in one particular class. What would it look like for the teaching of this particular subject to be more fully informed by a biblical understanding of redemptive history? Students should then submit a paper based on this redesign including the following sections: 1) Summary of the curriculum and lesson plans before taking ON700, 2) Summary of changes made to the curriculum and lesson plans based on this project, and 3) Major lessons learned regarding the vocation of teaching and the development of students as disciples of Christ.

There is no specific page length required of papers – do a good job before God and man. However, because students rightly wish to know what they are "aiming at," papers usually run about 10-20 pages.

## C. Grading

The grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 25% - Class attendance and participation
- 75% - Major assignment

## D. Late Assignments Policy

***Assignments are due by midnight on August 15 by email to bfullilove@rts.edu. Please submit your assignment as a .pdf document, and please include both your name and the course number (ON700) in the file name.***

Please do not ask permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family), turn in a written request asking to wave the late penalty with the assignment. Please discuss any such special circumstances with me directly. Under any circumstances, no assignments will be received after the end of August.

## VI. Schedule

### Monday:

*Topics:*

- The Greatest Story Ever Told: The Christian Metanarrative
- The Beginnings: Creation and the Image of God
- The Dismal Story: the Primeval History
- Blessed to be a Blessing: The Abraham Narratives

*Reading Due:*

- Genesis, Psalm 8, 1 Cor 15, Revelation 21-22
- Frame: Studying Theology as a Servant of Jesus (available online)

### Tuesday:

*Topics:*

- How to Read OT Narrative
- Exodus: The Paradigm for Redemption
- Numbers: Grumbling in the Desert

*Reading Due:*

- Exodus 1-20
- Numbers

### Wednesday:

*Topics:*

- Covenant Dynamics, Covenant Theology, Dispensational Theology
- Joshua: The Importance of the Land
- Samuel and Kings: The Kingship

*Reading Due:*

- Deuteronomy 1-13, 27-34
- Joshua 1-13
- Judges; Ruth
- 1 Samuel 1-16, 2 Samuel 1-15
- 1 Kings 1-12, 17-19, 2 Kings 17-25

**Thursday:**

*Topics:*

- How to Read the Prophets
- The Exile Extended
- The Failed Restoration, Life in Exile

*Reading Due:*

- Isaiah 1-12, 36-45, 49-55, 60-62
- Jeremiah 1-20, 24-25, 29-33
- Hosea 1-4, 14
- Ezekiel 1-12, 21-23, 33-37, 40-43, 47-48
- Daniel 9
- Ezra-Nehemiah
- Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**Friday:**

*Topics:*

- Mark: Inaugurated Eschatology
- Matthew: How Jesus Fulfills OT Prophecy
- Luke: God's Heart for the Poor
- Acts: "They Can't Stop Us; We're on a Mission from God."

*Reading Due:*

- Gospels (as much as possible)
- Acts