COURSE SYLLABUS
Genesis-Joshua 06OT508
3 credits

Fall Semester, 2015
Note: This will be a “hybrid” course involving classroom meetings and online sessions.
Classroom meetings: 1:00-4:00 PM on Thursdays: Sept 3, 17; Oct 1, 15, 22; Nov 5, 19
Online Sessions required between class meetings. See course schedule below.

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove, Ph.D.

Contact Information:
bfullilove@rts.edu
770-952-8884

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the first six books of the Old Testament, with special attention on exegesis and use of these texts in ministry contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Comprehension:
1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible of the books Genesis-Joshua.
2. To increase your understanding of the message(s) of the books Genesis-Joshua, both separately and together.

Competence:
1. To sharpen your ability to understand and interpret Genesis-Joshua.
2. To sharpen your ability to interpret the books Genesis-Joshua in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
3. To sharpen your ability to teach and preach the books Genesis-Joshua 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 Genesis-Joshua 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 Genesis-Joshua in two English translations of the student’s choice.
- Richard Pratt, *He Gave Us Stories* (RP)
- T. Desmond Alexander, *From Paradise to the Promised Land* (TDA)
- M. Barrett (ed.), *Four Views on the Historical Adam* (FVHA)

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.

*Online Portions:* Students must complete the online portions of the class according to the schedule below. Submission of work from the online portions should be as .pdf files via Canvas.

*Reading:* Students should complete all readings by the deadlines in the course schedule below.

*Class Preparation:* Throughout the semester the class will be assigned several passages to which to apply the skills taught up to that point in this class. Students should come to class the next week prepared to discuss the passage and their analysis of it, including presentation to the class of their findings. Students should produce a SHORT (approx. 2 pages) written summary of their work, which will be handed in to the professor. This assignment should be submitted as a .pdf file before the start of class each week via Canvas.

*Final Project:* Students who have taken Hebrew are required to write an exegetical paper for this class. Students who have not taken Hebrew may instead choose one of two paper options below. 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. (If a student has taken Hebrew and wishes to pursue one of the paper options below, this can be discussed with the professor, but will only be granted if the student can demonstrate proficiency in the writing of an exegetical paper, usually done by providing a strong exegetical paper from a previous OT class.)

Bible Study Option: Students may prepare a Bible study covering the Jacob narratives (Gen 25:19-36:40). This study must include participant guides with relevant questions for the passages studied and leader’s guides which include introductions to each section and answers to the questions in the participant guide. Studies will be graded based on their use of the materials in this class and their practical relevance for ministry use. An “A” study would be “shovel ready,” able to be distributed to a church home group or other Bible study group without editing.
Sermon Manuscript Option: Students may prepare five sermons covering one passage from each of the books of the Pentateuch. Sermons should demonstrate responsible usage of the Biblical text, appropriate Christocentric preaching, and strong homiletic preparation.

This paper will be due December 7, 2015 at 5:00 PM and submitted via Canvas.

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:

Class Preparation: 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.

Classroom meetings: 1:00-4:00 PM on Thursdays: Sept 3, 17; Oct 1, 15, 22; Nov 5, 19

Sept 3
- **Topics:**
  - Spiritual Reading
  - Kingdom of God, Creation, and the Image of God
  - Types of Analysis
- **Reading Due:**
  - Gen 1-2
  - TDA ch. 1-10
  - SO

Online portion – must be completed by Sept 11
- **Topics:**
  - Narrator/Evaluative Framework
  - Characterization
- **Reading Due:**
  - RP ch. 1-4, 6, 8-9

Sept 17
- **Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:**
  - Gen 1-2
- **Topics:**
  - Days of Creation
  - Historical Adam
- **Reading Due:**
  - TGD
  - FVHA

Online Portion – must be completed by Sept 25
- **Topics:**
  - Structures and Scene Division
  - Plot
- **Reading Due:**
  - Gen 3:1-11:9

Oct 1
- **Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:**
  - Gen 22:1-19
- **Topics:**
  - Gen 3:1-11:9 (Primeval History)
  - Gen 11:10-25:18 (Abraham)
  - Gen 25:19-36:40 (Jacob)
- **Reading Due:**
  - Gen 11:10-36:40
  - TDA ch. 11-12
Online Portion – must be completed by Oct. 9
- Topics:
  - Time and Space
- Reading Due:
  - RP ch. 7

Oct 15
- Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  - Gen 42-45
- Topics:
  - Gen 37-50 (Joseph)
  - Exodus
- Reading Due:
  - Gen 37-50
  - Exodus
  - TDA ch. 13-16

Oct 22
- Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  - Levit 10
- Topics:
  - Leviticus (Holy Living)
  - Weather and Agriculture
- Reading Due
  - Leviticus
  - TDA ch. 17-19

Online Portion – must be completed by Oct 30
- Topics:
  - Scene Depiction
  - Stylistic Devices
- Reading Due:
  - RP ch. 13-16

Nov 5
- Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  - Num 22-24
- Topics:
  - Numbers (Grumbling in the Desert)
  - Deuteronomy (Life in Covenant)
- Reading Due:
  - Numbers
  - Deuteronomy
  - TDA ch. 20
Online Portion – must be completed by Nov 13

- Topics:
  - Geography
  - Archaeology & Canaanite Religion
- Reading Due:
  - None

Nov 19

- Passage to Prepare for Class Discussion:
  - Josh 9
- Topics:
  - Deuteronomy (Life in Covenant) – cont.
  - Joshua (Taking the Land)
- Reading Due:
  - Joshua
  - TDA ch.21-24

**Office Hours:**

Wednesdays 10:00-12:00. I am always also available by separate appointment, including before and 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.
**MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

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.

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

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<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Class Preparation assignments, Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Exegetical Focus, Significant Paper, Class Preparation of specific passages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Reformed Approach Covenants underlies class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Close study of the Word of God sanctifies; strong devotional components of Scripture</td>
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<p>| Articulation (oral &amp; written) | Broadsly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong | Class Preparation assignments, Paper |
| Scripturere | 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, Class Preparation of specific passages |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Medium/Strong | Reformed Approach Covenants underlies class |
| 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 |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Skill Description</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Application Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Study of the Word of God should move believers to worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Discussion as applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Discussion as applicable</td>
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