Reformed Theological Seminary  
Fall 2011

NT522 Hebrews - Revelation 3 Hrs.  
Sept 23-24, Nov 4-5, Dec 9-10

Course Instructors: Drs. Richard B. Gaffin, Jr.; Gregory K. Beale  
Course Administrator: Dr. Guy Prentiss Waters

Reformed Theological Seminary  
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Description
An survey of the General Epistles and Revelation, focusing upon the exposition of Hebrews and Revelation, that emphasizes the application of these books’ theology to the pastoral needs of the churches of the first century and of today.

Course Objectives
(1) To understand and critically to evaluate academic research in the GE&R.
(2) To understand issues of special introduction pertaining to GE&R.
(3) To understand the GE&R in their first century context.
(4) To understand the implications of the GE&R for the contemporary church, and to understand the GE&R as a model of applying theology to the life of the church.
(5) To understand with greater clarity and precision key questions and issues in the GE&R.

Required Texts (see below for page assts.; note the abbreviations)
(1) The Holy Bible, preferably in a recent translation such as the New American Standard or the English Standard Version. Students who are competent in Hellenistic Greek are strongly encouraged to bring their Greek New Testaments to each class session.
(2) Carson and Moo, An Introduction to the New Testament (2d ed.; Zondervan) [C&M]
(3) Vos, The Teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews [V]
(4) Beale, The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text (NIGTC; Eerdmans) [B]

Assignments & Requirements
(1) A final exam covering the lectures will be taken during final exam week and will be cumulative. The final exam must be taken on the date posted by the seminary. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. The final exam is worth 50% of your final grade.
(2) Read the General Epistles & Revelation in English. You must read the GE&R in their entirety this semester. This assignment is due at the beginning of the final exam. You will be asked to give a percentage reflecting the extent of your reading. This assignment will be 10% of your final exam grade [i.e. 5% of your course grade].
(3) Read the assigned materials (see below). On your exam, you will be asked what percentage of the assigned readings that you completed. This question is worth 20% of your final grade.
(4) Text Assignment. For purposes of this assignment, if you have completed Greek 1 and Greek 2, you fall into category (a). If you have not completed Greek 1 and Greek 2, you fall into category (b).
(a) For those who have had Greek, take a translation exam covering Heb 1-4, Rev 1-3. You will be asked to translate selected passages from these chapters, and to parse selected verbs and verbals in these passages. Words used less
frequently than 20X will be glossed for you on the exam. **The translation exam will be administered on Friday, December 2, 9AM.**

(b) **For those who have not had Greek,** write a 12-15 page research paper on some passage from Hebrews or Revelation. See guidelines below. **The paper is due, Friday, December 2, 9AM.**

This assignment is worth **30%** of your final grade.

**Attendance**

Class attendance is required for NT 522. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade.

**Grading Scale**

The grading scale for this course is the seminary’s grading scale. You may find it listed at the **RTS Catalog, p.44.**

**Plagiarism**

Please review the seminary’s policy on plagiarism. Plagiarized work will subject the student to failure in the course and possible disciplinary action.

**In-Class Computer Use**

Students may use computers in class for acceptable course-related activity only (i.e. taking notes). Non-course related activity, including work for other courses, Internet use, or games, is strictly prohibited. The first offense will result in the loss of a letter grade. The second offense will result in course failure.

**Assigned Readings**

**General**

Carson & Moo, *INT*, 596-743.

**Hebrews**

1. a) W. Lane, *Hebrews* 1-8, xlvii-lxvi.


2. a) Lane, *Hebrews*, xcviii-ciii, cxxv-cl.


**Revelation**
Beale, *Revelation*, pp.3-177; 181-272; 311-369; 972-1031.

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**Paper Guidelines**

You will submit a 10-15 page research paper, exclusive of cover page and bibliography. This paper is an exegetical paper that demonstrates awareness of and competence in both the primary and secondary literature.

You must submit your paper both in hard copy and electronically. You may direct your electronic copy to the following e-mail address: gwaters@rts.edu. The subject line of your e-mail should read: “NT 522 Final Paper.” Send your paper in this e-mail as an MS-Word attachment **only**.

The paper should have the following elements and meet the following guidelines:

- A concise introduction that reflects your awareness of the pertinent issues
- A strong, incisive, clearly-stated thesis in the opening of the paper
- A cogent argument that is integrally tied to and flows from your thesis
- Organization that is both inherent to the paper and evident to your reader
- A conclusion that properly concludes the argument of your paper, concisely reflecting on the implications of your thesis for our understanding of biblical teaching (generally) and for the life of the church today.
• Fair and decisive engagement of the secondary literature. You should engage positions that are similar to your own and positions with which you disagree.
• Engagement of the following kinds of sources:
  o Academic commentaries (not collections of sermons, lay commentaries, or devotional expositions)
  o Academic monographs
  o Articles published in scholarly journals
  o Literature published both before and after 1900
  o Reformed & evangelical sources as well as non-Reformed sources
• Footnotes (not endnotes or parenthetical references!). Footnotes should be single spaced, 10 pt font. The first line of each footnote should be indented.
• Pagination – each page should be clearly numbered
• Consistent, readable margins – ½ to 1 inch margins on each side of the text
• Text set in left justification, Times New Roman font, 12 pt. Set your indentation at ½ inch.
• Double or 1.5 spacing only.
• Greek or Hebrew typed or handwritten (no transliterations)
• Documentation according to format and standards prescribed in the SBL Handbook of Style – this applies both to the body of the paper and the bibliography. Please take special note of the abbreviations.
• Absence of typographical, grammatical, syntactical, or spelling errors. Such errors will result in a lower grade on your paper. Proofread!
• A staple in the upper left hand corner – no folders, etc., please.

The Good Paper Guide

In grading your final paper, I will make reference to the following criteria (in addition to the guidelines set forth above, p.4). I have adopted these criteria, with slight modification, from a syllabus of Dr. W. Duncan Rankin.

General
Is the paper interesting? substantial? well-written?
Is the paper sufficiently focused or developed?
Is the paper organized? organized clearly?

Development and Flow
Does the paper show clear plan and purpose?

Treatment
Is the thesis of your paper stated clearly? Is your thesis pedestrian?
Does your paper raise more issues than you have adequately addressed in it?
Does your paper raise issues that cannot be adequately addressed in a paper of this scope and length?
Does your paper provide sufficient data to enable the reader to understand the problems and issues?
Does your paper set forth and engage various positions fully? fairly? objectively?
Does your paper provide careful, biblical exegesis?
Do your conclusions follow from the premises and data you set forth in the paper?
Does your paper evidence knowledge of and interaction with the broader Reformed tradition? views within modern evangelicalism? non-evangelical views?
Does your paper have material that should have been excised? Does it have material that is not germane to the subject?
Is the length of your paper adequate to address the issues raised?

Documentation
Is your paper well documented? adequately documented? poorly documented?

**Bibliography**
Does your paper have a bibliography?
Is your bibliography excellent? adequate? poor?
Does your paper omit key secondary sources that should have been included?

**Appearance**
Is your paper neat in appearance? Is your paper annoying to read?

**Errors**
Does your paper have typographical errors? grammatical errors? syntactical errors? spelling errors?

**Time of Submission**
Was your paper submitted on time?
Did you submit it in both hard copy and electronically (per syllabus instructions)?

Your assigned grade is based upon the following: your successful completion of the instructions for this assignment, as those instructions are set forth in this syllabus; your overall quality of presentation; my assessment of your grasp of the subject matter; your skill in communicating the material; the quality of your work relative to your peers in the course.
### Course Objectives Related to 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Theology of the H&amp;R</td>
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<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Major part of class is exegeting H&amp;R 2. Original languages are used in class and encouraged in writing assignment 3. It’s a BIBLE Class!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Traditional Reformed categories are used for explaining many categories of H&amp;R</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sanctification</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Personal application is made in class from many texts of H&amp;R</td>
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<tr>
<th>Desire for Worldview</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Multi-faceted applications are made from texts of the H&amp;R, e.g. church &amp; world</td>
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<tr>
<th>Winsomely Reformed</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Historical-critical scholarship is discussed and engaged in class and readings.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Preach</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Many times, preaching applications are made from the texts of H&amp;R</td>
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<tr>
<th>Worship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Lectures discuss worship esp. from the book of Rev.</td>
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<th>Shepherd</th>
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<tr>
<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>Discuss issues of apostasy and assurance</td>
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<th>Church/World</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Global character of the people of God is emphasized</td>
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