

## Hermeneutics – 2ON702

*Reformed Theological Seminary*  
*Fall 2011*

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores a wide range of subjects related to responsible interpretation of the Bible. Particular passages of Scripture are the focus of discussions and practical exercises. (3 hours.)

### REQUIRED TEXTS

G. K. Beale and D. A. Carson, *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* (Baker, 2007). ISBN 13: 9780801026935

Richard L. Pratt, *He Gave us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1993). ISBN 13: 9780875523798

Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* (InterVarsity Press, 2003). ISBN 13: 9780851112985

Scott R. Swain, *Trinity, Revelation, and Reading: A Theological Introduction to the Bible and Biblical Interpretation* (T & T Clark, forthcoming) (available from professor)

The Heidelberg Catechism (various editions available)

### ASSIGNMENTS

**1. Reading Quizzes (50 % of final grade):** On a regular basis, students will be quizzed on the readings that have been assigned for that particular class period. In order to prepare for these quizzes, students may bring one page of notes that they personally have taken on that day's assigned readings to use during the quiz.

**2. Skills Development Exercises [SDEs] (50 % of final grade):** The skills required for faithful biblical interpretation are to a significant degree more "caught" than "taught." Consequently, certain assignments will be devoted to the development of interpretive skills. These assignments will have *homework, library, and classroom* components. Class participation is a vital aspect of this assignment.


**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
 SYSTEM

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course:

Professor:

Campus:

Date:

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<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"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	Class discussion; SDEs
<b>Scripture</b>	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	SDEs; reading assignments; lectures
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Emphasis upon redemptive-historical hermeneutics
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Increased understanding of God's word promotes faith and love toward God
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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.)	Strong	
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Sound interpretive skills promote sound sermon development and delivery
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	Moderate	

<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	
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