Course Description and Purpose:
This course focuses on the art of reading Hebrew narrative, on developing the skills to both read and interpret proficiently. In addition to the goal of reading Hebrew more fluently, attention will be given to literary techniques and structure, and to the exegetical approach of discourse analysis.

Course Objectives:
The successful student, having engaged, studied, and learned the material, will gain:
(1) an increased ability to enjoy reading biblical Hebrew;
(2) further mastery of Hebrew vocabulary and syntax;
(3) a deeper understanding of and aesthetic appreciation for the stylistic and structural aspects of Hebrew narrative;
(4) an increased ability to comprehend, exegete, translate, and appropriate Hebrew narrative texts through the approach of discourse analysis.

Attendance:
Punctual, participatory attendance is required to succeed in this course—please contact the professor to discuss any absences or tardiness, and consult the attendance policy in the RTS Catalog, p. 43.

Required Reading:
(1) BHS Hebrew texts will be handed out in class (no need to purchase) → BHS
(2) B.M. Rocine, Learning Biblical Hebrew: A New Approach Using Discourse Analysis
   (Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2000) → LBH
(3) J.P. Fokkelman, Narrative Art in Genesis: Specimens of Stylistic and Structural Analysis
   (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 1991) → NAG
   ~ The following reading will be on reserve in the library:
Requirements of the Course:
(1) punctual, participatory attendance to every class session;
(2) completion of all homework/reading assignments;
(3) competent midterm and final exams on the assigned textbooks and classroom material, demonstrating course objectives (1) through (4).

Course Outline:
The course will progress through various biblical Hebrew texts, time being taken for both reading and literary analysis. A portion of the class time will also be given to working through a discourse grammar—in addition to being better equipped to understand how the Hebrew language functions, this aspect of the class will also ensure retention of the previous gains by students in Hebrew (in vocabulary, syntax, etc.).

*Please note: The homework and reading is due on the assigned date.*

**Reading Schedule**

~ Historical Narrative Genre ~

FEB 8: Course Introduction; BHS reading: Gen 1.1-2.3

FEB 15: LBH, chs 1-3; BHS reading: Gen 11.1-9 (Read: NAG, 11-45)

FEB 22: LBH, chs 4-6; BHS reading: Gen 11.1-9 (Read: BTT, 34-39)

MARCH 1: LBH, chs 7-9; BHS reading: Gen 28.10-22 (Read: NAG, 46-81)

MARCH 8: LBH, chs 10-12; BHS reading: Gen 28.10-22 (Read: BTT, 40-62)

~ Direct Speech Genre ~

MARCH 15: LBH, chs 13-15 (+ pp. 279-287); BHS reading: Genesis 22.1-19

MARCH 22: LBH, chs 16-17 (+ pp. 287-298); BHS reading: Genesis 22.1-19

MARCH 29: ~ SPRING BREAK ~

APRIL 5: Midterm

APRIL 12: LBH, chs 18-19; BHS reading: (to be determined by class—Esther or Ruth)

APRIL 19: LBH, chs 20-22; BHS reading:

APRIL 26: LBH, chs 22-23; BHS reading:

MAY 3: LBH, chs 24-25; BHS reading:

MAY 10: LBH, chs 26; BHS reading:
Evaluation:
On-time reading/homework/quizzes: 20%
Midterm exam: 40%
Final exam: 40%

Grading scale for Reformed Theological Seminary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-96</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>78-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>91-93</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>75-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>88-90</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>72-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>86-87</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>70-71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Calendar - 2013

- **February 5**: Classes begin
- **February 19**: Last day to add a class
- **March 12**: Last day to drop a class
- **March 25-29**: Spring Break
- **May 5**: Classes begin
- **May 15**: Last day of spring semester classes
- **May 17**: Term paper deadline (11:00 a.m.)
- **May 20-23**: Examination period
- **May 24**: Graduation

Bibliography

# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Scripture</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sanctification</strong></th>
<th><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></th>
<th><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></th>
<th><strong>Preach</strong></th>
<th><strong>Worship</strong></th>
<th><strong>Shepherd</strong></th>
<th><strong>Church/World</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>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>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<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>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</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>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Course assignments and exams will aim at demonstrating a proper handling of the biblical text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The course is hermeneutically geared, concerned with understanding/interpreting rightly Hebrew narrative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>While the Hebrew scriptures are studied in class, with a spirit of submission to the authoritative Word of God, Reformed theology per se is not an emphasis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Class lectures, involving prayerful engagement with the biblical text, will regularly include exhortation to piety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>There will be more effort in this particular class to enter into the Hebraic worldview than to bridge the text into our own culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>It is hoped that this aspect will characterize the engagement of the entire course—though this feature is more implicit than explicit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>In class engagement with the text, aimed at reading/understanding/interpreting rightly, naturally lends itself to better preaching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Other than a reverent attitude to God’s Word, along with increased exegetical ability, both necessary for preaching, this course does not address worship directly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Because proper handling of the Word is the chief tool, along with prayer, for shepherding, this course should have a derivative benefit to shepherding.</td>
</tr>
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