

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Atlanta

COURSE SYLLABUS
Isaiah-Malachi 04OT516
3 credits

Summer Semester, 2018
June 18-22, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove, Ph.D.

Contact Information:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the Prophetic literature of the Old Testament, with special attention on the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus Christ.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Comprehension:

1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible of the books Isaiah-Malachi.
2. To increase your understanding of the message(s) of the books Isaiah-Malachi, both separately and together.

Competence:

1. To sharpen your ability to understand and interpret Hebrew prophets.
2. To sharpen your ability to interpret the books Isaiah-Malachi in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
3. To sharpen your ability to teach and preach the books Isaiah-Malachi 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 Isaiah-Malachi 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 Isaiah-Malachi in two English translations of the student's choice.
- *He Gave Us Prophets*, Video Series released by Third Millennium Ministries (<http://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/hgp>) (HGUP)
- Robert B. Chisolm, *Handbook on the Prophets* (CH)
- Dillard and Longman, *Introduction to the Old Testament* (DL) – ch. 20-36
- VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word* (VG) – ch. 10-13, 22
- M. VanPelt (ed.), *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised* (BTIOT) – portions
- Richard Pratt, “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions” (avail. by .pdf)

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.

Reading and Viewing: Students should complete the following readings and viewing **before** the beginning of class:

- Biblical books of Isaiah-Malachi in two English translations of the student's choice.
- *He Gave Us Prophets*, Video Series released by Third Millennium Ministries (<http://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/hgp>), lessons 1-6 – 4 hours (Note: “forums” are helpful but optional.)
- Other viewing (posted on Canvas)
 - The Non-Writing Prophets – 27 minutes
 - Geography – 33 minutes
 - Weather, Agriculture and the Prophets – 39 minutes
 - Primer on Reading Hebrew Poetry (for students who have not yet taken OT512: Poets) – 45 minutes
- Richard Pratt, “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions” (avail. by .pdf on canvas)

The remainder of the reading may be completed after class if necessary, though – as in any intensive – it is preferred that all readings be completed before class. If possible, read the biblical text, then the relevant secondary literature book-by-book through the books covered in this class.

Final Exam: A final exam will be posted to Canvas on the last day of the course. Students will have 3 hours to take the exam. It will be open book and focused on applying the principles taught in the class to specific texts from the biblical books studied in this course. More details will be given on the last day of class.

The final exam will be **due July 6, 2018 at 5:00 PM via Canvas**. Please include your name as part of the file name.

Paper: Students must submit a full research paper formatted in accordance with RTS guidelines and including a full bibliography. Students are also encouraged to integrate material from other classes into this paper as appropriate. Students may choose one of two options:

- Exegetical Paper – Students may write an exegetical paper on Isaiah 38:1-8. This paper should explain the meaning and significance of this section within the book of Isaiah, within the Scriptures as a whole, and within the church today. This exegetical paper should include a Hebrew text with text critical notes, a translation with grammatical and lexical notes, and the paper itself.
- Topical Paper – Students may write a topical paper on one of the major problems of interpretation in the prophets (i.e.: the authorship of Isaiah, the expectation of Ezekiel's temple, the marriage of Hosea and Gomer, the date of the book of Joel, etc.) Selections require the approval of the professor by June 22.

This paper will be **due August 3, 2018 at 5:00 PM**. Papers should be submitted as a .pdf via Canvas. Please include your name as part of the file name.

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:

Final Exam: 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)

OFFICE HOURS:

In a one-week class, office hours are, of necessity, before and after class and on the lunch breaks.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

NOTE: The course schedule is ALWAYS subject to revision based on the needs of the class.

Monday (Hermeneutical Perspectives)

- The Role of a Prophet
- Covenants and the Prophets
- History and the Prophets
- Purpose of Prophetic Oracles
- Literary Analysis and the Prophets
- How Prophecy is Fulfilled, First and Second Readings Questions

Tuesday (Hermeneutical Perspectives – cont.; Assyrian Judgment Prophets)

- Read evening before: 2 Sam 11-12; 1 Kings 1-2 Kings 20
- Early Monarchy Prophets
- Amos
- Jonah
- Hosea

Wednesday (Assyrian Judgment Prophets - cont.; Babylonian Judgment Prophets)

- Read evening before: 2 Kings 21-23:30
- Micah
- Isaiah
- Nahum
- Zephaniah

Thursday (Babylonian Judgment Prophets – cont.; Exilic Prophets)

- Read evening before: 2 Kings 23:31-25:30
- Jeremiah
- Joel
- Obadiah
- Habakkuk
- Ezekiel

Friday (Exilic Prophets – cont; Post-Exilic Prophets)

- Read evening before: Ezra-Nehemiah
- Daniel
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<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"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Quizzes, Paper
Scripture	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, Readings
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Medium/Strong	Reformed Approach to Inspiration, Eternal Decree, and Providence essential to understanding prophets
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 applications for preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Study of the Word of God should move believers to worship
Shepherd	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.	Minimal	Discussion as applicable
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Discussion as applicable