

Reformed Theological Seminary
02NT5350 • Hebrews to Revelation
Course Syllabus • Fall 2022 • RTS-Orlando

1. Course Details

- 3 credit hours
- Monday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (August 29 – December 5)
- Description: “An introduction to the General Epistles and Revelation that includes the history, setting, theme, purpose, and message of each book” (*RTS Catalog 2021–2023*, p. 71).

2. Instructor Information

- Zachary J. Cole, Ph.D., Associate Professor of New Testament, RTS-O
- E-mail: zcole@rts.edu
- Office: Orlando Campus #3-214
- Office phone: 407-278-8167
- Office hours: e-mail to arrange an appointment

3. Course Objectives

- To understand the background, content, message, and redemptive-historical significance of Hebrews through Revelation.
- To understand and evaluate scholarly contributions to the study of Hebrews through Revelation.
- To consolidate and deepen skills related to biblical interpretation.

4. Bibliography (Required Textbooks)

- Richard Bauckham, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*, New Testament Theology (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993).
- Peter H. Davids, *A Theology of James, Peter, and Jude: Living in the Light of the Coming King* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014).
- Michael J. Kruger, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016), pages 411–554.
- Geerhardus Vos, *The Teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1956).
- Hebrews through Revelation in an English Bible

5. Course Requirements

- There are four requirements: book outlines, a thematic research paper, a final exam, and a reading affirmation. To pass the course, students must complete all four items.
- **Book outlines (25%):** Create a descriptive **outline** of four of the books

covered in this course (including Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, Jude, and/or Revelation, but excluding 2–3 John). The operative word is “descriptive”: outlines must contain full, carefully-worded summaries of the biblical material, complete with chapter/verse references. Also include a **paragraph** of 150-250 words that summarizes the content and message of that book. There is no need to use secondary sources unless you choose to do so. In terms of length, an outline of Hebrews should be about three pages; an outline of James should be about one page. These outlines will be submitted incrementally throughout the semester (see schedule and grading criteria below).

- **Thematic research paper (35%):** Students will write a 2,500-word paper on the contribution of one book (Heb–Rev) to one topic in Christian theology. Students must engage with scholarly resources including commentaries, monographs, and journal articles. See grading criteria below. DUE DATE: December 7, 2022 @ 11:00 AM. Some possible options include, but are not limited to the following (though you should consult with the professor):
 - Pneumatology of Hebrews; or bibliology of Hebrews
 - Christology of James; or the use of the law in James
 - Atonement in 1 Peter; or suffering in 1 Peter
 - Eschatology of 2 Peter; or apostasy in 2 Peter
 - Hamartiology of 1 John; or the atonement in 1 John
 - Theology proper of Jude; or discipleship in Jude
 - Discipleship in Revelation; or idolatry in Revelation
- **Final exam (35%):** The final exam will be in Canvas and will cover the lecture material and biblical content (not the textbook readings). It is 2 hours in duration. DUE DATE: December 13, 2022 @ 11:59 PM.
- **Reading affirmation (5%):** Students must confirm whether or not they have read all of the assigned reading, including the relevant Biblical books. No partial credit.

6. Course Requirement Summary

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|---------------------------|-----|
| • Book outlines | 25% |
| • Thematic research paper | 35% |
| • Final exam | 35% |
| • Reading affirmation | 5% |

7. Grading System

A	(97-100)	4.00
A-	(94-96)	3.66
B+	(91-93)	3.33
B	(88-90)	3.00

B-	(86-87)	2.66
C+	(83-85)	2.33
C	(80-82)	2.00
C-	(78-79)	1.66
D+	(75-77)	1.33
D	(72-74)	1.00
D-	(70-71)	0.66
F	(below 70)	0.00
I	(incomplete)	-
W	(withdraw)	-
S	(satisfactory)	-
P	(passing)	-

8. Other Information

- Attendance is mandatory. Students must notify the instructor in writing regarding any expected absence.
- Technology: in class, students are permitted use laptops and/or tablets, provided they do not prove disruptive, distracting, or detrimental to learning. The professor reserves the right to ban them.

9. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment Due (all on Thursdays @ 11:59 PM)
Aug 29	Hebrews	
Sep 5	<i>No class: Labor Day</i>	
Sep 12	Hebrews	
Sep 19	Hebrews	Hebrews outline (Sep 22)
Sep 26	James	
Oct 3	James	James outline (Oct 6)
Oct 10	<i>No class: reading week</i>	
Oct 17	1 Peter	
Oct 24	1 Peter	1 Peter outline (Oct 27)
Oct 31	2 Peter	2 Peter outline (Nov 3)
Nov 7	1 John and Jude	1 John outline (Nov 10)
Nov 14	<i>No class</i>	Jude outline (Nov 17)
Nov 21	Revelation	
Nov 28	Revelation	Revelation outline (Dec 1)
Dec 5	Revelation	

10. Grading Criteria

Grading Criteria for the descriptive book outlines	
Criteria	Comment
Format and Style: the student writes in clear and correct English prose.	
Description: the student includes full and descriptive summaries for each section of the book. ¹	
Arrangement: the student presents a clear outline of the book that aids comprehension and memory, and includes all relevant chapter and verse numbers.	
Summary: the student includes a paragraph of roughly 150-250 words summarizing the contents and message of the book.	
Integrity: the student conducts their study and writing with academic integrity, honesty, and Christian charity.	

Grading Criteria for thematic research paper	
Criteria	Comment
Format and Style: the student abides by the style guide, word limit, and writes in clear and correct English prose.	
Argument: the student argues a clearly articulated thesis and provides supporting evidence.	
Synthesis: the student demonstrates the ability to synthesize evidence regarding one key theme.	
Research: the student engages carefully with relevant and recent academic resources.	
Significance: the student explains clearly and accurately how their chosen book contributes something distinctive about the particular theological topic under investigation.	
Integrity: the student conducts their study and writing with academic integrity, honesty, and Christian charity.	

¹ For example, the description of Hebrews 7:1–10 as “Melchizedek” is bad. The description “Melchizedek: A Priest-King greater than Moses and Aaron,” is good.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Hebrews – Revelation (NT5350)

Professor: Zachary Cole

Campus: Orlando

Date: Fall 2022

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <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> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	The outlines, research paper, and exam require students to understand and articulate essential biblical and theological knowledge.
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	The course content and assignments focus directly on the original meaning of Scripture.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Traditional categories of Reformed theology are discussed in class and engaged in the paper and exam.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Direct engagement with Scripture (Heb–Rev) allows students to encounter God in his self-revelation.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	In lectures, students will be pushed to apply their reading to relevant issues in the contemporary world.
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.)	Minimal	Non-Reformed positions are discussed accurately and charitably.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Minimal	Instructor will frequently push students to consider how course content can be applied in pastoral ministry