
ISAIAH-MALACHI RTS-J

OT5350 FALL 2022

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Class meets each Tuesdays, 1pm-4pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION (According to the RTS Catalogue)

An expository study of the message and times of the prophets that emphasizes the themes day of the Lord, judgment, restoration, promise and fulfillment, Messiah, kingdom, and the new people of God.

COURSE PROTOCOLS

1. *Grading Schedule.* The letter grading scale for this course is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

97-100%	A	80-82%	C
94-96%	A-	78-79%	C-
91-93%	B+	75-77%	D+
88-90%	B	72-74%	D
86-87%	B-	70-71%	D-
83-85%	C+	0-69%	F

2. *Attendance and Late Assignments.* **Attendance is required.** If class is not attended, the student's final grade will be docked. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.
3. *Special Needs.* In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.
4. *Disclaimer.* This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbooks (in addition to a standard English Bible)

J. Daniel Hays, *The Message of the Prophets: A Survey of the Prophetic and Apocalyptic Books of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2010.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Prophets*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2008.

Van Pelt, Miles V., ed. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.

Assignments

1. Read all Biblical books in English and all the textbooks. These readings constitute **15%** of the term grade. There will be a reading report section on the final exam where the student will indicate the percentage completed. (The student is encouraged to begin these readings as soon as possible. **No Audio versions are permissible.**)
2. Hebrew students will be responsible for weekly translations and parsing (see schedule below).¹ Non-Hebrew students will write two three-page critical reviews (i.e., not a mere book report), one for Hays and one for Robertson. Be sure not to *only* summarize the book's content (though you need to do that). Critically *engage* with it: What were its strengths and weaknesses? Were there any interpretations or ideas that were not compelling, or questionable theologically or on some other grounds? Did Robertson show the reader Christ from the prophets in a compelling way? Why or why not? What did the author do really well? Not so well? What do you think the major contribution of the book is? Did the books accomplish their stated goal? Notice that these questions are geared primarily toward an objective assessment (as much as that is possible), not simply your subjective opinion. These are just some questions to prompt your thinking. You may ask and answer others. This will constitute **15%** of the term grade. This assignment is **due November 29**.

Aug. 30	Translation 1
Sept. 6	Translation 2
13	Translation 3
20	Translation 4
27	Translation 5
Oct. 4	Translation 6 (Reading week: scan and email trans. to TA)
11	Translation 7
18	Translation 8

¹ There will also be a mandatory reading (i.e., aloud) component to the translation exercises. I will discuss this on the first day of class.

Oct. 25	Translation 9
Nov. 1	Translation 10
15	Translation 11 (NO CLASS: Dr. Smith at ETS; email trans. to TA)
22	Translation 12
29	Translation 13

- Students will create 4 one page, 10-point font, single spaced, précis on various topics in the Prophets. Three of these must be on: 1) the authorship of Isaiah; and 2) the Messiah in the Prophets; 3) the structure and message of Daniel *and* Lamentations. The other two are left to the discretion and interests of the student. The goal of these is to have a concise, data-packed, thorough, summary on important aspects of the Prophets. These are meant to serve you beyond RTS as you teach and preach on the Prophets. They will also help you cultivate the skill of concision in writing. For full credit, please include a bibliography on a separate page for each précis. **Each is worth 5% of your grade, for a total of 20% of the term grade.** These are **due November 15**. I will discuss this assignment in more detail in class, and give you an example to guide you.

Examinations

- Quizzes on Van Pelt chapters (**10%** of the term grade):
 - Isaiah—Sept. 6
 - Jeremiah—Sept. 20
 - Lamentations—Oct. 4
 - Ezekiel—Oct. 18
 - Daniel—Nov. 8
 - The Twelve—Nov. 22
 - You will have 15 minutes to take these quizzes in class.
 - Mid-Term Exam **on October 18** – Lectures (**20%** of the term grade)
 - Final Exam (date determined by RTS) – Lectures and Reading (**20%** of the term grade)
- *Both exams are open note, take home, exams. I'll discuss these more in class.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Isaiah-Malachi (OT 5350)
 Professor: Dr. Stephen J. Smith
 Campus: RTS-Jackson
 Date: Fall 2022

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</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> <small>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</small>		<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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Significant academic paper stresses clear writing, cogent thought, and concision.
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	1. Significant exegetical work 2. Original languages used in assignments and paper, and 3. Emphasis in seeing and understanding the books in the light of the whole Bible.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Classically reformed approaches are brought to bear in the consideration of the texts
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	1. Study of the text is part of sanctification 2. Exegetical work ends in application
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.	Moderate	Applications to the different areas of life made from the biblical texts
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.)	Strong	Courteous, careful interaction with other scholarship is a part of the lectures, assigned reading, and writing

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.	Moderate	The course focuses on bringing understanding of the text to the point where homiletical work can continue; biblical knowledge and hermeneutical skill is vital in the area of church life
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