

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – WASHINGTON, D. C. CAMPUS

Course Syllabus

Joshua to Esther 6OT5250

Instructor: Peter Y. Lee
Associate Professor of Old Testament

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Professor reserves the right to adjust course requirements as the class approaches

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This overview of the literature, history and themes of Judges through Esther gives particular attention to the relevance of these books for the church and world today.
- **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
 - Comprehension:
 1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible from Judges to Esther.
 2. To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Judges to Esther.
 3. To increase your knowledge of the history of Israel from the period of the Judges to the post-exilic community.
 - Competence:
 1. To sharpen your ability to interpret Judges to Esther in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
 2. To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Judges to Esther in your own life and in the life of the local church.
 - Character:
 1. To be a person of growing faith.
 2. To be a person of increasing hope.
 3. To be a person of deepening love.
- **REQUIRED READINGS:**
 - Miles V. Van Pelt, editor. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: Gospel Promised*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016.
 - Eugene Merrill. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987

- Iain Provan, V. Philips Long, Tremper Longman. *A Biblical History of Israel*. London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
- Victor P. Hamilton. *Handbook on the Historical Books*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Barry J. Beitzel. *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985. Selections.
- A collection of additional essays and articles will be assigned on the first day of class.

- **REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Attendance:** You are required to attend each class. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, notify me in advance.
- **Reading Report:** This will be discussed on the first day of class
- **Term Paper:** This will be discussed on the first day of class
- **Hebrew Quizzes OR Short Historical Redemptive responses:** This will be discussed on the first day of class
- **Exam:** There will be a FINAL EXAM. The exam will cover materials from the class lectures and required readings. The Final Exam will be taken on the last day of class
- *Due Dates of Assignments:* Dates will be discussed on the first day of class

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade: A (97-100), A- (94-96), B+ (91-93), B (88-90), B- (86-87), C+ (83-85), C (80-82), C- (78-79), D+ (75-77), D (72-74), D- (70-71), F (below 70).

- **OFFICE HOURS:**

- I meet with students by appointment. Contact me if you would need to meet. I'd love to get together with you to discuss Scripture, theology, ministry, and life.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Joshua to Esther
 Professor: Peter Y. Lee
 Campus: Washington, D. C.
 Date: Dec. 12, 2019

<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	Understanding through lectures and reading, articulation through essay exams and a research 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	Focus in the class is on understanding the original meaning, with some emphasis on language and more on hermeneutics, with the goal of understanding modern meaning
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	The class has a good dose of Reformed distinctives, such as the emphasis on covenants, historiography, and kingship.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	One conscious goal is to see students benefit personally in their faith from their understanding of the historical books
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	Several issues in class deal directly with world view, especially the materials on the total kingship of God.
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	Differing views of issues are set forth in an objective, fair, and winsome way.
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	There is an emphasis on how to preach/teach different segments of the course, but no hands-on experience.