

ON5100 Hermeneutics

ver. 032023a

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RTS-Atlanta

Summer 2023

Course Description

Emphasis will be placed upon the relationship between the OT and the NT. Background hermeneutical issues will also be covered, including the role of the interpreter, the use of creeds and confessions in interpretation, and the relationship between original meaning and modern meaning. The course will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion formats.

Class Schedule

The class meets July 24-28, 2022, 8am-5pm Monday thru Thursday, 8:00am – 4:00pm on Friday. We will take a one hour break each day for lunch and take breaks every hour.

Student Evaluation

- Final exam (worth 40% of final grade)
- Reading briefs (worth 40% of final grade) – you must write six one-page, single-spaced, analytical briefs on assigned readings (Tabb and Hamilton readings; see lecture schedule below, nos. 12-17) and have them completed before class discussions. Please follow these instructions
 - Tabb readings: your brief should consist of analysis, not description. Spend approximately one third of the page identifying positive aspects of the view, a third engaging negative aspects of the view, and then a third arguing why the view is or is not viable.
 - Hamilton reading: your brief should reflect upon the arguments made in the readings. Are the arguments sound, biblical, and persuasive?
- Completion of all required reading (worth 10% of final grade). It is ideal if you have assigned readings completed before each day's lectures, though this is not required. The only exception to this rule is discussion reading texts (Porter and Yarbrough).
- Participation (worth 10% of final grade)

Academic Policies

Class academic policies are those that are outlined in the latest edition of the RTS Course Catalog (grading scale, class attendance policy, conduct, and examination policies).

Recording of Class Lectures

You are not permitted to record class lectures.

Obtaining Class Lecture Notes in event of an absence

You are responsible for obtaining lecture notes in the event of your absence from a fellow student. *The professor will not provide lecture notes.*

Zoom Policy

Note the following Zoom policy from RTS-Atlanta:

“Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor’s discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.”

Failure to turn in required materials

In the event that you fail to turn in required assignments, you will receive the grade of an “F.” Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the professor only in the event of severe extenuating circumstances such as significant illness or a death in the family. Late assignments will be penalized one full letter grade per calendar day (e.g., A becomes a B).

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.

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.

Required Textbooks

* = available as a PDF on Canvas

Holy Bible (any version)

Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011). ISBN 978-0801026973

Carter, Craig A. *Contemplating God with the Great Tradition: Recovering Trinitarian Classical Theism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021). ISBN 978-1540963307

Hamilton, James H. *Typology: Understanding the Bible's Promise-Shaped Patterns* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2022). ISBN 978-0310534402

Tabb, Brian J. and Andrew M. King, *Five Views of Christ in the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2022). ISBN: 978-0310125518

* Steinmetz, David C. "The Superiority of Pre-Critical Exegesis," *Theology Today* 37/1 (1980): 27-38.

* Trueman, Carl R. "Reforming God?" *Reformed Faith & Practice* 4:2 (2019): 57-72.

Westminster Standards (preferably w/ scriptural prooftexts). Note, WCF = Westminster Confession of Faith, WLC = Larger Catechism, WSC = Shorter Catechism

Lecture Schedule

Note, this is an approximate schedule. The professor may modify the schedule as needed.

24 JUL MON		
HISTORY		
01 Introduction	8 – 10am	WCF I; WSC qq. 2-3; WLC qq. 3-5
02 History of Interpretation	10 – 11am	
03 History of Interpretation	11 – 12pm	
04 History of Interpretation	1 – 2pm	
05 History of Interpretation	2 – 3pm	
06 Principles of Hermeneutics	3 – 5pm	Beale, 1-184; WCF VII; WSC, qq. 12, 20; WLC qq. 20, 30-35
25 JUL TUES		
INTERPRETATION		
07 Principles of Hermeneutics	8 – 10 am	
08 Structure of the Canon	10 – 11 am	
09 Structure of the Canon	11 – 12pm	
10 Structure of the Canon	1 – 2pm	
11 Structure of the Canon	2 – 3pm	
12 Discussion: First Testament	3 – 5pm	Tabb, 21-72; Brief no. 1 due

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Approach		
26 JUL WEDS		
13 Discussion: Christotelic Approach	8 – 10am	Tabb, 73-126; Brief no. 2 due
14 Discussion: Reception-Centered Approach	10 – 11am	Tabb, 127-80; Brief no. 3 due
15 Discussion: Redemptive Historical Approach	11 – 12pm	Tabb, 181-238; Brief no. 4 due
16 Discussion: Premodern Approach	1 – 2pm	Tabb, 239-92; Brief no. 5 due
17 Typology	2 – 3pm	Hamilton, 1-222; Brief no. 6 due
18 Typology	3 – 5pm	
27 JUL THURS		
19 Wisdom	8 – 10am	
CREED		
20 Wisdom	10-11am	
21 Narrative	11 – 12pm	
22 Apocalyptic	1 – 2pm	
23 Doctrine of God	2 – 3pm	Carter, <i>Contemplating God</i> , all; Steinmetz, “Superiority of Pre-Critical Exegesis”; Trueman, “Reforming God?”
CONFESSION		
24 Doctrine of God	3 – 5pm	
28 JUL FRI		
25 Doctrine of God	8 – 10am	
26 Genesis 1:26	10 – 11am	
27 Genesis 2:16-17	11 – 12pm	
28 Hosea 6:7	1 – 2pm	
29 Romans 5:12-21	2 – 4pm	

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ON5100 Hermeneutics

Professor: Fesko

Campus: Atlanta

Date: 24-28 June 2023

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	These elements are necessary for biblical interpretation
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	These elements are necessary for biblical interpretation
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The Standards summarize the biblical and doctrinal framework of interpretation
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Biblical interpretation is a moral and ethical task that requires sanctification.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Biblical interpretation is about, among other things, personal transformation.
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	An aim of biblical interpretation is to share the truth of the gospel with others.
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-Xns.	Strong	An aim of biblical interpretation is to share the truth of the gospel with others.