

**EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS:  
GREEK TEXT TO MODERN MEANING  
NT6361**

**Mini-Syllabus  
Fall 2023  
RTS Dallas**

**Note:** This syllabus is the “mini-syllabus” and is not to be confused w/ the large syllabus that contains all the class-lecture notes, biblio, various articles, Cara’s commentary, etc. This large syllabus will be posted on “Canvas” in late August and is needed for all the class lectures. For the first day of class, the student should be prepared w/ either a hard-copy of the class-lecture notes or have them downloaded to his laptop.

**Prerequisites:** At least Greek 1 and 2.

**Dates:**

First weekend classes: Sept 22–23 (Friday 6:00–9:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am–2:30 pm)  
Second weekend classes: Oct 27–28 (Friday 6:00–9:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am–2:30 pm)  
Third weekend classes: Nov 10–11 (Friday 6:00–9:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am–2:30 pm)  
Submittal date for final exam: Saturday, Dec 2 at 11:59 pm.

**Required Texts**

*Trinity Psalter.*

Cara, Robert J. “Covenant in Hebrews.” Pages 247–66 in *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020

Cara, Robert J. *Hebrews: A Mentor Commentary*. Ross-shire: Mentor, forthcoming. (PDF of commentary will be in Canvas.)

Crowe, Brandon D. “Son and Priest, Then and Now: Christology and Redemptive History in Hebrews in Light of the History of Interpretation.” *WTJ* 84 (2022): 19–38. (PDF will be in Canvas.)

Vos, Geerhardus. “The Priesthood of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews” and “The Priesthood of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews: Second Article.” *PTR* 5 (1907): 423–47, 579–604. (PDFs will be in Canvas.)

**Class Preparation Requirements**

Because of the intensive nature of the three weekends, the student must prepare ahead of time for these three weekends. Below are the requirements to be completed for the start of each weekend.

For translations, bring your mechanical translation and personal hand-written parsing/vocab notes/helps. (Cannot rely on a computer in class.) Must translate/parse/vocab for all texts per weekend to get credit for that weekend. Cara is not expecting perfection; do the best you can. The goal is to make *you* better at Greek, that is, there is no predetermined standard (e.g., as good

as Beale!) that the student is graded against.

For readings, must read all of them per weekend to get credit for that weekend.

*First Weekend:*

- \* Translate three Greek texts/pericopes: Heb 1:1–4; 2:1–9; and 3:1–6.
- \* Read (1) Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* for his exegesis of the three Greek texts, including the introductory section for each pericope; (2) Cara’s “Covenant” article; and (3) Heb 1:1–13:25 in English.

*Second Weekend:*

- \* Translate four Greek texts/pericopes: Heb 4:8–13; 5:1–10; 6:1–8; and 7:1–3, 26–28.
- \* Read (1) Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* for his exegesis of the four Greek texts, including the introductory section for each pericope; (2) Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* intro to Heb 3:7–4:13; (3) Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* intro to Heb 9:11–14; (4) Crowe’s “Son and Priest”; Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* “Melchizedek in Non-Canonical Literature” at the beginning of 7:1–28; (5) Vos’ “Priesthood” (First); and (6) Heb 1:1–13:25 in English.

*Third Weekend:*

- \* Translate four Greek texts/pericopes: Heb 8:7–13; 9:15–22; 11:1–2, 23–28; and 13:20–25.
- \* Read (1) Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* for his exegesis of the four Greek texts, including the introductory section for each pericope. (2) Vos’ “Priesthood” (Second) (3) Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* intro to Heb 11:1–40; (4) Cara’s *Hebrews Commentary* Introductory Matters; and (5) Heb 1:1–13:25 in English.

**Professor**

- \* Dr. Bob Cara (technically, Dr. Robert J. Cara or Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.).

**Class Participation**

- \* Attend class and participate (intelligently!) when called on. Lose points for not being in class and/or not participating.
- \* Bring and sing Psalter.

**Purpose of Course (Course Objectives)**

- \* The over arching purpose is to enable the student to better interpret / apply Hebrews for one's self, the church and the world.

- \* Secondary purposes:
  - \* Learn better the content of Hebrews.
  - \* Learn better the BT categories in Hebrews (e.g., Son, Priest, perfection) and hermeneutics in Hebrews (e.g., use of OT quotes, exemplary exegesis, typology).
  - \* Interact with major ST doctrines (e.g., covenant, inspiration, Christology, apostasy) that relate to Hebrews.
  - \* Think through preaching strategies.
  - \* Keep up with Greek.
- \* Course objectives as coordinated with MDiv Student Learning Outcomes are shown at the end of this document.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

- \* Class Preparation—Translations 37.5% of grade.
  - \* For assigned pericopes, translate and bring personal translation notes to class.
  - \* Each weekend's translations are 12.5% of grade. (Quality does not count!—just try.)
- \* Class Preparation—Readings 37.5 % of grade
  - \* For assigned pericopes, read Cara commentary sections and other assigned readings from Vos, Crowe, Cara, and the English Bible.
  - \* Each weekend's readings are 12.5% of grade.
- \* Final—25% of grade.
  - \* Based primarily on Lecture Review Questions from Cara lectures.
  - \* Will also include a few miscellaneous questions.
  - \* Smile, no paper!!!

### Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Hebrews: Greek Text to Modern Meaning, NT 6361

Professor: Dr. Robert J. Cara

Campus: Dallas

Date: Fall 2023

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b> <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>		<b>Rubric</b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Minimal	Class includes orally answering Cara questions. No major academic paper in this course.
<b>Scripture</b>	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	Course includes translating the Greek of many pericopes in Hebrews. Also includes analysis of theology of Hebrews and implications for modern church.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Historic RT commentaries will be discussed. Also the theological views of Creeds and RT relative to Hebrews is included.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	One goal of class is to see glories of Christ from Hebrews and its effect upon perseverance. Also, every class period will include exegeting and singing a psalm.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Course will look at modern critical trends relative to Hebrews and the presuppositions on which they are based.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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	Hopefully, the professor will model this in classroom instruction.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Part of class will include questions as to how to preach various pericopes.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Again, psalm singing for every class period.
<b>Shepherd</b>	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	The issues of perseverance and OT typology are both important pastorally.

<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	
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