

02OT5500/01 Old Testament Foundations

RTS-O

FALL 2023

J. Nicholas Reid, D.Phil.

Class meets WEDNESDAY mornings 8am-11am.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (According to the RTS Catalogue)

Prerequisite: Admission to RTS Orlando's MA in Counseling degree program This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible). In this course, the Old Testament will be approached from a canonical, covenantal, redemptive-historical, and Christ-centered perspective with sensitivity to the original historical and literary context out of which it arose. This approach should provide students with the ability to contextualize the course material in a variety of personal and vocational contexts, but special attention will be given to the role of the Old Testament in Christian counseling.

COURSE OUTCOME GOALS:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Explain with confidence the nature, design, and message of the Old Testament from a reformed, covenantal perspective.
2. Understand the basic contribution of each individual book in the Old Testament.
3. Understand and interact with some of the basic challenges related to the interpretation and application of the Old Testament to the Christian life, especially Christian Counseling.
4. Be familiar with quality, secondary sources that may be used in subsequent research.

This course will meet the following CACREP standards:

1. **Critiquing Research** - The importance of research in advancing the counseling profession, including how to critique research to inform counseling practice (2.F.8.a)
2. **Evidence-based practices** - Identification of evidence-based counseling practices (2.F.8.b)

3. **Data Interpretation** - Gathering and interpreting data about the need for programs and services (2.F.8.c)
4. **Outcome Measures** - Development of outcome measures for counseling programs (2.F.8.d)
5. **Evaluation of Counseling** - Evaluation of counseling interventions and programs (2.F.8.e)
6. **Research Methods** - Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methods (2.F.8.f)
7. **Research Design** - Designs used in research and program evaluation (2.F.8.g)
8. **Review of Statistics** - Statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation (2.F.8.h)
9. **Data Analysis** - Analysis and use of data in counseling (2.F.8.i)
10. **Ethics in Research** - Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for conducting, interpreting, and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation (2.F.8.j)

COURSE DETAILS

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

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) –

2. *Attendance and Late Assignments.* **Attendance and prepared participation are required.** If class is not attended, the student's final grade will be affected. Late assignments are reduced one letter grade per day. Students are expected to participate in all components of the class and will be evaluated on quantity and quality of discussion. Students must come to class prepared (e.g., having read the assigned reading).

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.

5. No portion of the lecture may be placed on social media or recorded without prior permission from the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbooks

Required:

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

Recommended Resources:

Currid, John D. and David P. Barrett. *ESV Bible Atlas.* Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.

Hill, Andrew E. and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament, 3rd edition.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2009.

2023 Fall Semester

June 15 — Registration opens through Self-Service

August 22 — Orientation

August 23 — Classes begin

September 4 – Labor Day holiday

September 6 — Last day to add a class

September 27 — Last day to drop a class

October 9-13 — Reading week

November 22-24 – Thanksgiving holidays

December 4 — Last day of fall semester classes

December 6 — Term paper deadline (11:00 a.m.)

December 7-12— Examination period (Dec. 7, 8, 11 & 12)

December 13-January 1 — Christmas holidays

Assignments

1. **Biblical Reading:** Students will read the entire Old Testament in a standard Bible translation. **20%** of final grade.

2. Secondary Literature Reading: Students will read *A Biblical Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*. **20%** of final grade.

3. Research Paper. The student will select one passage from the Old Testament on which to write a paper (8-10 pages double-spaced). The selected passage will require the approval of the professor. The student is to appropriately research and interpret the passage, discussing the message and meaning in the context of the scriptures. Then he/she will apply that passage to a particular counseling case(s). Complete confidentiality must be maintained, simply speak in general terms. The goal of this paper is to help the student move from the principles of scripture to particular application in counselling. This portion of the course constitutes **20%** of the course grade.

4. Midterm Project: Students will present in groups on the topics: Covenant, Kingdom, Center of the OT, and OT Canon. **20%** of the final grade.

5. Exam: There will be a final exam. **20%** of the final grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Week 1 – Introduction and Syllabus

Week 2 – Law, Prophets, Writings: Canonical Structure of the Old Testament

Week 3 – Genesis

Week 4 – Exodus through Deuteronomy

Week 5 – Joshua and Judges

Week 6 – Samuel and Kings

Week 7 – Major Prophets

Week 8 – Major Prophets

Week 9 – Major Prophets

Week 10 – Minor Prophets

Week 11 – Minor Prophets

Week 12 – The Writings: Part 1

Week 13 – The Writings: Part 2

Final Exam (TBD)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Old Testament Foundations (02OT5500/01) Professor: Dr. J. Nicholas Reid

Campus: Orlando

Date: Spring 2022

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<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>		<p>➤ Strong</p> <p>➤ Moderate</p> <p>➤ Minimal</p> <p>➤ None</p>	
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	Students will synthesize and articulate information in the form of class discussions, final papers, and two exams.
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	This course stressed the organization and teaching of all of Scripture, especially the OT, and Scripture's implications for ministry.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Introduction to the shape of Reformed theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Sustained focus on the sanctifying and therapeutic significance of Bible study.
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.	Strong	Stresses the biblical framework for thinking about therapeutic practice in theological categories.
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.)	Moderate	Focus on the wider catholic heritage and also the Reformed distinctives that mark approach to biblical studies.
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.		