

Reformed Theological Seminary
02NT6125 • Text and Canon
Course Syllabus • Spring 2024 • RTS-Orlando

1. Course Details

- 2 credit hours
- Mondays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (February 5 – May 6, 2024)
- Description: A study of the text and canon of scripture, focusing critically on seminal writings from antiquity and on contemporary research.

2. Instructor Information

- Zachary J. Cole, Ph.D., Associate Professor of New Testament, RTS-O
- E-mail: zcole@rts.edu
- Office: Orlando Campus #3-214
- Office phone: 407-278-8167
- Office hours: e-mail to arrange an appointment

3. Course Objectives

- To appreciate the particular manner in which God has preserved his Word.
- To understand the prominent issues related to the text of the New Testament, its transmission, corruption, and restoration.
- To gain proficiency in consulting, reading, and understanding New Testament manuscripts for the purposes of exegesis, spiritual growth, and ministry.
- To communicate with others effectively about the reliability of the New Testament text.

4. Bibliography

- Elijah Hixson and Peter J. Gurry, eds., *Myths and Mistakes in New Testament Textual Criticism* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019). [ISBN 978-0830852574] **Read all.**
- Gregory R. Lanier, *How We Got the Bible: Old and New Testament Canon and Text* (Christian Pocket Guides; Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2018). [ISBN 978-1527102682] **Read all.**
- **Supplementary essays/chapters** will be provided and must be read according to the schedule posted on Canvas.

5. Course Requirements

- **Reading of assigned materials (10%):** All materials should be read according to the schedule provided on Canvas. Students will be asked to indicate a percentage of total completion in Canvas.
- **Participation (45%):** This course will take the form of weekly two-hour seminars in which all students will contribute actively to discussion. To

participate well, students must read the assigned materials before class (or listen/watch the relevant videos), engage in quality discussion about them, and complete any assignments. Students will be assessed based on the following considerations:

- Consistent attendance
 - Preparation prior to class
 - Active, thoughtful contributions to class discussion
 - Charity in interacting with peers, professors, and scholars
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- **Research paper (45%):** Students will write an academic research paper on an issue related to any topic covered in the reading or class discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss possible topics with the professor. The paper must be at least 3,000 words but no more than 4,000 words, including footnotes. *In addition*, students must take their research paper and summarize it into a 500-word writeup (as an appendix) that could be used with educated laypersons in church (think: blog post). Papers will be assessed based on the following considerations:
 - *Argument:* Is the paper arguing a clear, coherent thesis throughout?
 - *Scholarship:* Has the paper handled the biblical text and other evidence responsibly? Has the paper made careful and discerning use of secondary sources?
 - *Quality:* Is the paper well-structured, logical, and cohesive? Is it clear and easy to read?
 - *Style:* Does it meet the required guidelines? Are footnotes/ bibliography composed correctly?

6. Course Requirement Summary

- Participation 45%
- Research paper 45%
- Reading affirmation 10%

7. Grading System

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)	-

8. Other Information

- A detailed course schedule will be provided in Canvas.
- Students are permitted to use laptops or tablets in class. Phones must be turned on silent mode. You are expected to make use of technology in a way that honors Christ and respects your brothers/sisters sitting near you.

9. Class Schedule

A detailed reading schedule will be provided.

January 30	Orientation
January 31	Classes begin
February 14	Last day to add a class
March 6	Last day to drop a class
March 18-22	Spring Break
May 7	Last day of spring semester classes
May 10	Term paper deadline (11:00 a.m.)
May 13-16	Examination period
May 17	Graduation

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Text and Canon (NT6125)

Professor: Zachary Cole

Campus: Orlando

Date: Spring 2024

<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> ➤ 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	The seminar format requires consistent, substantive, and charitable verbal interaction; the essay requires skills in written articulation.
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	The course content develops knowledge and skills related to the New Testament text.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	None	
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	None	
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	Students will be pushed to apply their reading to relevant issues in the contemporary world.
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	Students will be required to engage charitably with the viewpoints of non-believers as well as believers who disagree.
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	Students will be pushed to consider how text-critical issues should be handled pastorally and apologetically.