

Joshua to Esther

01OT5250 – Spring 2026
Mondays, 8:00 AM to 11 AM

Reformed Theological Seminary
Jackson, Mississippi
Miles V. Van Pelt, Ph.D.

Course Description

This course is an exegetical, biblical theological, and expositional study of Joshua to Esther (Vulgate/English Bible order) with the presupposition that these books of the Bible are to be understood as the Gospel promised beforehand (Romans 1:1-3). Participation at the MDIV level requires Hebrew 1, Hebrew 2, and Hebrew Exegesis. Non-M.Div. students are also welcome and encouraged to enroll.

Course Protocols

1. **Grading Schedule.** The letter grading scale is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

97-100%	A	80-82%	C
94-96%	A-	78-79%	C-
91-93%	B+	75-77%	D+
88-90%	B	72-74%	D
86-87%	B-	70-71%	D-
83-85%	C+	0-69%	F

2. **Attendance and Late Assignments.** Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments may be accepted with a penalty of one letter grade per day late.
3. **Electronics.** Computers are not permitted in class. Voice recorders are not permitted in class. Please silence all cell phones during class.
4. **Special Needs.** In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
5. **Disclaimer.** This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the semester.

Textbooks

Required

**In addition to a standard Hebrew Bible (BHS) and a standard English translation (ESV, NIV, NASB, KJV, etc.)*

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

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Hamilton, James. B. Jr. *Typology: Understanding the Bible's Promise-Shaped Patterns*. Grand Rapids, 2022 MI: Zondervan,

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

Suggested

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, revised and updated. New York: Basic Books, 2011.

Arnold, Bill T. and Williamson, H. G. M. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture: The Application of Biblical Theology to Expository Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Howard, David. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007.

Longman, Tremper, III, and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

Provan, I., V. P. Long, and T. Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

Rendtorff, Rolf. *The Canonical Hebrew Bible: A Theology of the Old Testament*. Translated by David E. Orton. Leiderdorp, The Netherlands: Deo Publishing, 2005.

Satterthwaite, P., and G. McConville, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2007.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis*. 4th ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Course Assignments

1. **Primary Literature: Hebrew** – Students will translate Hebrew texts assigned each week in preparation for course lecture and discussion. Assignments will be turned in at the end of class each week. Students will also be tested on these texts on the midterm and final exams. This portion of the course constitutes **25%** of the final grade.

Primary Literature: English – Students without Hebrew will read Joshua through Esther in a standard English translation. Students will indicate percentages complete on the midterm and final exams. This portion of the course constitutes **25%** of the final grade.
2. **Secondary Literature: English** – All students will be assigned reading from: (1) *The ESV Bible Atlas*, *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics*, *A Biblical Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, *Typology*, and various articles posted on Canvas. This portion of the course constitutes **25%** of the final grade. Students will indicate percentages complete on the final exam.
3. **Exams** – There will be two exams during the course of the semester, a midterm and a final exam. The exams will focus on lecture content and those portions of the assigned readings discussed in class. This portion of the course constitutes **25%** of the final grade.
4. **Exegesis Paper** –The student will select one passage/pericope from Joshua through Esther and write a major exegesis paper (15-20 pages). The selected passage may not be a text covered in class and all selections will require the approval of the professor. This portion of the course constitutes **25%** of the final grade.

Summary:

Hebrew Translation/English Bible	25%
Secondary Literature	25%
Exams	25%
Exegesis Paper	25%

Course Schedule:
Fall 2023 (Mondays, 8:00–11:00 AM)

January	26	Syllabus and Macro-canonical Context
February	2	Interpretation of the Historical Books <i>BTIOT</i> – Introduction GCH Chapters 1–2 Translation – Deuteronomy 31:16–22 [28]
	9	Historical Books in the Former Prophets: Joshua <i>BTIOT</i> – Joshua Meredith G. Kline, “The Intrusion and the Decalogue,” <i>WTJ</i> 16.1 (1953): 1–22. Available in Canvas Translation – Joshua 24:14–24 (through 28 in class)
	16	Historical Books in the Former Prophets: Judges <i>BTIOT</i> – Judges GCH Chapters 3–4 Translation – Judges 6:12–24 or 11:29–40
	23	Historical Books in the Former Prophets: Samuel, Part 1 <i>BTIOT</i> – Samuel Francis Foulkes, “The Acts of God: A Study of the Basis of Typology in the Old Testament.” Available in Canvas. Translation – 1 Samuel 8:1–11 [22]
March	2	Historical Books in the Former Prophets: Samuel, Part 2 GCH Chapters 12–13 Translation – 2 Samuel 7:8–20 [29]
	9	No Class: Spring Break (March 9-13) GCH 14–15 ESV Bible Atlas – Pages 17–195
	16	Midterm Exam
	23	Historical Books in the Former Prophets: Kings, Part 1 <i>BTIOT</i> – Kings GCH Chapters 16 Translation – 1 Kings 11:1–13
April	30	(Rafiki) Historical Books in the Former Prophets: Kings, Part 2 GCH Chapters 17 Translation – 2 Kings 2:1–12

April	6	Historical Books in the Writings: Ruth <i>BTIOT</i> – Ruth <i>GCH</i> Chapters 18 Translation – Ruth 3:1–14
	13	Historical Books in the Writings: Esther <i>BTIOT</i> – Esther <i>GCH</i> Chapters 19 Translation – Esther 4:6–17
	20	Historical Books in the Writings: Ezra–Nehemiah <i>BTIOT</i> – Ezra–Nehemiah Translation – Nehemiah 9:6–18 Exegesis Paper Due Date
	27	Historical Books in the Writings: Chronicles <i>BTIOT</i> – Chronicles
May	5–7	Final Exam

Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 01OT5250: Joshua to Esther
 Professor: Miles Van Pelt
 Campus: Jackson
 Date: Fall 2023

<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	This course is an exegetical, theological study of the biblical text with critical reading and writing.
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	Same as above.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	We will employ Christ - centered, redemptive historical, hermeneutics .
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Studying the biblical text is a way to demonstrate love for God.
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.	Moderate	Must student the word of God in order to conform life to it.
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	Consideration of other interpretations in a spirit of grace and humility.
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.	Strong	The is the center of our teaching circle for an expositional course of this type.