

# Readings in Biblical Languages

01ON6101 (1 credit)

Spring 2026

## Instructor

Stephen J. Smith, Ph.D.  
ssmith@rts.edu

## Course Description

In this course, students are required to read up to thirty (30) hours in the biblical languages in any combination desired – Hebrew and/or Greek. Course grade is determined by percentage of hours completed as reported in daily/weekly logs. During weekly class meetings, students will report on reading schedule, ask questions, and/or share any theologically significant observations from their work.

## 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.** Students are expected to attend weekly classes. Unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final course grade by one grade category.
3. **Method of Instruction.** The emphasis in this class is student performance. Students must come to class each week prepared and ready to participate in the instructional process.
4. **Special Needs.** In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. voice recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
5. **Disclaimer.** This syllabus is intended to reflect the learning objectives, instructional format, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the semester, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary.

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

Course: Readings in Biblical Languages  
 Professor: Miles Van Pelt  
 Campus: Jackson  
 Date: Summer 2024

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Rubric</b>	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<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"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	Provides a foundation for biblical and theological studies.
<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	Learning Hebrew is a fundamental skill for understanding the original meaning of Scripture.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	WCF 1.8
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Studying Hebrew is a way to demonstrate love for God.
<b>Worldview</b>	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	Allows to the better application of Scripture to life.
<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.)	None	
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Fundamental tool for the pastor/teacher to rightly interpret and apply Scripture