

OT5350
Isaiah – Malachi
RTS Atlanta
Spring 2026
Monday, 2–5PM

Instructor Information

Rev. Dr. William M. Wood
BA; MDiv; PhD
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Email: wwood@rts.edu
Office Hours: by appointment only. Email me and we will establish a time.

I. Course Description:

This course is designed to 1) increase the student’s knowledge of the prophetic corpus of the Old Testament; 2) to provide a biblical-theological framework to understand the prophet’s message and ministry; and 3) to introduce students to concepts in how to properly exegete and preach prophetic literature. Topics include the structure, content, theology, and redemptive historical import of each of the prophetic books.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2.15)

“All experience teaches us that ignorance, next to sin, is the most fruitful source of error, and that a few well-furnished and faithful ministers are far more efficient for good than a multitude of uneducated though zealous men.” –Charles Hodge

II. Course Objectives

1. To increase your knowledge of the Old Testament Prophets
2. Increase your knowledge of the prophetic office and function
3. Increase your ability to exegete prophetic texts and thereby to properly preach and/or teach prophetic literature.
4. Increase your knowledge of special introduction and key academic arguments concerning the prophetic corpus.

III. Course Guidelines

1. Attendance. There are some complicated issues to discuss in class, therefore class attendance is mandatory. Any absence must be approved by the instructor beforehand via email.
2. Late-paper policy. Sometimes it will be necessary due to life situations to receive an extension on papers (see extension policy below); however, an extension is not awarded for procrastination. Papers submitted late without a viable reason (approved by the instructor) will be reduced by *one letter grade per day that they are late*. Thus, if a paper

would have received an “A” grade but was submitted a day late, the grade will be reduced to an “A-”, an “A-” will become a “B+” and so on.

3. Lecture outlines will be provided for you. However, *the presence of outlines does not preclude the necessity of you taking notes*. The outlines are meant to help you keep track of where we are in the lecture, not to provide lecture notes for you.
4. Computers or handwritten notes? Studies have consistently found that hand-written note taking leads to better acquisition of the course material when compared to notes taken on computers. As such, it is recommended that you take notes *on paper*. However, this is not a requirement.
5. Computer policy. Laptops may be used in class *only for note taking*. The temptation of checking email and facebook should be resisted. It is *very distracting* to other students for you to be looking at things during class; therefore, a part of “loving your neighbor” is abstaining from these distracting acts.
6. Bring your Bible to class! You will need it!

III. Course Assignments

Reading (10%)

All of the reading must be completed for this course. At the time of the final exam you will be required to submit the final reading checklist found at the end of this syllabus, to be submitted on Canvas. Your grade will be determined based on the percentage of the reading you complete.

Book Review (10%)

You will write a 1500 word, formal and academic book review of Brueggemann’s *The Prophetic Imagination*. Plan to spend half to two-thirds of the time summarizing his work and half to one-third critically examining the book. We will discuss this in class on the due date.

Final Exam (40%)

There will be a comprehensive final exam covering all lecture and reading material on the assigned exam date. The exam will be essays only.

Final Paper (40%)

You will be required to submit a Biblical-Theological Paper on one of the assigned passages detailed below. See appendix for details.

IV. Required Reading

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Prophetic Imagination*, 2nd Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Dillard, Raymond B. and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. *Selections*.

Kline, M.G. *Images of the Spirit*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 1999.

_____. "The Covenant of the Seventieth Week." Pages 452-469 in *The Law and the Prophets*, ed. by J. Skilton. Philipsburg: P&R, 1974.

_____. *Glory in our Midst: A Biblical-Theological Reading of Zechariah's Night Visions*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2001.

McConville, J. Gordon. "Jeremiah: Prophet and Book." *Tyndale Bulletin* 42.1 (1991): 80-95.

Petersen, David L. "A Book of the Twelve?" Pages 3-11 in *Reading and Hearing the Book of the Twelve*. Ed. by James D. Nogalski and Marvin A. Sweeney. Atlanta: SBL, 2000.

Rendtorff, Rolf. "How to Read the Book of the Twelve as a Theological Unity." Pages 75-87 in *Reading and Hearing the Book of the Twelve*, ed. by James D. Nogalski and Marvin A. Sweeney. Atlanta: SBL, 2000.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2007. *Selections*.

Williamson, H.G.M. "Recent Issues in the Study of Isaiah." Pages 21-39 in *Interpreting Isaiah: Issues and Approaches*. Ed. by David G Firth & HGM Williamson. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Young, E.J. *My Servants the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.

V. Grade Scale

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

*The rounding up of grades is based solely on the discretion of the professor. Thus, a 96.5 does not necessarily round up to an "A."

V. Course Schedule

Date	Assignment and Suggested Reading Schedule	Topic Covered*
2/2	Kline, <i>Images</i> Young, <i>My Servants the Prophets</i> Vos, <i>Biblical Theology</i> , 185-296	Introduction to Prophetic Literature and Prophetism
2/9		Introduction to Prophetic Literature and Prophetism
2/16		BT of the Prophetic Office
2/23		BT of the Prophetic Office
3/2	Williamson, <i>Recent Issues</i> , 21-39 D-L, <i>Introduction</i> , 301-320. Isaiah, in your native language	Isaiah
3/9		Isaiah
3/16	McConville, "Jeremiah: Prophet and Book" D-L, <i>Introduction</i> , 321-341. Jeremiah, in your native language	Jeremiah
3/23		Jeremiah
3/30	D-L, <i>Introduction</i> , 354-370 Ezekiel, in your native language	Ezekiel *BOOK REVIEW DUE
Spring Break 4/6-4/10		
4/13		Ezekiel
4/20	D-L, <i>Introduction</i> , 397-502. Petersen, "A Book of the Twelve?" Rendtorff, "Theological Unity" The minor prophets, in your native language	Minor Prophets
4/27	Kline, <i>Glory in our Midst</i>	Minor Prophets
5/4	D-L, <i>Introduction</i> , 371-396. Kline, "Seventieth Week." Daniel, in your native language	Minor Prophets Daniel
Book Review Due on 3/30 Final Exam by 5/14 on canvas Submit Reading Report Checklist on Canvas by 5/14 Papers are Due on 5/14 by midnight		

*Note: the "topics covered" outline is broad and may not reflect the actual progress of the course. Sometimes things take longer than what is reflected on the calendar and changes are made at the sole discretion of the professor.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: OT 5350
 Professor: Rev. Dr. William Wood
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Sp 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<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"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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	Major paper
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	Biblical studies course
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Scripture is the norming norm of reformed theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Not the main focus, but should nonetheless be true
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	
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	
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-Xns.	Strong	How to interpret the prophets is a key part of this course.

Appendix: Paper Requirements

Overarching Requirements:

1. Writing Style: I expect a professional, readable paper with minimal grammatical and typographical errors. Too many errors will lead to a reduction of your paper grade.

2. Paper Length: The *minimum* length for your papers is 5,000 words inclusive of footnotes (with academic engagement this should be around a 15-page paper). The *maximum* length for your paper is 7,500 words inclusive of footnotes.

3. Title page: include a title page with your name, course number, date, and number of words in your paper.

4. References: You must use a *minimum* of ten (10) references in your paper; three (3) of which must come from *Academic Journals*. The bible *does not* count as a reference, it is simply expected you use it. No Shoddy references! **Warning:** Wikipedia, blogs, etc. are *not* an academic reference tools; do ***not*** use them for your paper. References should be cited by means of the standard SBL footnote format found in the *SBL Handbook of Style*. References should come from sources such as Academic articles, commentaries, monographs, dictionary articles, and the like.

5. You must include a bibliography at the end of your paper following the SBL style. The bibliography should *not* be counted as part of your word count.

6. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. If you are asking yourself if you should cite something, be safe and cite it!

7. Your paper should be double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman (or similar) font. Footnotes are to be single space 10 point Times New Roman.

8. If you know Hebrew, you *must use* it. All Hebrew must be in Unicode.

Biblical-Theological Paper

I. Possible Texts: **Others by approval only**

- A. Obadiah 10–14
- B. Anything in Habakkuk or Zephaniah
- C. Isaiah 66.18–21
- D. Amos 9.8–12
- E. Zechariah 13.7–9

II. Assignment Requirements

The task for this assignment is to closely examine a passage of scripture noting its redemptive historical import as it looks forward to Christ. As a Biblical-Theological paper *on the selected passage*, the goal is to see the specific way in which this passage in its particular historical milieu looks forward to the eschatological climax of redemption in Christ as well as relates to the preceding redemptive historical epochs.

Broad Outline for Paper

I. Introduction (expect this to take about a page)

-You should include a clear, cogent thesis statement here. The thesis statement will be what you think the main Biblical-Theological import of the passage is. While you do not need a statement like “my thesis statement is...,” I will be looking for you to present a clear thesis **and support it in the body of your paper**.

II. Structure of Passage (this section will likely be 2-3 pages)

-You should analyze the structure of the passage next, articulating the main thought-flow of the narrative and what you think the main point it is. The main point of the passage will be the main Biblical-Theological point as well!

-How does this passage fit into the rest of the book it is located?

-If you know Hebrew, *you must use it*. If you do not, then you will have to rely on commentaries and a close reading of the English text for this section.

III. Biblical-Theological Examination (this will be the main focus of your paper!)

-Focus on the particular redemptive historical context of your passage in relation to what the passage is trying to communicate. Why might this passage be introducing this content in this particular historical context?

-Go *backward* in redemptive history and determine what (if any) aspects are being developed from previous redemptive historical epochs in your passage.

-Go *Forward* in redemptive history and see how your passage is picked up and developed in later stages of the OT and how it climaxes in the New Covenant in Christ.

IV. Conclusion (probably around a page)

Tie the paper together in concluding remarks focused on how the evidence that you have cited for your main thesis and how that thesis has been verified.

Note: The above broad outline will likely have numerous sub-sections and you may wish to add other sections as well. That is fine! However, I will be looking for all the material just outlined when grading.

Reading Checklist

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Prophetic Imagination*, 2nd Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001. *All*, **Pp. 125**. Skim: 1.5-2 hours.

Dillard, Raymond B. and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. *Selections*. **Pp. 201**. Moderate-detail reading: 6.5 hours.

Kline, M.G. *Images of the Spirit*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 1999. *All*, **Pp. 118**. Detail Reading: 5-6 hours.

_____. "The Covenant of the Seventieth Week." Pages 452-469 in *The Law and the Prophets*, ed. by J. Skilton. Philipsburg: P&R, 1974. **Pp. 17**. Detail reading: 1 Hour.

_____. *Glory in our Midst: A Biblical-Theological Reading of Zechariah's Night Visions*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2001. *All*, **Pp. 240**. Moderate-detail reading: 8 hours.

McConville, J. Gordon. "Jeremiah: Prophet and Book." *Tyndale Bulletin* 42.1 (1991): 80-95. **Pp. 15**. Detail reading: 1 Hour

Petersen, David L. "A Book of the Twelve?" Pages 3-11 in *Reading and Hearing the Book of the Twelve*, ed. by James D. Nogalski and Marvin A. Sweeney. Atlanta: SBL, 2000. **Pp. 9**. Detail Reading: 30 min.

Rendtorff, Rolf. "How to Read the Book of the Twelve as a Theological Unity." Pages 75-87 in *Reading and Hearing the Book of the Twelve*, ed. by James D. Nogalski and Marvin A. Sweeney. Atlanta: SBL, 2000. **Pp. 12**. Detail Reading: 30-40 min.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2007. *Pages 185-296*, **Pp. 111**. Detail Reading: 5.5 hour.

Williamson, H.G.M. "Recent Issues in the Study of Isaiah." Pages 21-39 in *Interpreting Isaiah: Issues and Approaches*. Edt by David G Firth & HGM Williamson. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009. **Pp. 18**. Detail reading: 1 hour.

Young, E.J. *My Servants the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. *All*, **Pp. 179**. Detail Reading: 8-8.5 hours.

The Prophetic Books in your Native Language: ALL.

Total Pages: 1,045 + Biblical Books
Total Reading Hours: ~40