

Reformed Theological Seminary
02NT6362 · Exegesis of Hebrews
Course Syllabus · Spring 2026 · RTS-Orlando

1. Course Details

- 2 credit hours
- Thursday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
- Description: This class comprises a verse-by-verse exegetical study of the Epistle to the Hebrews in the original Greek text, with special emphasis on the translation, interpretation, and theology of the book.

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

- Grow in appreciation for the importance of the study and use of the original biblical languages in lifelong and vibrant Christian ministry.
- Develop greater proficiency with reading and exegeting the Greek New Testament.

4. Bibliography (Required Textbooks)

- The Epistle to the Hebrews in the Original Greek
- One approved exegetical commentary of your choice: e.g., Moo (Zondervan); P. Hughes (Eerdmans); Ellingworth (NIGNT); Johnson (WJK); O'Brien (PNTC); Schreiner (Lexham); Cockerill (NICNT); Harris (EGGNT), etc. ***Highly recommended for this class is Dana Harris (Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament, B&H).

5. Course Requirements

- **Participation (40%):** This course will take the form of weekly seminars in which all students will contribute actively to the reading of and discussion about a passage from Hebrews. Students will receive a grade for the consistency and quality of their weekly participation. Students should prepare to participate by doing the following:
 - Carefully read the relevant passage in Greek.
 - Take notes about any of the following (where relevant): vocabulary, parsing, cross-references, translation, as well as text-critical, grammatical, syntactical, and exegetical features.
 - Consult relevant resources for help (commentaries, BDAG, Metzger)

- **Reading Affirmation (20%):** Students will affirm what percentage of the reading they have completed.
- **Exegesis paper (40%):** Each student is required to write an exegetical research paper on a chosen portion or theme in Hebrews. Papers should be 3,000 words and engage in careful exegesis of Hebrews in its original language. There must be quality interaction with secondary sources.

6. 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)	-

7. Class Schedule

Week 01: Hebrews 1:1–14

Week 02: Hebrews 2:1–18

Week 03: Hebrews 3:1–19

Week 04: Hebrews 4:1–16

Week 05: Hebrews 5:1–14

Week 06: Hebrews 6:1–20

Week 07: Hebrews 7:1–28

Week 08: Hebrews 8:1–13

Week 09: Hebrews 9:1–28

Week 10: Hebrews 10:1–39

Week 11: Hebrews 11:1–40

Week 12: Hebrews 12:1–29

Week 13: Hebrews 13:1–25

January 28	Classes begin
February 11	Last day to add a class
March 4	Last day to drop a class
March 16-20	Spring Break
May 5	Last day of spring semester classes
May 8	Term paper deadline (11:00 a.m.)
May 11-14	Examination period

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Exegesis of Hebrews (NT6362)

Professor: Zachary Cole

Campus: Orlando

Date: Spring 2026

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>			
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 and reflection/report require consistent, substantive, and charitable verbal interaction.
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 for close-range reading and exegesis of New Testament texts in their original languages.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Students will read the NT at close-range within the hermeneutical framework of the Reformed tradition.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	The course content fosters the discipline reading of God's Word daily and carefully
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 led to engage charitably with opposing views.
Pastoral Ministry	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	Students will be pushed to consider why/how Greek should impact Word-based ministry.