

RTS

O R L A N D O



COURSE SYLLABUS

NT7200 Exegesis of Hebrews (ThM)

Dr. Zach Cole

Spring 2026

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Zach Cole (zcole@rts.edu)

COURSE DATES

Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

January 29 – April 30, 2026

COURSE OVERVIEW

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. Three credit hours.

GOALS:

- To read the Epistle to the Hebrews in Greek proficiently.
- To interpret the Epistle to the Hebrews carefully.
- To understand recent scholarly contributions to the interpretation of Hebrews.

COURSE DETAILS

GRADING SCHEDULE

Late work will be penalized one letter grade per day, unless prior permission for late submission was granted.

The published RTS grading scale is used in this course. See the latest Catalog.

ATTENDANCE AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance and prepared participation is required. If class is not attended, the student's final grade will be affected.

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

SPECIAL NEEDS

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor before the beginning of the course.

SUPPORT

Canvas allows you to interact with the Professors or teaching assistants via the Inbox function. Canvas also allows for interaction with classmates. You can interact with classmates via the Student-to-Student forum or Conferences. See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Course Resources for instructions on various Canvas features.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READING (15%)

Students are to read all assigned texts:

1. The Epistle to the Hebrews in the original Greek
2. 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.
3. *Hebert Bateman, ed., *Four Views on the Warning Passages in Hebrews*. Kregel, 2007.
4. Gareth Cockerill, Craig Bartholomew, Benjamin Quinn, eds., *Divine Action in Hebrews and the Ongoing Priesthood of Jesus*. Zondervan, 2023.
5. **R. B. Jamieson, *The Paradox of Sonship: Christology in the Epistle to the Hebrews*. IVP, 2021. [Available as an RTS eBook]
6. Peter T. O'Brien, *God has Spoken in his Son: A Biblical Theology of Hebrews*. IVP, 2016.

*Bateman must be read by week 6.

**Jamieson must be read by week 2.

All other readings must be completed by the end of the semester.

Additional reading will be required for the research paper (below).

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

- *Participation (35%)*
 - A significant component of this course is seminar-style reading, translation, and exegesis of Hebrews together as a class. As such, all students must come to each class session prepared to read and discuss the Greek text of Hebrews. Student

participation will be graded on the basis of the frequency, quality, and charity of their engagement in class.

- In order to facilitate getting through the entirety of the epistle, students must come to the first class session of the semester prepared to read, translate, and interpret chapter 1 of Hebrews.
- *Research Paper (35%)*
 - Each student is required to write an exegetical research paper on a chosen portion or theme in Hebrews. Papers should be between 5,000–6,000 words and engage in careful exegesis of Hebrews in its original language. There must be quality interaction with secondary sources.
- *Ten-minute Presentation (15%)*
 - Each student will give a ten-minute presentation on their research paper topic, giving a synopsis of their study and preliminary conclusions, followed by Q&A.

COURSE 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 and presentations

Course Objectives Related to ThM* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: NT7200 Exegesis of Hebrews
Professor: Cole
Campus: Orlando
Date: Spring 2026

<u>ThM Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the ThM 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 ThM outcomes.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Articulates knowledge, both oral and written, regarding advanced biblical, theological, and historical scholarship, demonstrating attention to details, concepts, methods, and frameworks.	Strong	Seminar discussions and research paper
Primary Texts	Significant knowledge of, and skills to engage, primary texts within the student's chosen track (Bible or theology). This includes a demonstrated expertise in interpreting primary languages as appropriate (Bible = Greek and/or Hebrew; Theology = optional proficiency in a theological language)	Strong	Reading of the Greek New Testament
Secondary Literature	Demonstrates a breadth of knowledge of and skill to research and engage critically with secondary literature related to the appropriate discipline.	Strong	Research paper
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes a charitable engagement with a wide variety of views, of those both inside and outside the Evangelical and Reformed perspectives)	Moderate	Assigned readings + class discussion