

RTS

O R L A N D O



COURSE SYLLABUS

02OT6100 Reading Hebrew Prose

Mark D. Futato, Ph.D.

Spring 2026

PROFESSOR'S INFORMATION

TITLE: Hebrew Readings

NUMBER: 02OT6100

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mark D. Futato

EMAIL: mfutato@rts.edu

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment via [Calendly](#)

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COURSE DATES

COURSE DATES: January 28 - April 29

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

A summary of due dates can be found at Syllabus on the left-hand navigation bar in Canvas.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the theory of Hebrew narrative, by reading the Book of Ruth, and gives them experience in reading and interpreting narrative, by analyzing the Book of Ruth. During the online portion of the course, students will read selected writings on Hebrew narrative and the book of Ruth will then be read carefully in class.

PURPOSE:

To increase the students' love for and ability to interpret Hebrew prose.

GOALS :

Comprehension

- To increase your knowledge of narrative theory.

Competence

- To sharpen your skills in reading and analyzing Hebrew narrative.

Character

- To grow in your honesty in your relation with God, others, and self.
- To grow in your wisdom as you live before God, others, and self.
- To grow in your love for God, others, and self.

SUPPORT :

- Canvas offers several ways of interacting with Dr. Futato. One is Ask the Professor. Ask the Professor is the place for posting general questions. Two is Grammar. Grammar is the place for posting specific questions about the Hebrew text. Both of these have the benefit of allowing classmates to profit from the dialog. Three is Inbox. Inbox functions like email and can be used if you have a personal question, for example, a question about a grade.
- Canvas also allows for interaction with classmates. You can interact with classmates via the Student to Student forum or Inbox.
- See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Course Resources for instructions on various Canvas features.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READING IN TEXTBOOKS :

You will choose and read one of the following:

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011.

Alter, Robert. *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Bar-Efrat, Shimon. *Narrative Art in the Bible*. New York, NY: T&T Clark, 2004.

Berlin, Adele. *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1994.

Sternberg, Meir. *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative: Ideological Literature and the Drama of Reading*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1987.

READING IN THE HEBREW BIBLE:

The book of Ruth in Hebrew

One of the following:

Holmstedt, Robert D. *Ruth: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.

Howell, Adam J. *Ruth: A Guide to Reading Biblical Hebrew*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2022.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will cover the translation, morphology, and syntax of the book of Ruth

GRADING POLICY:

The published RTS grading scale is used in this course.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

JANUARY 28

- Introduction to the course

FEBRUARY 4

- Ruth 1:1-8

FEBRUARY 11

- Ruth 1:9-16

FEBRUARY 18

- Ruth 1:17-2:3

FEBRUARY 25

- Ruth 2:4-11

MARCH 4

- Ruth 2:12-19

MARCH 11

- Ruth 2:20-3:5

MARCH 18

- Reading Week

MARCH 25

- Ruth 3:6-3:13

APRIL 1

- Ruth 3:14-4:3

APRIL 8

- Ruth 4:4-11

APRIL 15

- Ruth 4:12-17

APRIL 22

- Ruth 4:18-22

APRIL 29

- Review

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Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02OT6100 Reading Hebrew Prose

Professor: Futato

Campus: Orlando

Date: Spring 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <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>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
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.	Moderate	Students will discuss the theology and cultural context of the book of Ruth.
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	Students will translate and analyze the Hebrew text of the book of Ruth.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Student will reflect on the providence of God in history.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Students will focus on likeness to God as he is revealed in the book of Ruth.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Reflects on application of corpus to all of life.
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	Class discussions are moderated to ensure that students communicate winsomely.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	None	
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	