

Reformed Theological Seminary, Houston

Isaiah to Malachi OT5350, Spring 2026

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COURSE DESCRIPTION (FROM THE RTS CATALOGUE):

- An expository study of the message and times of the prophets that emphasizes the themes day of the Lord, judgment, restoration, promise and fulfillment, Messiah, kingdom, and the new people of God.
- **COURSE MEETINGS:** Feb 13-14; Feb 27-28; March 6-7
- **COURSE OBJECTIVES**
 1. An increased understanding of the content, major themes, and message(s) of the prophetic books.
 2. An increased understanding of, and appreciation for, the poetry of the prophetic corpus.
 3. An increased understanding of the biblical-theological role of the prophetic literature in the unfolding of God's redemptive plan (with a particular focus on their relationship to Christ).
 4. To increase/hone skill in interpreting the prophetic corpus, and applying its message to your own life and that of the church.
 5. To fuel affection for Christ and his church by studying, meditating on, and applying the prophetic corpus.
 6. To grow in godliness by studying, meditating on, and applying the message of the prophetic corpus.
- **REQUIRED READINGS**
 - Biblical books of Isaiah to Malachi in an English translation. (read all)
 - Miles V. Van Pelt, editor. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: Gospel Promised*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016. (read sections on Isa-Malachi).
 - Eric J. Tully. *Reading the Prophets as Christian Scripture: A Literary, Canonical, and Theological Introduction*. Baker Academic. 2022. (read all)

- ❑ Peter J. Gentry. *How to Read and Understand the Biblical Prophets*. Crossway. 2017. (read all)
- ❑ Robert Alter. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York: Basic Books. 2011. ***Only required for non-Hebrew students** (extra-credit for Hebrew students)
- ❑ Various articles/essays on the prophetic literature / Hebrew poetry. PDF's will be posted on Canvas at the beginning of the semester.

- **REQUIREMENTS**

- *Attendance*: Failure to attend class will negatively impact the student's final grade.
- *Reading Report*: on the final exam, students will provide a reading report on the required readings of the course.
- *Hebrew Translations/exercises and Book Review*: Students who have had Hebrew are required to complete eight Hebrew translations/exercises (see schedule below). Those who have not are required to read an additional book (i.e., Alter's *Biblical Poetry*; see above) and write a book review.
 - *Book Review*: no longer than 5 pages (double spaced). Please use the following outline for your review:
 1. *Summaries*: Summarize each chapter's main content/major points
 2. *Critique/ analysis*: Offer a brief critical analysis of the book, including strength and weakness
 3. *Best quotes/insights*: Log the book's most significant quotes/insights (as you see them) as you come across them. Write a brief paragraph explaining why you found this to be significant (*minimum* of 5 needed).
- *Précis*. A *précis* is a two-page (12pt font, single spaced, outline format), data packed, condensed summary of a topic. Students will be required to complete **three** during the semester on various topics in the prophetic literature (see schedule below). This requirement will be discussed in more detail (and an example provided) on the first day of class.
- *Sunday School Lesson*. Instead of a mid-term exam, students will be required to prepare a detailed outline for a 40-45 minute Sunday School lesson. The lesson should be expository in nature and contain elements of exhortation and application. I will discuss the requirement in more detail on the first day of class.
- *Final Exam*. There will be an open note FINAL EXAM due during finals week. The format will be essay/short answer.
- *Due Dates of Assignments*: See the course schedule below.

- **TOTAL GRADE:** The final grade for the course will be the total of each of the required assignments listed above (RTS grading scale)
 - Reading Report: 30% of total grade
 - Precis: 30% of total grade (10 % each)
 - SS lesson/ Final Exam: 40% of total grade (20 % each)

Grading scale:

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

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

*All assignments will be uploaded to Canvas in Word or PDF format

	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
	Feb 12-13	Intro issues; Isaiah, Jeremiah	none
	Feb 27-28	Ezekiel, The Twelve	Translation 1-2; Precis 1
	March 6-7	The Twelve continued	Translation 3-4; Alter Book Review (non-Hebrew students); SS lesson
	Last Day of Semester	none	Translations 5-8; Precis 2 and 3
	Finals week		Final Exam (with reading report)