

Reformed Theological Seminary
Hermeneutics
ON5100
(3 Credit Hours)
Spring 2026

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I. Course Objectives

- Learn how to construct a discourse analysis and a basic knowledge of the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament.
- Refine a basic knowledge of Greek grammar, syntax and vocabulary.
- Learn how to write an exegesis paper.

II. Course Description

- “This course will cover traditional hermeneutical issues, including the relationship between the OT and the NT, the role of the interpreter, the use of creeds and confessions in interpretation, and the relationship between original meaning and modern meaning.”

III. Texts

Required

- English Bible with cross references (CSB, ESV, NASB, etc.)
- Greek New Testament –Nestle Aland
- *Connecting Scripture New Testament*. Edited by G. K. Beale and Benjamin L. Gladd. Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing. 2025.
- Beale, G. K., D. A. Carson, Benjamin L. Gladd, and Andrew D. Naselli, eds. *Dictionary of the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2023).
- Beale, G. K. et al. *An Interpretative Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Zondervan, 2014. It’s recommended that students download MS Office for the iPad and the Discourse Analysis tool: <https://sourceforge.net/projects/datool/>
- Nicholas G. Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2021)

IV. Procedures and Methods

- This class will be a combination of lecture, reading, and discussions. Each class the student should be prepared to discuss what they have learned from their reading assignments and take exceptional class notes.
- This class is tailored for MA or MDiv students who have a working knowledge of Greek.

V. Course Requirements

- **Papers-** One, final paper will be given to provide the student with hands-on experience in interpreting Galatians. Late papers will result in a loss of one letter grade. Late papers will only be accepted after one week past the due date. Only in family emergencies will the professor accept papers after the one-week deadline.
- **Reading-** Reading the assigned passages is required for an accurate understanding of the lectures and discussions. The professor will ask the student if they have read the assigned material on Canvas, and it will have columns for a percentage read or skimmed.
- **Quizzes-** Students will be quizzed in class on the assigned reading from Piotrowski.
- **Weekly Assignments-** Every meeting, students will be assigned a particular aspect of Greek exegesis. Most of these entail translation, version comparison, parsing, and discourse analysis. See the “Weekly Assignment Example” on Canvas in the Modules section for an example. **Unless otherwise specified, weekly assignments must be submitted as a hardcopy and at the beginning of class. Do not submit weekly assignments on Canvas. Late assignments, even turned in at the end of class, will result in a loss of one letter grade per class.**
 - **Translation:** Students are generally encouraged to translate “woodenly” in class. When called upon, students are responsible for determining the use of **all** participles and infinitives according to the Wallace laminated sheet.
 - **Discourse Analysis:** Discourse analysis is essential for understanding the logical flow of texts, and students are required to learn Discourse Analysis.
- **In-Class Electronics Use-** Unless the professor has made an exception, students are prohibited from using computers, phones, and tablets during class. Students are, however, encouraged to bring their laptops to class, so that we can learn how to use Accordance. **If a student uses their phone/tablet during class, then I’ll deduct one point off the total grade per offense.**
- **Attendance-** Students are expected to attend all lectures, which comprises 10% of the total grade. *Students who have more than one unexcused absence will be penalized on their final course grade 2% per additional unexcused absence.* Presbytery meetings and all conferences (ETS/SBL, T4G, Twin Lakes, etc.) are deemed unexcused. Students should consult their calendar at the beginning of the semester and discuss any conflicts with the professor. Sickness and family emergencies are considered excused. If you are sick or have a family emergency, you must email the professor asap.

- **Grading:**
 1. Paper 25%
 2. Quizzes 10%
 3. Weekly Assignments 30%
 4. Exam 15%
 5. Reading 10%
 6. In-class translation/participation 10%
- **Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course is the seminary's grading scale. You may find it listed at the *RTS Catalog*, p.44.
- **Plagiarism:** Any cheating (quiz, paper, exam, etc.) will result in a failure of the course.

VI. Paper Requirements

Exegesis Paper

- Appendix (the weekly assignment of Rev 12:1-6) is due **XXX**
- The paper must include your name, date, and word count (footnotes included).
- 14-16 Pages, double-spaced.
- The word count must be between 4000 and 4250.
- It must be in Turabian/Chicago or SBL style.
- The bibliography must be integrated into the footnotes and then appended to the end of the paper in alphabetical order.
- Ten sources must be consulted (five commentaries and five articles/essays).
- The student must write on **Rev 12:1-6**.
- The Writing Center must initial the cover page.

VII. Assignments/Lecture Topic (note that the following schedule is subject to change at the professor's discretion).

January 30 (6:00pm-9:00pm)

Topic: Introduction to the Course/CSNT Cross-References

Handout: Sample Weekly Assignment

Reading: Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures*, 2-96; Beale et al, *Interpretative Lexicon*, 5-22.

Quiz 1: Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures*, 2-96

[Watch Discourse Analysis videos #1-7](#) (worth one weekly assignment)

Topic: CSNT Cross-References

Weekly Assignment #1: Col 2:1-5 (translation/D.A./CSNT cross references). **Watch Discourse Analysis videos #1-2 on Canvas.**

January 31 (8:00am-6:00pm)

Topic: Discourse Analysis

Weekly Assignment #2: Matt 13:34-35 (translation/D.A./CSNT cross references)

Reading: D. A. Carson, *The King James Debate*, 85-102 (PDF)

Topic: Making Observations

February 13 (6:00pm-9:00pm)

Topic: Research Paper Directions

Reading: Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures*, 97-197

Quiz 2: Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures*, 97-197

Topic: Bible Translations

Weekly Assignment #3: Rev 12:1-6: Research Paper Appendix (translation/D.A./CSNT cross-references)

February 14 (8:00am-6:00pm)

Topic: Lexicography

Reading: Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*, 27-64

Weekly Assignment #4: John 7:1-5 (translation/D.A./CSNT cross-references).

Topic: Dictionaries, Maps, Commentaries

April 17 (Zoom; 12:00pm-3:00pm)

Topic: Use of the OT in NT

Reading: Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures*, 198-264; Christopher Beetham, "Quotation, Allusion, and Echo," *DNTUOT*, 684-692.

Quiz 3: Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures*, 198-264

April 18 (Zoom; 8:00am-6:00pm)

Topic: Use of the OT in NT Cont.

Weekly Assignment #5: Eph 5:29-32 (translation/D.A./CSNT cross-references)

Reading: G. K. Beale, “Apostolic Hermeneutics: Description and Presupposition,” *DNTUOT*, 51-59; D. A. Carson, “Apostolic Hermeneutics: Present-Day Imitation,” *DNTUOT*, 59-66.

Topic: Use of the OT in NT Cont./From Text to Sermon

Weekly Assignment #6: Gal 3:7-9 (translation/D.A./CSNT cross-references)

Reading: Joel White, “Contextual and Noncontextual NT Use of the OT,” *DNTUOT*, 119-127; Sam Emadi and David Schrock, “Typology,” *DNTUOT*, 852-860;

Course Objectives Related to M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Hermeneutics
 Professor: Ben Gladd
 Campus: Dallas
 Date: Spring 2026

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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.	Strong	Course basic exegetical principles for interpreting Scripture
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	See course title and description
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed distinctives on Scripture and its interpretation are carefully considered
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Scripture is the primary means of grace, its study ought to be an act of love toward God
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Focused on interpreting Word of God rightly
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	Though we hope the professors and students exemplify this spirit
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Must understand what the text means to preach it rightly
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Course is relevant to worship but is not centered on worship, as such

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.	Moderate	Using Scripture rightly is central to good shepherding
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Though alternative approaches to Scripture will be considered and application of original meaning to contemporary contexts