

# ***JOSHUA TO ESTHER***



**Dr. Mark D. Futato**

**020T5250**

**FALL 2026**

**Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Instructor: Dr. Mark D. Futato
- Course Dates: August 26-December 15
- Contact Information: See Communication Protocols on Canvas > Course Resources
- Office Hours: Available through [Calendy](#)

**PURPOSE AND GOALS****PURPOSE:**

- To encourage you in living an abundant life to the glorify God.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Comprehension
  - To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Judges to Esther.
  - To increase your knowledge of the theology in each book from Judges to Esther.
  - To increase your knowledge of the history of Israel from the period of the Judges to the post-exilic community.
- Competence
  - To sharpen your ability to interpret Judges to Esther in their geographical, historical, theological, and literary contexts.
  - To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Judges to Esther in your own life and in the life of the local church.
- Character
  - To be a person of growing faith.
  - To be a person of increasing hope.
  - To be a person of deepening love.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

### READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Special introduction**
  - Walton, John H., and Andrew E. Hill. *Old Testament Today: A Journey from Original Meaning to Contemporary Significance*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
  - ISBN: 9780310498209
  - You will read 123 pages of this book.
- **Exegetical introduction**
  - Chisholm, Robert B. *Interpreting the Historical Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2006.
  - ISBN: 9780825427640.
  - You will read 184 pages of this book.
- **Historical introduction**
  - Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008.
  - ISBN: 9780801031991.
  - You will read 367 pages of this book.
- **Literary introduction**
  - Longman, Tremper. *The Old Testament as Literature: Foundations for Christian Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2024.
  - ISBN: 9781540961310.
  - You will read 110 pages of this book.
- **Theological introduction**
  - Van Pelt, Miles V., ed. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.  
ISBN: 9781433533464.
  - You will read 234 pages of this book.

## ASSESSMENTS:

- **History Workbook:**
  - During this course, you will produce a workbook on the history of Israel by answering questions on chapters 5-15 in *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel* by Eugene Merrill. The questions are found in the "Study Guide" on Canvas > Modules > Course Resources > Guides & Guidelines.
  - Submission: Canvas (Modules > History Workbook).
  - Due date: December 9 at 11a.
- **Reading Report:**
  - I will give you one point for every 10% of the assigned material in Van Pelt, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, that you read.
  - The report will be taken as a quiz on Canvas.
  - Due date: December 9 at 11a.
- **Exams:**
  - There are two exams, a midterm and a final.
    - Both exams will be taken on Canvas.
    - The midterm:
      - Covers the lecture material through the book of Joshua.
      - Books of the OT – English divisions and order (see below).
      - Opens on October 7 at 5p and closes on October 20 at 4p.
    - The final:
      - Covers the lecture material from the book of Judges through the book of Chronicles.
      - Books of the OT – Hebrew divisions and order (see below).
      - Opens on December 2 at 5p and closes on December 16 at 4p.
      - Preparation:
        - Be prepared to answer questions based on the lectures. Questions will be taken from the lecture outlines.
        - Submission: Canvas (Modules > Exams).

- **Grading:**
  - The workbook is worth 30 points, equaling approximately 24% of your final grade.
  - The reading report is worth 10 points, equaling approximately 8% of your final grade.
  - The exams are worth 42 points each or 84 total points, equaling approximately 68% of your final grade.
  - I use the Seminary's published grading scale.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### **Week 1 (August 26)**

#### *Introduction to the course*

#### *The Land (Part 1): Its Theology*

Chisholm, Chapter 1

Longman, Chapter 1

Walton & Hill, Pages 2-25

### **Week 2 (September 2)**

#### *The Land (Part 2): Its Geography*

Chisholm, Chapter 3

Longman, Chapter 2

Walton & Hill, Pages 110-116

### **Week 3 (September 9)**

#### *The Land (Part 3): Its Inhabitants*

Chisholm, Chapter 4

Longman, Chapter 3

Merrill, Chapter 1

### **Week 4 (September 16)**

#### *The Hebrew Canon*

Chisholm, Pages 128-129

Longman, Chapter 4

Van Pelt, Introduction

### **Week 5 (September 23)**

#### *The Concept of the Primary History*

#### *The History in Genesis to Deuteronomy*

Longman, Chapter 8

Walton & Hill, Pages 163-179

**Week 6 (September 30)**

***The Primary History (Part 1): Joshua***

Chisholm, Pages 89-93

Merrill, Chapter 4

Van Pelt, Chapter 6

Walton & Hill, Pages 198-200

**Week 7 (October 7)**

***The Primary History (Part 2): Judges***

Chisholm, Pages 93-99

Merrill, Chapter 5

Van Pelt, Chapter 7

Walton & Hill, Pages 200-203

**Reading Week (October 14)**

**Week 8 (October 21)**

***The Primary History (Part 3): Samuel***

Chisholm, Pages 101-112

Merrill, Chapters 6-8

Van Pelt, Chapter 8

Walton & Hill, Pages 204-208

**Week 9 (October 28)**

***The Primary History (Part 4): Kings***

Chisholm, Pages 112-118

Merrill, Chapters 9-13

Van Pelt, Chapter 9

Walton & Hill, Pages 209-223

**Week 10 (November 4)**

***The Writings (Part 2): Ruth***

Walton & Hill, Pages 227-229

**Week 11 (November 11)**

***The Writings (Part 1): Esther***

Chisholm, Pages 99-100 and 126-128

Van Pelt, Chapters 17 and 21

Walton & Hill, Pages 203-204

**Week 12 (November 18)**

***The Chronicler's History (Part 1): Ezra-Nehemiah***

Chisholm, Pages 122-126

Van Pelt, Chapter 23

Merrill, Chapters 14

Walton & Hill, Pages 224-227

**Thanksgiving (November 25)**

**Week 13 (December 2)**

***The Chronicler's History (Part 2): Chronicles***

Chisholm, Pages 118-122

Merrill, Chapter 15

Van Pelt, Chapter 24

Walton & Hill, Pages 223-224

## ENGLISH CANON

### LAW

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

### POETRY

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

### HISTORY

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

### PROPHECY

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

## HEBREW CANON

### **LAW/TORAH**

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

### **PROPHETS/NEVI'IM**

#### **Former/Rishonim**

Joshua  
Judges  
Samuel  
Kings

#### **Later/Achronim**

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Ezekiel  
The Twelve

### **WRITINGS/KETUVIM**

Psalms  
Job  
Proverbs  
Ruth  
Song of Songs  
Ecclesiastes  
Lamentations  
Esther  
Daniel  
Ezra/Nehemiah  
Chronicles

## FURTHER READING

### SPECIAL INTRODUCTION

- Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1995.
- Cate, Robert L. *An Introduction to the Historical Books of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *Interpreting the Historical Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. HOTE; Grand Rapids, MI, Kregel: 2006.
- Dumbrell, W.J. *The Faith of Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Howard, David M. Jr. and Michael A. Grisanti. *Giving the Sense: Understanding and Using the Old Testament Historical Texts*. Grand Rapids, MI, Kregel: 2003.
- Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
- Waltke, Bruce K. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

### GEOGRAPHY

- Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Currid, John D., and David P. Barrett. *Crossway ESV Bible Atlas*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2010.
- Schlegel, William. *The Satellite Bible Atlas*. 2nd ed. William Schlegel, 2013.

### THE HEBREW CANON

- Beckwith, Roger T. "The Canon of the Old Testament." In *Understanding Scripture: An Overview of the Bible's Origin, Reliability, and Meaning*, 71–80. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Dempster, Stephen G. *Dominion and Dynasty: A Theology of the Hebrew Bible*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.
- ———. "From Smoking Canon to Burning Hearts: The Making of the Hebrew Bible." *SBJT* 24 (2020): 25–52.
- Goswell, Gregory. *Text and Paratext: Book Order, Title, and Division as Keys to Biblical Interpretation*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2023.
- Sweeney, Marvin A. *Tanak: A Theological and Critical Introduction to the Jewish Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011.

## THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel: From the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- Provan, Iain W., V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2003.

## OLD TESTAMENT HISTORIOGRAPHY

- Dillard, Raymond B. "Harmonization: A Help and a Hindrance," *Inerrancy and Hermeneutic*. Edited by Harvie M. Conn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988) 151-64.
- Long, V. Philips. *The Art of Biblical History*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 5; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Longman, Tremper III. "Storytellers and Poets in the Bible: Can Literary Artifice Be True," *Inerrancy and Hermeneutic: A Tradition, a Challenge, a Debate*. Edited by Harvie M. Conn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988, 137-50.
- Merrill, Eugene H. "History," *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. Edited by D. Brent Sandy and Ronal L. Giese, Jr.; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995, 89-112.

## OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE

- Longman, Tremper III. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 3; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Longman, Tremper. *The Old Testament as Literature: Foundations for Christian Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2024.
- Pratt, Richard L. Jr. *He Gave Us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1990.

## ANCIENT NEAR EAST

- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings From the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Studies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.
- Bienkowski, Piotr and Alan Millard. *Dictionary of the Ancient Near East*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania, 2000.
- Currid, John D. *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
- Currid, John D. *Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.

- Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998)
- Millard, Allan. "The Old Testament and the Ancient Near East," *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. Edited by Pat Alexander and David Alexander; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999) 105-7.
- Millard, Allan. "The Canaanites," *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Edited by D.J. Wiseman; Oxford: Oxford, 1973) 27-52.
- Schoville, Keith N. "Canaanites and Amorites," *People of the Old Testament World*. Edited by Alfred J. Hoerth Et Al.; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994) 157-82.

## JOSHUA

- Butler, Trent C. *Joshua*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1983.
- Coleson, Joseph, Lawson G. Stone, and Jason Driesbach. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2012.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Joshua: No Falling Words*. Revised. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2012.
- Firth, David. *Joshua: Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021.
- Goldingay, John. *Joshua*: Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023.
- Hess, Richard S. *Joshua: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, Ill: Intervarsity, 1996.
- Howard, David M. *Joshua: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*. Nashville, Tenn: Holman Reference, 1998.
- Nelson, Richard D. *Joshua: A Commentary*. OTL. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History*. 2nd ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.
- Woudstra, Marten H. *The Book of Joshua*. 2nd ed. Eerdmans, 1981.

## JUDGES

- Block, Daniel. *Judges, Ruth*. NAC. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1999.
- Chisholm, Robert B. *A Commentary on Judges and Ruth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2013.

- Coleson, Joseph, Lawson G. Stone, and Jason Driesbach. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2012.
- David, Dale Ralph. *Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1990.
- Evans, Mary J. *Judges and Ruth: An Introduction and Commentary*. InterVarsity, 2017.
- Groves, J. Alan. "The Book of Judges: Introduction and Notes," *The New Geneva Study Bible*. edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 331-365.
- McCann, J. Clinton. *Judges: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
- Younger, K. Lawson Jr. *Judges/Ruth*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Webb, Barry G. *The Book of Judges*. NICOT. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012.

## **SAMUEL**

- Arnold, Bill T. *1 & 2 Samuel*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *First and Second Samuel*: Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1990.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Looking on the Heart: Expositions of the Book of 1 Samuel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Out of Every Adversity: Expositions of the Book of 2 Samuel*. Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1999.
- Evans, Mary J. *The Message of Samuel: Personalities, Potential, Politics and Power*. Revised. InterVarsity, 2022.
- Long, V. Philips. *1 and 2 Samuel: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2020.
- Phillips, Richard D. *1 Samuel*. Phillipsburg, N.J: P&R, 2012.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. *The First Book of Samuel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. *The Second Book of Samuel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2019.
- Vannoy, J. Robert. *1-2 Samuel*. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2009.

## KINGS

- Barnes, William H. *1 & 2 Kings*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2012.
- Conti, Marco, and Thomas C. Oden, eds. *1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.
- House, Paul R. *1, 2 Kings*. NAC 8; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.
- Konkkel, August H. *1 and 2 Kings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.
- Provan, Iain W. *1 and 2 Kings*. NIBC 7; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.
- Provan, Iain W. *1 & 2 Kings*. Baker Books, 1993.
- Wiseman, Donald J. *1 and 2 Kings: An Introduction and Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: InterVarsity, 2008.

## THE MEGILLOTH

- Cohen, Byrd A. *The Five Megilloth*. 2nd ed. Soncino Press, 1984.
- Stone, Timothy J. *The Compilational History of the Megilloth: Canon, Contoured Intertextuality and Meaning in the Writings*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013.
- Webb, Barry G. *Five Festal Garments: Christian Reflections on the Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2001.
- Williamson, Robert Jr. *The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018.

## RUTH

- Block, Daniel. *Judges, Ruth*. NAC. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1999.
- Coleson, Joseph, Lawson G. Stone, and Jason Driesbach. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2012.
- Evans, Mary J. *Judges and Ruth: An Introduction and Commentary*. InterVarsity, 2017.
- Fried, Lisbeth S. *Ruth: A Commentary*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2023.
- Hubbard, Robert L., Jr. *The Book of Ruth*. NICOT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Lau, Peter H. W. *The Book of Ruth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2023.
- Younger, K. Lawson Jr. *Judges/Ruth*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

- Luter, A. Boyd and Barry L. Davis. *God Behind the Scenes: Expositions of Ruth and Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.
- Sakenfeld, Katherine Doob. *Ruth*. Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1999.

## ESTHER

- Baldwin, Joyce G. *Esther: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1984.
- Bechtel, Carol M. *Esther*. Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 2001.
- Berlin, Adele. *Esther*. The JPS Bible Commentary. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 2001.
- Bush, Frederic W. *Ruth-Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.
- Conti, Marco, and Thomas C. Oden, eds. *1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.
- Jobes, Karen H. *Esther*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
- Luter, A. Boyd and Barry L. Davis. *God Behind the Scenes: Expositions of Ruth and Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.
- Reid, Debra. *Esther: An Introduction and Commentary*. Nottingham: InterVarsity, 2008.

## EZRA-NEHEMIAH

- Conti, Marco, and Thomas C. Oden, eds. *1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.
- Fensham, F. Charles. *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Fensham, F. Charles. *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2022.
- Futato, Mark D. "The Book of Ezra: Introduction and Notes," *The New Geneva Study Bible*. edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 646-642.
- Futato, Mark D. "The Book of Nehemiah: Introduction and Notes," *The New Geneva Study Bible*. edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 663-85.
- Harrington, Hannah K. *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2022.

- Kidner, Derek. *Ezra and Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2009.
- Lorein, Geert. *Ezra and Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2024.
- Thronveit, Mark A. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1992.
- Williamson, H. G. M. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Vol. 16. WBS. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985.

## CHRONICLES

- Boda, Mark. *1-2 Chronicles*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2010.
- Conti, Marco, and Thomas C. Oden, eds. *1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.
- Dillard, Raymond B. *2 Chronicles*. WBC 15; Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.
- Hill, Andrew E. *1 & 2 Chronicles*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.
- Japhet, Sara. *I and II Chronicles: A Commentary*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013.
- Merrill, Eugene. *A Commentary on 1 & 2 Chronicles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2015.
- Pratt, Richard L. Jr. *1 and 2 Chronicles*. Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1997.
- Selman, Martin J. *1 Chronicles: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.
- Thompson, J.A. *1, 2 Chronicles*. NAC 9; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02OT55250 Judges to Esther

Professor: Futato

Campus: Orlando

Date: Fall 2025

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<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>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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 write extensively on the History of Israel.
<b>Scripture</b>	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	Teaches the skills to research further into the original meaning of Scripture, including historical, literary, and theological perspectives.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Reflects on the sovereignty of God over history.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Focuses on likeness to God as he is revealed in the corpus under study.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Reflects on application of corpus to all of life.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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	Discussion forums are moderated to ensure that students communicate winsomely.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
<b>Shepherd</b>	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	
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	