OT510 Judges to Esther, Spring 2011

General Information

Name: Scott Redd
Phone: 407-366-9493
Email: sredd@rts.edu
Office: #3-250
Alt. Contact: Joyce Sisler (jsisler@rts.edu)

Class hours:
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.

Office hours:
Monday 1–3 p.m.
Friday 1–2 p.m.

Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to deepen our experience and understanding of God’s Word found in the historical books of Old Testament (Former Prophets and some Writings according to the categories of the Hebrew Bible) so that we can faithfully articulate it to ourselves, our churches, and the world around us. This purpose will be pursued through an intermediate level study of the historical books, performing a close reading of the texts while employing historical, literary, and theological interpretation. During class gatherings, we will discuss the content of the books, their continuity with the surrounding canon, including the gospel and its proclamation found in the New Testament.

The product of this class will be a deep engagement of the historical books of the Old Testament.

Course Materials


Jobes, Karen. *Overview of Esther*. (Cassette tape on reserve in the library)

Lecture Supplement

Optional Course Materials on Reserve in the Library


Course Assignments

  - Write a critical evaluation of the historiographical methodology proposed in “A Biblical History of Israel” pp. 1-104
  - Paper should be approximately 8 pages, double-spaced

- **Quizzes. (20%)** You are responsible for all Bible reading. Each quiz will include a question asking if, in preparation for that quiz (i.e. not if you have ever read the material), you thoughtfully read, not skimmed, the assigned Bible reading for that day.
  - Quizzes will be administered from 1:00 to 1:10 PM
  - No quizzes will be given out after 1:10 PM
  - No make-up quizzes will be given in the event of an absence.
  - If you are late or absent, you will miss the quiz and receive a 0 for that grade.
  - We will drop your lowest quiz grade.

- **Final exam. (50%)** The exam will include short answer and short essay answer questions covering the biblical and secondary readings as well as lecture material.

- **Generosity Project EC (15%)**
### MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Knowledge of historical books will be presented and articulated in written assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The course is primarily concerned with the historical books of the Old Testament which will be studied as a means to interpretation and exhortation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 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 | Knowledge of historical books will be presented and articulated in written assignments. |
| 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 | The course is primarily concerned with the historical books of the Old Testament which will be studied as a means to interpretation and exhortation. |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | Reformed notions of the biblical text as inspired and authoritative provide the framework, method, and justification for such a class. |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | Rigorous, prayerful engagement with the biblical text for the purpose of learning, spiritual growth and maturity is encouraged. |
| Desire for Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | Study of OT historical books helps students incorporate and understand a biblical worldview. |
| 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.) | Moderate | Study of historical books provides an avenue through which faithful scholars communicate the teaching of Scripture in a way that is less bound by native culture. |
| Preach | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | Capacity to read, interpret, and teach historical books greatly enhances a student’s ability to interpret and preach from Scripture. |
| Worship | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Minimal | The topic of worship is limited to its presence in the text of Deuteronomy. |
| 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. | Minimal | Again, knowledge of OT historical books enhances knowledge of Scripture and ability to shepherd scripturally. |
| Church/World | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal | Only present in matters relating to cross-linguistic, cross-cultural interpretation and articulation of OT historical books. |