REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Atlanta

COURSE SYLLABUS
Genesis-Joshua 04OT508
3 credits

Spring Semester, 2014
Tuesdays, Feb 4-May 6, 1:00-4:00 PM
N.B.: No class on Apr. 1

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove
Ph.D. Candidate: Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures
The Catholic University of America

Contact Information:
bfullilove@rts.edu
770-952-8884

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the first six books of the Old Testament, with special attention on exegesis and use of these texts in ministry contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Comprehension:
1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible of the books Genesis-Joshua.
2. To increase your understanding of the message(s) of the books Genesis-Joshua, both separately and together.

Competence:
1. To sharpen your ability to understand and interpret Genesis-Joshua.
2. To sharpen your ability to interpret the books Genesis-Joshua in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
3. To sharpen your ability to teach and preach the books Genesis-Joshua in the context of the local church.
4. To prepare those called to pastoral ministry for licensure and ordination exams at their local church assemblies and examination boards.

Character:
1. To sharpen your application of the themes of the books Genesis-Joshua in your personal spiritual life.
2. To be a person of growing faith, hope, and love based on the work of God as revealed in these books.
**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Biblical books of Genesis-Joshua in two English translations of the student’s choice.
- Richard Pratt, *He Gave Us Stories* (RP)
- T. Desmond Alexander, *From Paradise to the Promised Land* (TDA)
- O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants* (OPR)
- Geerhardus Vos, *Biblical Theology* (GV)

**REQUIREMENTS:**

*Attendance:* Students are required to attend class lectures and discussions. If you know you cannot make it to a portion of a class session, notify the instructor in advance. Excessive absence will impact a student’s final grade and can even result in failing to pass this class.

*Reading:* Students should complete all readings by the deadlines in the course schedule below.

*Class Preparation:* Each week starting in week 2, the class will be assigned a passage to which to apply the skills taught in that week’s class. Students should come to class the next week prepared to discuss the passage and their analysis of it, including presentation to the class of their findings. Students should come to class with a written summary of their work, which will be handed in to the professor.

*Final Project:* Students who have taken Hebrew are required to write an exegetical paper for this class. Students who have not taken Hebrew may instead choose one of two paper options below. Papers should be 15-20 pages, double-spaced and should interact both with the material discussed in class sessions and the secondary readings. Additional research is required for these papers and must be demonstrated both in the paper itself and in its bibliography. (If a student has taken Hebrew and wishes to pursue one of the paper options below, this can be discussed with the professor, but will only be granted if the student can demonstrate proficiency in the writing of an exegetical paper, usually done by providing a strong exegetical paper from a previous OT class.)

  Bible Study Option: Students may prepare a Bible study covering the Jacob narratives (Gen 25:19-36:40). This study must include participant guides with relevant questions for the passages studied and leader’s guides which include introductions to each section and answers to the questions in the participant guide. Studies will be graded based on their use of the materials in this class and their practical relevance for ministry use. An “A” study would be “shovel ready,” able to be distributed to a church home group or other Bible study group without editing.

  Sermon Manuscript Option: Students may prepare two sermons covering two passages from the book of Numbers. Sermons should demonstrate responsible usage of the Biblical text, appropriate Christocentric preaching, and strong homiletic preparation.

This paper will be **due May 13, 2014 at 5:00 PM by email.**
Note: Students who are interested in doing additional graduate study beyond their RTS degree **MUST** contact the instructor in advance, as these requirements may be adjusted to better prepare the student for his or her future course of study.

**TOTAL GRADE:** The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- Class Preparation: 50%
- Paper: 50%

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system. The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades based on each student’s attendance at class and participation in classroom discussion.

**EXTENSION POLICY:** All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)
**Course Schedule:**

NOTE: The course schedule is ALWAYS subject to revision based on the needs of the class.

Feb. 4 – Spiritual Reading, Kingdom of God, Gen 1-2 (Creation)
   Reading Due: Gen 1-2, RP ch.1-4, GV ch. 3

Feb. 11 – Covenant and Canon, Types of Analysis, Gen 3:1-11:9 (Primeval History)
   Reading Due: Gen 3:1-11:9, TDA ch. 1-11, OPR ch. 1-7, GV ch. 4-6, SO

Feb. 18 – Narrator/Evaluative Framework, Gen 11:10-25:18 (Abraham)
   Reading Due: Gen 11:10-25:18, TDA ch. 12, OPR ch. 8-9

Feb. 25 – Characterization, Gen 25:19-36:40 (Jacob)
   Reading Due: Gen 25:19-36:40, RP ch. 6

Mar. 4 – Structures and Scene Division, Gen 37-50 (Joseph)
   Reading Due: Gen 37-50, RP ch. 8-9

Mar. 11 – Plot, Exodus 1-18 (Deliverance)
   Reading Due: Exodus 1-18, TDA ch. 13-14, GV ch. 8

Mar. 18 – Time and Space, Exodus 19-40 (Law and Worship)
   Reading Due: Exodus 19-40, TDA ch. 15-16, OPR ch. 10

Mar. 25 – Scene Depiction, Leviticus (Holy Living)
   Reading Due: Leviticus, RP ch.7, TDA ch.17-19

Apr. 1 – NO CLASS

Apr. 8 – Stylistic Devices, Numbers 1-14 (First Army)
   Reading Due: Numbers 1-14, TDA ch. 20-21

Apr. 15 – Application to Today, Numbers 15-36 (Second Army)
   Reading Due: Numbers 15-36, RP ch. 13-16

Apr. 22 – Narrative as Ethics, Deut 1-28 (Moses’ First and Second Addresses)
   Reading Due: Deut 1-28, TDA ch. 22-23

Apr. 29 – From Exegesis to Bible Study, Deut 29-34 (Moses Third and Fourth Addresses)
   Reading Due: Deut 29-34, TDA ch.24

May 6 – From Exegesis to Sermon, Joshua (Taking the Land)
   Reading Due: Joshua
Office Hours:

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 in Macon & Thursday 1:00-3:00 at the main campus. I am always also available by appointment, including before or after class.

I enjoy sharing thoughts with students, so do not hesitate to contact me. The contact information given above is for your use, and you should feel free to contact me as much as you wish. I will respond as promptly as possible.
**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-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Class Preparation assignments, Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Exegetical Focus, Significant Paper, Class Preparation of specific passages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Reformed Approach Covenants underlies class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Close study of the Word of God sanctifies; strong devotional components of Scripture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Discussion and evaluation of contributions from other traditions in a respectful and honoring way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Material is taught thoroughly within and analyzed against redemptive-historical worldview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Class Preparation assignments, Paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Exegetical Focus, Significant Paper, Class Preparation of specific passages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Medium/Strong</td>
<td>Reformed Approach Covenants underlies class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanctification</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Close study of the Word of God sanctifies; strong devotional components of Scripture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desire for Worldview</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Material is taught thoroughly within and analyzed against redemptive-historical worldview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winsomely Reformed</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Discussion and evaluation of contributions from other traditions in a respectful and honoring way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preach</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justiceification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Exegetical work that forms the backbone of strong preaching; frequent discussion of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for Preaching</td>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Study of the Word of God should move believers to worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Discussion as applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Discussion as applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>