Reformed Theological Seminary  
Biblical Theology of Mystery  
NT616 (2 Credit Hours)  
Spring 2013  
Thursday 8:00-10:00 am

Dr. Benjamin Gladd  
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I. Course Objectives  
• Become familiar with the biblical conception of “mystery.”  
• Grasp the Bible’s storyline through both Testaments, particularly in its continuity and discontinuity.

II. Course Description  
• A study of how the “mystery” plays an important role in Scripture, especially, its connection to biblical themes such as kingdom, messiah, and the relationship between Jews and Gentiles.

III. Texts  
• A modern translation of the Bible (e.g., NIV, ESV, NASB)  

IV. Procedures and Methods  
• This class will be a combination of lecture, reading, and discussions. Each class student should be prepared to discuss what they have learned from their reading assignments and take exceptional class notes.  
• Though this class is tailored for MDiv students who have a working knowledge of Greek, it is possible for those who do not know Greek to take the class. “Non-Greek” students are required to do all the assignments except translations. Additional reading will be assigned to non-Greek students, however. When doing discourse analyses, non-Greek students must take their translation from NASB (1995).

V. Course Requirements  
• **Exams**: One exam will be given at the end of the semester. Questions will mainly cover the lectures and assigned reading.
• **Papers**- One paper will be given to provide the student with hands-on experience in interpreting the biblical conception of mystery. Late papers will result in a loss of one letter grade per class.

• **Reading**- Each week reading will be assigned. Reading the assigned passages is required for an accurate understanding of the lectures and discussions. The class is designed for students to read a substantial amount of material pertaining to the use of mystery. The professor will ask the student if they have read the assigned material on the reading handout, and it will have columns for a percentage read or skimmed.

• **In-Class Computer Use**- Students are prohibited from using computers during class.

• **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. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.

• **Grading**:
  1. Papers 20%
  2. Rough Draft 5%
  3. Weekly Assignments 25%
  4. Exam 15%
  5. Reading 25%
  6. Classroom Participation/Attendance 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**
• The paper must include your name, date, and word count (footnotes included).
• 14-18 Pages, double-spaced.
• The word count must be between 4500 and 5000.
• 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.
VII. Assigned Reading/Lecture Topic

January 31    Mystery in Daniel
February 7   Mystery in Judaism
February 14   Mystery in the Synoptics
February 21   Mystery in Romans
February 28   Mystery in 1 Corinthians
March 7     Mystery in 1 Corinthians
March 14   SPRING BREAK
March 21   Mystery in Ephesians
March 28   Mystery in Colossians
April 4    Mystery in 2 Thessalonians
April 11    Mystery in 1 Timothy
April 18    Mystery in Revelation
April 25   Mystery and the Mystery Religions
May 2    Mystery without Mystery
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Biblical Theology of Mystery (NT501)  
**Professor:** Ben Gladd  
**Campus:** Jackson  
**Date:** Spring 2013

#### 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The course promotes a thorough knowledge of the intersection of the OT and NT as it relates to mystery in areas such as early Judaism, literary theories, and redemptive history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Students are required to pay close attention to details within Scripture, particularly how Scripture interprets itself.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Of great value to this course is the self-attesting nature of Scripture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>As students are exposed to the various facets of biblical theology, their hearts will naturally be warmed and draw closer to Christ.</td>
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<td>Students will see first hand the biblical worldview of Scripture and will learn to forge theirs accordingly.</td>
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<td>Many evangelicals and non-evangelicals disagree on how the two Testaments relate, but we can learn from both groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This course lends itself to preaching in that students will gain an appreciation for how Scripture interprets itself, so they in turn can interpret it for their congregations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will have a better understanding of redemptive history, giving them a fresh view of Christ.</td>
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<td>For students to become good pastors,</td>
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<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</th>
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<td>Scripture</td>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
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<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.</td>
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<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
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<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<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>
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<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings;</td>
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and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.

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<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>they must have a robust understanding of Scripture’s storyline and the centrality of Christ.</td>
<td>Grasping how Scripture interprets itself gives students the foundation to form convictions and engage the church as a whole.</td>
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<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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