Course Description

This course constitutes an introduction to the discipline of biblical theology in an evangelical context. It is divided into three sections: (1) the history, definition, task, method, goal, and center of biblical theology; (2) a framework for biblical theology (Christ, Kingdom, and Covenant); and (3) selected themes in biblical theology (biblical theology in action).

Course Protocols

1. **Grading Scale.** The letter grading scale is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and can be found online at www.rts.edu.

2. **Attendance and Late Assignments.** 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. 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.

3. **Electronics.** Computers are not permitted in class. Voice recorders are not permitted in class. Please silence all cell phones during class.

4. **Special Needs.** In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

5. **Disclaimer.** This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the semester.
Textbooks and Bibliography.

The following list represents important resources for basic course content and assignments. These books will be available for students in the library on reserve and for sale through the campus bookstore or at Amazon.com. Not all texts will be required for the course. Textbook selection will be discussed on the first day of class. All students will be required to have a copy of the New Dictionary of Biblical Theology.


Course Requirements

1. **Reading and Written Work.** There will be reading and/or writing assignments given out each week at the end of class. These assignments will be due the following week at the beginning of class. Students should allow at least 4 hours per week for assignments in this course – 40%.

2. **Midterm Exam.** This exam will cover the basic introductory lectures and assignments during the first half of the course – 25%.

3. **Paper.** Students will write a paper on a biblical-theological theme modeled on the course lectures during the second half of the term. All paper topics must be pre-approved by the instructor – 25%.

4. **Attendance and Participation.** Come to each class, complete all assignments, and participate with enthusiasm – 10%.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
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- **August 26:** Syllabus, Definition, History, Task, and Goal of Biblical Theology
- **September 2:** Method and Center of Biblical Theology
- **September 9:** Jesus Christ: Theological Center
- **September 16:** Kingdom of God: Thematic Framework (People/Events)
- **September 23:** Covenant: Canonical Structure – Part 1
- **September 30:** Covenant: Canonical Structure – Part 2
- **November 7:** NO CLASS – Reading Week
- **November 14:** Midterm Exam
- **November 21:** Biblical Theology and Baptism
- **November 28:** Biblical Theology and Justification
- **November 4:** Biblical Theology and Clothing
- **November 11:** Biblical Theology and Marriage
- **November 18:** ETS/SBL (Guest Lecture)
- **November 25:** NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday.
- **December 2:** Paper due date (12:00 PM).
# Course Objectives Related to 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> (oral &amp; written)</td>
<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>
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<td><strong>Scripture</strong></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>
<td>strong</td>
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<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></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>
<td>none</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></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><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<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>
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<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>None</td>
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