2ON504 – Advanced Biblical Exegesis

Scott R. Swain

Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando
Spring 2016

Course description

Attention is given to maintaining skill in the original languages and applying them to broader questions such as unity and diversity within Scripture, the relationship of Old and New Testament studies, the interaction of biblical and theological studies, and the place of Scripture in pastoral ministry. (2 hours)

Class meetings

Tuesdays 10:00 am-12:00 pm, February 9-May 10, 2016

Required texts

Heidelberg Catechism (any edition)


John Webster, “The Domain of the Word” (available from professor)

Students will also be responsible for reading specific texts/sections of texts (available in the library) in association with specific assignments.

Assignments

1. Book review (15% of final grade): Students will write a 3-4 page critical book review of Treier, Introducing Theological Interpretation of Scripture according to the “Barzun format” (available from professor). The review must be uploaded in Canvas by March 15, 2016 at 11:59 pm.
2. **Hermeneutical exercises (60 % of final grade):** A significant portion of the course will be devoted to “workshopping” various biblical texts in order to improve our exegetical and hermeneutical skills and virtues. These “hermeneutical exercises” will have homework and classroom components.

3. **Exegesis paper (25 % of final grade):** Students will write a 12-15 page paper that offers exegetical and hermeneutical analysis of a biblical text of their choice (more details will follow). The paper must be uploaded in Canvas by May 13, 2016 at 11:00 am.

4. **Extra credit:** Students who attend all four Kistemaker Academic Lectures on March 1-2, 2016 will receive 4 bonus points on their exegesis paper.

**Schedule of Assignments**

Feb 9
Feb 16
Feb 23
Mar 1
Mar 8
Mar 15  **Book review due at 11:59 pm**
Mar 22  **No class—Spring Break**
Mar 29
April 5
April 12
April 19
April 26
May 3
May 10
May 13  **Research paper due at 11:00 am**
Academic Policies

1. **Late assignments:** Apart from exceptional circumstances, I will not accept late assignments for credit.

2. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will result in a failing grade for the course.

Office hours

Please email me (sswain@rts.edu) or Ceci Helm (chelm@rts.edu) to make an appointment.

Select bibliography


Augustine, *Teaching Christianity* (New City Press, 1996)


Alan Jacobs, *A Theology of Reading: The Hermeneutics of Love* (Westview, 2001)


Kevin J. Vanhoozer, ed., *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of Scripture* (Baker Academic, 2005)

John Webster, *The Domain of the Word: Scripture and Theological Reason* (T & T Clark, 2012)

William Whitaker, *Disputations on Holy Scripture* (Soli Deo Gloria, 2000)
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Advanced Biblical Exegesis  
**Professor:** Swain  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** Spring 2016

## 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td>None</td>
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### 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.

- **Rubric:** Moderate
- **Mini-Justification:** Class discussion; exegesis paper

### 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.)

- **Rubric:** Strong
- **Mini-Justification:** Lectures; reading assignments; hermeneutical exercises

### Reformed Theology

Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

- **Rubric:** Strong
- **Mini-Justification:** Emphasis upon redemptive-historical hermeneutics

### Sanctification

Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.

- **Rubric:** Moderate
- **Mini-Justification:** Increased understanding of God’s word promotes faith and love toward God

### Desire for Worldview

Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.

- **Rubric:** Moderate

### 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.)

- **Rubric:** Strong

### Preach

Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.

- **Rubric:** Strong
- **Mini-Justification:** Sound interpretive skills promote sound sermon development and delivery

### Worship

Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.

- **Rubric:** Minimal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Shepherd</strong></th>
<th>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.</th>
<th>Minimal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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>Strong</td>
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