Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington, D. C. Campus

Course Syllabus

OLD TESTAMENT POETS 6OT512

Instructor: Peter Y. Lee        Email: plee@rts.edu
Associate Professor of Old Testament

- **Course Description:** An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the Psalms and wisdom literature of the Old Testament.

Students are very *highly* encouraged to take Introduction to Biblical Hebrew before taking this course.

- **Course Objectives:**

  o Comprehension:
    1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible in the Old Testament poetical books.
    2. To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in Old Testament poetical books.
    3. To increase your knowledge of the development of redemptive themes in the Old Testament poetical books.

  o Competence:
    1. To sharpen your ability to interpret the Old Testament poets in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
    2. To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of the Old Testament poets in your own life and in the life of the local church.
    3. To prepare those who are called to the ministry for licensure and ordination exams at their local presbyteries.

  o Character:
    1. To be a person of growing faith.
    2. To be a person of increasing hope.
    3. To be a person of deepening love.

- **Required Readings.** There are approximately 900 pages of required reading (with the exception of the Scriptural books). Students are encouraged to do the readings before the start of class *in the order provided below*. For the Biblical books of the Old Testament poets, students are free to use any English translation of their choice.

  ✓ Collection of additional essays and articles will be provided on the first day of class.
• **Requirements:**

  o **Attendance:** You are required to attend each class. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, notify me in advance.

  o **Reading Report:** This will be discussed on the first day of class.

  o **Term Paper:** This will be discussed on the first day of class.

  o **Exam:** There will be a FINAL EXAM. The exam will cover materials from the class lectures and required readings. The Final Exam will be taken on the last day of class.

  o **Due Dates of Assignments:** Dates will be discussed on the first day of class.

    *The following scale will be used to determine your final grade: A (97-100), A- (94-96), B+ (91-93), B (88-90), B- (86-87), C+ (83-85), C (80-82), C- (78-79), D+ (75-77), D (72-74), D- (70-71), F (below 70).*

• **Office Hours:**

  o I meet with students by appointment. Contact me if you would need to meet. I’d love to get together with you to discuss Scripture, theology, ministry, and life.
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Old Testament Poets  
**Professor:** Peter Y. Lee  
**Campus:** Washington, D. C.  
**Date:** June 4, 2013

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>Understanding through lectures and reading, articulation through essay exams and a research paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Focus in the class is on understanding the original meaning, with some emphasis on language and more on hermeneutics, with the goal of understanding modern meaning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>The class has a good dose of Reformed distinctives, such as the emphasis on creation, fall, redemption, covenants, and kingship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>One conscious goal is to see students benefit personally in their faith from their understanding of the psalms and wisdom literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Several issues in class deal directly with worldview, especially the materials on wisdom and its use in the ancient and modern world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Differing views of issues are set forth in an objective, fair, and winsome way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>There is an emphasis on how to preach/teach different segments of the course, but no hands-on experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Although there is no plans to engage into a formal worship, the course material will be devotionally meaningful as well as theologically rich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>A conscious effort is placed upon the use of the OT poets as a teaching tool of ministry in the local church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>As needed.</td>
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### 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.

- **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**: Strong
  - **Mini-Justification**: Understanding through lectures and reading, articulation through essay exams and a research 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**: Focus in the class is on understanding the original meaning, with some emphasis on language and more on hermeneutics, with the goal of understanding modern meaning

- **Reformed Theology**: Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.
  - **Rubric**: Moderate
  - **Mini-Justification**: The class has a good dose of Reformed distinctives, such as the emphasis on creation, fall, redemption, covenants, and kingship.

- **Sanctification**: Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.
  - **Rubric**: Strong
  - **Mini-Justification**: One conscious goal is to see students benefit personally in their faith from their understanding of the psalms and wisdom literature

- **Desire for Worldview**: Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.
  - **Rubric**: Minimal
  - **Mini-Justification**: Several issues in class deal directly with worldview, especially the materials on wisdom and its use in the ancient and modern world.

- **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**: Minimal
  - **Mini-Justification**: Differing views of issues are set forth in an objective, fair, and winsome way

- **Preach**: Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.
  - **Rubric**: Moderate
  - **Mini-Justification**: There is an emphasis on how to preach/teach different segments of the course, but no hands-on experience

- **Worship**: Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.
  - **Rubric**: Minimal
  - **Mini-Justification**: Although there is no plans to engage into a formal worship, the course material will be devotionally meaningful as well as theologically rich.

- **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.
  - **Rubric**: Minimal
  - **Mini-Justification**: A conscious effort is placed upon the use of the OT poets as a teaching tool of ministry in the local church

- **Church/World**: Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.
  - **Rubric**: Minimal
  - **Mini-Justification**: As needed.