Exegesis in the oT II: Amos RTS-J  
01OT6120 Spring 2021

**INSTRUCTOR**

Michael G. McKelvey, Ph.D.

mmckelvey@rts.edu Class meets each Monday, 1pm-3pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Objectives for this course include: (1) to advance in Hebrew exegetical skill; (2) to work with Hebrew prophetic literature; (3) to consider the challenges with the interpretation of the Prophets for the church; (4) to increase biblical-theological knowledge.

**COURSE PROTOCOLS**

1. *Grading Schedule*. The letter grading scale for this course is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

97-100% A 80-82% C

94-96% A- 78-79% C-

91-93% B+ 75-77% D+

88-90% B 72-74% D

86-87% B- 70-71% D-

83-85% C+ 0-69% F

2. *Attendance and Late Assignments*. **Attendance is required.** If class is not attended, the student’s final grade will be docked. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.

3. *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) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

4. *Disclaimer*. This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Textbooks**

Hebrew Bible

Koehler and Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HALOT).

Stuart, Douglas K. *Hosea-Jonah*. WBC 31. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Michael G. McKelvey, *Amos.* ESV Expository Commentary 7 (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018).

**Assignments**

1. Weekly Hebrew Translations: This aspect will be evaluated through weekly Hebrew reading and translating in class. Students must be prepared to read, translate, parse, and discuss the selected passages for each class meeting, which entails preparation before each class. (**Be prepared to translate Amos 1 on the FIRST DAY OF CLASS—Jan. 25.**) This will constitute **30%** of the term grade.

2. **Paper**. Select a difficult or key text from Amos (instructor approval required) and conduct a thorough exegetical study that labors to explain, clarify, and/or solve the issue presented in the text. You will formalize your work in a standard academic paper. This assignment will constitute **30%** of the term grade. **Paper is due March 29**.

3. Final Exam: This exam will cover translation and interpretation of the Hebrew text. The exam will constitute **40%** of the term grade.

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes**

**With Mini-Justification**

Course: Exegesis in the OT II (OT6120)

Professor: Dr. Michael G. McKelvey

Campus: RTS-Jackson

Date: Spring 2021

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| **MDiv Student Learning Outcomes** | | **Rubric**   * Strong * Moderate * Minimal * None | **Mini-Justification** |
| **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. | Strong | Significant academic paper stresses clear writing, cogent thought, and concision. |
| **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.) | Strong | 1. Significant exegetical work  2. Original languages used in assignments and paper, and  3. Emphasis in seeing and understanding the books in the light of the whole Bible. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | Classically reformed approaches are brought to bare in the consideration of the texts |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | 1. Study of the text is part of sanctification  2. Exegetical work ends in application |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | Applications to the different areas of life made from the biblical texts |
| **Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic** | 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.) | Strong | Courteous, careful interaction with other scholarship is a part of the discussions, assigned reading, and writing |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Moderate | The course focuses on bringing understanding of the text to the point where homiletical work can continue |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Minimal | Interpretation and understanding of God’s revelation leads to worship |
| **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. | Moderate | Biblical knowledge and hermeneutical skill is vital in the area of church life |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal | Understanding the whole Bible through biblical theology is necessary to communicating its message |