

5ON5100-H1 – Hermeneutics

Course Syllabus – Fall 2026

Instructor: Professor Michael Glodo

Availability I am widely available for pre-scheduled phone or Zoom meetings. On the weekends the course meets, I will generally arrive shortly after lunch and be available prior to the start of class.

Contact information: mglodo@rts.edu, (407)278-4476 direct

Communication: Email and Canvas are the preferred modes when I am not on campus. Please don't use any other messaging or social media apps for class matters. Make sure that my email address is on your "safe senders list" so that no course communications get routed to your junk mail folder.

It's extremely important that you check your rts.edu email regularly or set up an alternative email on Canvas.

Class meetings: September 11-12 3:00-9:30pm Fridays
October 9-10 9:00am-3:00pm Saturdays
November 13-14 Meal break each day.

Prerequisites:

None. While a third-year course according to the MDiv sequence, first and second year students often find this course helpful prior to taking biblical studies courses. Greek and Hebrew are not required, though if you have had original languages you should put them to use in the assignments.

Course Description.

This course will cover traditional hermeneutical issues, including the relationship between the OT and the NT, the role of the interpreter, the use of creeds and confessions in interpretation, and the relationship between original meaning and modern meaning. (3 hours)

Course Requirements.

Homework assignments	50%
Class participation	20
Exegetical paper	30
Total	<u>100%</u>

Required Reading.

Major portions of the following books comprise and inform course content. Items indicated with an asterisk (*) will be available on Canvas. All other readings will be available on the reserve bookshelf in the Library. Guidance on the order of reading will be provided on Canvas and in class.

Primary readings:

- *Beale, G. K., and D. A. Carson. "Introduction." *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Glodo, Michael J. "Dispensationalism," in *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological and Historical Perspectives*. Guy Waters, et al, eds. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020. Pp. 525-550.
- *----- "Pastoral Formation as Wisdom." *Reformed Faith & Practice* 10.1 (Spring 2026).
- Hays, Richard B. *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2017. Students will be assigned the introduction and a chapter on one of the four gospels.
- Jamieson, R. B. and Tyler R. Wittman. *Biblical Reasoning: Christological and Trinitarian Rules for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: BakerAcademic, 2022. Introduction, chapters 1-3, 10, Conclusion, and study the Appendix.

Secondary readings:

- *Allen, Michael. "A Ruled Reading Reformed: The Role of the Church's Confession in Biblical Interpretation." In *Reformed Catholicity: The Promise of Retrieval for Theology and Biblical Interpretation*, 95-116. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.
- *----- "Theological Commentary." In *Theological Commentary: Evangelical Perspectives*, edited by Michael Allen. 1-9. London/New York: T&T Clark, 2011.
- *Carson, D. A. "Theological Interpretation of Scripture: Yes, But..." In *Theological Commentary: Evangelical Perspectives*, ed. Michael Allen, 187-207. London/New York: T&T Clark, 2011.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. Chapters 3-6.
- *Ortlund, Dane. "Christocentrism: An Asymmetrical Trinitarianism?" *Themelios* 34.3 (2009): 309-21.
- *Pratt, Jr., Richard L. "Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions." An Inaugural address presented to the faculty of Reformed Theological Seminary, November 23, 1993. *Available on Canvas*.
- Robertson, O. Palmer. "Israel and the Nations in God's Covenant," in *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological and Historical Perspectives*. Guy Waters, et al, eds. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020. Pp. 503-524.
- *Vanhoozer, Kevin J., "Introduction," in *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*, ed. Kevin J. Vanhoozer et al. (London: Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005), 19-25.
- Swain, Scott R. "New Covenant Theologies," in *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological and Historical Perspectives*. Guy Waters, et al, eds. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020. Pp. 551-570.

Additional reading will be assigned from a variety of articles and other sources on a week-to-week basis. Assignments related to the homework and the exegetical paper will require use of resources acquired for previous courses and/or library resources.

Homework assignments will be made from the following and other works. These should be considered as potential acquisitions for your personal reference library.

- Beale, G. K., and D. A. Carson. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Beale, Gregory K., D. A. Carson, and Benjamin L. Gladd, eds. *Dictionary of the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2023.
- Beetham, Christopher. *The Concise New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology and Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021. An abridgement of the original five-volume set edited by Moisés Silva.
- The IVP Dictionary Series consisting of separate volumes on the Pentateuch, historical books, prophets, wisdom and poetry, New Testament backgrounds, Jesus and the Gospels, Paul and

his letters, and the later New Testament and its development. Be advised that this series ranges in its degree of higher critical perspective.

Ryken, Leland, et al, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

VanGemenen, Willem, ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Additional recommended resources:

Pratt, Jr., Richard L. *He Gave Us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, 1993.

Swain, Scott R. *Trinity, Revelation, and Reading*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2011. 978-0567265401.

Homework Assignments

Assignments will consist of short (1-2 page or less) research assignments using library and other resources which will:

- a) apply/review concepts covered in class;
- b) prepare material to be used in class; and
- c) develop components similar to those in your exegetical paper.

Class Participation

Come to class prepared to discuss assigned reading and homework. Guidance on the order of reading will be provided on Canvas. This portion of the grade must be earned and is not a default grade. Work on non-class projects or violation of the technology policy (see below) will affect this assessment.

Exegetical Paper

You will write a 5,000-7,500 page (single-spaced) exegetical paper similar to the kind required by ordaining bodies as part of their ordination requirements. Original languages are not required for this course, but you should use Greek and Hebrew in the paper to the extent you have taken the languages. Lectures will explain the rubric for the paper in a step-by-step way.

Original Languages

Greek and Hebrew are not prerequisites for this course. However, students are expected to apply their knowledge of the biblical languages commensurate with the courses they have taken.

Classroom Environment.

We are an incarnate, embodied learning community with all the attendant joys and obligations. Your registration for this course constitutes your good faith commitment to love your neighbor by faithfully attending class unless providentially hindered, arriving on time, returning from breaks in a timely manner, and remaining in class except at breaks or for urgent reasons. Take whatever measures are necessary to keep these commitments to one another.

Computers, tablets, & mobile phones

Lecture handouts will be provided each weekend in print and available on Canvas. Computers and tablets are permitted in class if you covenant to limit your usage to classroom purposes while class is in session. Mobile phones are to be out of sight except on breaks unless compelling personal or professional reasons require otherwise. Notify me if that is the case. The technology usage covenant includes my prerogative to ask you in class about your compliance. If this covenant is not sufficiently observed, the allowance provision will be withdrawn for the entire class.

Use of Resources

Students are expected to do their own original research and writing unless stipulated otherwise. Assignments must be the student's original composition except when attributed through citation (e.g. footnotes). Students may not use artificial intelligence bots, language generation models, or similar tools (e.g. Chat-GPT) for research, compilation of materials, editing, or completion of assignments. Students will be asked at the end of the course to confirm their compliance with this policy. If you are unclear about the application of this policy, please see me.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Hermeneutics (02ON5100)
 Professor: Glodo
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Fall 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<i>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.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	
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	Course consists of a series of assignments incorporating Bible content knowledge, hermeneutics and grammatical/syntactical skills all geared toward communicating the meaning of scripture.
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	See above.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Reformed theology's hermeneutical outlook is the foundation of interpretation of scripture taught in this class.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	The role of the Spirit (and sanctification) in biblical interpretation is emphasized along with the goal of interpretation which is sanctification.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	
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.)	Minimal	
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Hermeneutical skill is essential to homiletical skill.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	
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	Because interpretive skill is foundational to preaching and pastoring, this course provides those foundations,

			especially biblical application.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Consideration is given to the role of tradition and presuppositions in interpretation.