INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Fall 2015
Dr. Kelly

PURPOSE: In this course we shall look at the basic structure of Biblical truth regarding God's plan of salvation and our life of service to His glory. After placing the Reformed Faith in both its historical and contemporary context, we shall consider the content of the doctrines of grace—including the traditional "five-points of Calvinism." Then on the basis of these truths, we shall consider the living of our lives in the modern culture to the glory of God.

Thus we shall survey the foundations of Biblical truth from a soteriological viewpoint. Then, we shall look at these truths from a devotional perspective, guided by John Calvin's Institutes Book 3, chapters 6-10 and chapter 20. Next, we shall conclude our foundational theological studies in a cultural context under the guidance of Abraham Kuyper's Lectures on Calvinism.

REQUIRED READING:


(2) Available on reserve at the RTS library: John Calvin, Institutes, Book III, Chapters 6-10, 20.


(5) Abraham Kuyper, Lectures on Calvinism (CreateSpace, 2009; an online edition is available here: http://www.ccel.org/ccel/kuyper/lecture.i.i.html).


REQUIREMENTS: Read all of the required material. Attend class faithfully and participate in the seminar-type discussions. The course work will consist of both lectures and seminar
discussion periods. During the seminars we will divide into small groups to facilitate discussion, and then bring reports from each group to a plenary session.

1. **Two exams:**
   
a. A **take-home exam, worth 33.4% of your course grade**, on your readings in John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*; John Byl, *The Divine Challenge*; Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*. **Given out in class Thursday, October 15, 2015 and due at the beginning of class on Thursday, November 12, 2015.**
   
b. A cumulative **final exam to be taken during finals week**. It should take about two hours, though you may have more time if you wish. **Worth 33.3% of your course grade.**

2. An **8 -10 page term paper, worth 33.3% of your course grade**, due at the beginning of class, Thursday October 1, 2015.

**Term Paper for IPTS**

This paper should be 8-10 pages in length (typed and double-spaced) with appropriate footnoting and bibliography. Do not include a string of long quotations. Make sure you (1) deal with the relevant information competently and fairly to all sides, and (2) interact with the material yourself so that you demonstrate that you have "thought about it theologically." (3) Have a proper introduction and conclusion and a clear structure for your essay. (4) Use good grammar and write clearly. (5) Use 8 sources, and footnote, where appropriate.