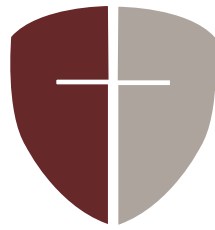


RTS

DISTANCE EDUCATION



**Systematic Theology:
Ecclesiology and Sacraments**
0ST519, 2 Hours

Lectures by
Scott R. Swain, Ph.D.

RTS Distance Education

This course notebook is for the coordination of your course materials, including reading assignments and lecture recordings. Each course notebook for RTS Distance Education is arranged by the GUIDE acronym. The five components of GUIDE are organized in each lesson by the following steps in the notebook:

GUIDE

Getting Started To do the lessons, reading and listening assignments are listed.

Understanding To maximize learning, the purposes are given.

Investigating To explore the content, outlines are provided for note taking.

Developing To expand content, readings are suggested.

Evaluating To help review, lesson questions are based on purposes.

COURSE SYLLABUS

ST: Ecclesiology and Sacraments; OST519 2 hours

Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:

Dr. Scott R. Swain

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education



Lecturing Professor

Dr. Scott R. Swain joined the faculty of Reformed Theological Seminary in 2006. Prior to that, he taught theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois and served on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Academic Dean on the Orlando campus.

In his teaching and research, Dr. Swain seeks to retrieve the riches of patristic, medieval, and Reformation patterns of biblical interpretation and theologizing for the sake of the contemporary church's renewal according to the Word of God. With Michael Allen, he edited two series that endeavor to embody a theology of "renewal through retrieval": Zondervan *Academic's New Studies in Dogmatics* and T & T Clark's *International Theological Commentary*.

Dr. Swain's main research interests include the doctrine of God and the theological interpretation of Scripture. At present, he is working on a book on the divine names.

Dr. Swain is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. He and his wife, Leigh, have four children.

Course Description

This course explores biblical doctrine from a systematic perspective. Topics include Ecclesiology and Sacraments.

Course Objectives

To contemplate, appreciate, and apply the doctrines of Church and Sacraments as they are revealed in Holy Scripture and summarized in the Reformed Confessions to the end that God might be glorified "in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations" (Ephesians 3:21).

The study of the doctrines of the Church will include:

- Its ontological and epistemological foundations.
- The unity and progression of the church in redemptive history in its promissory form, pattern and prophesy form, and perfect eschatological form.
- The modes, marks, and ministry of the Church.

The study of the Sacraments of the Church will include:

- Examining them as the signs and seals of the covenant of grace.
- Identification and number of sacraments in the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches.
- A careful study of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Required Reading

Ephesians (students are required to read Ephesians slowly and prayerfully at least four times)

Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics. Volume 4: Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2008. (Chapters 5-7)
ISBN 13: 9780801026577

Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
ISBN 13: 9780830815340

Genderen, J. van and W.H. Velema. *Concise Reformed Dogmatics*. Philipsburg, New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 1992. (Chapter 14)
This chapter is available for download on the LMS.

Grudem, Wayne A. editor. *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Four Views*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.
ISBN 13: 9780310201557

Strawbridge, Gregg. editor. *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism*. Philipsburg, New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 2003.
ISBN 13: 9780875525549

Venema, Cornelis. "The Doctrine of the Lord's Supper in the Reformed Confessions," MTJ 12 (2001): 81-145.
(Available on the LMS)

Venema, Cornelis. "Sacraments and Baptism in the Reformed Confessions," MTJ 11 (2000): 21-86.
(Available on the LMS)

Webster, John. "On Evangelical Ecclesiology," Ecclesiology 1 (2004): 9-35.
(Available on the LMS)

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS Distance Education website (www.rts.edu/distance) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Requirements

- Listen to all recorded lectures
- Complete all readings and submit a reading report
- Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and the professors)
- Take the Midterm and Final exam
- Write the research paper
- Submit Mentor Report/Course Application Paper
- Submit Course Completion Form

Forum Discussions (15%)

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
 - A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
 - B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question therefore requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts).
 - C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
 - A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

Examinations (Midterm 20%, Final 20%)

There will be two examinations for this course. The midterm will cover all the lectures and assigned readings from Lessons 1-5, the final exam will cover all the lectures and assigned readings from Lessons 6-9.

Exams will test students' critical grasp of doctrinal topics covered in class lectures, readings, and the Reformed confessions as well as their ability to communicate doctrinal topics in a clear manner.

The student should use the Lesson Review Questions and the Topical Discussion Questions to guide them in their preparation and study for the exams. The format for the midterm and final exams will be two long essay questions and four short answer questions. The student will have two hours to complete the exam.

The exams for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam

Research Paper (30%)

The student will write and submit a 10-12 page research paper (12 pt. font and double spaced) with appropriate footnoting and bibliography according to Turabian style. The paper must also:

- Have a proper and clear thesis, introduction, structure, and conclusion
- Consider and investigate the relevant information competently and fairly to all sides
- Interact with both primary and secondary material
- Demonstrate that the student has synthesized the materials coming to their own conclusion, and has clearly thought about it 'theologically' and practically
- Cite at least five scholarly sources that are not part of the required reading of this course
- Cite at least two scholarly journal articles

Papers will be evaluated based on their ability (1) to articulate a clear thesis that rests upon sound biblical and theological argumentation and that addresses the strongest counterarguments to the thesis; (2) to engage with appropriate scholarly resources; (3) to follow the above prescribed format.

Required Readings (10%)

Reading assignments are broken down week by week within the Learning Management System (LMS). As an assignment, the student will be asked to report the percentage of reading they have completed in the LMS. The student will receive credit according to the percentage of reading completed.

Mentor Report / Course Application Paper (5%)

Each Global/Non-Residential student is required to have a mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not Global/Non-Residential, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information

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COURSE OUTLINE

ST: Ecclesiology and Sacraments; OST519 2 hours

Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:

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Lesson One

Principles of Reformed Ecclesiology

Lesson Two

The Church Defined

Lesson Three

The Story of the Church, Part One

Lesson Four

The Story of the Church, Part Two

Lesson Five

The Story of the Church, Part Three

Lesson Six

The Modes and Marks of the Church

Lesson Seven

The Ministry of the Church

Lesson Eight

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered: An Introduction to the Sacraments

Lesson Nine

The Sacrament of Baptism

Lesson Ten

The Proper Subjects of Baptism

Lesson Eleven

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

FURTHER READING

ST: Ecclesiology and Sacraments; OST519 2 hours

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Allison, Gregg. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Bannerman, James. *The Church of Christ*, 2 vols. Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 2015

Bavinck, Herman. *Saved by Grace: The Holy Spirit's Work in Calling and Regeneration Assignments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformed Heritage Books, 2013.

Beale, G.K. *The Temple and the Church's Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Billings, Todd J. *Union with Christ: Reframing Theology and Ministry for the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2011.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2009.

Calvin, John *Treatises on the Sacraments*. Charleston, SC: Forgotten Books, 2015.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church.

DeYoung, Kevin and Greg Gilbert. *What is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

Gentry, Peter and Stephen Wellum. *Kingdom through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Goheen, Michael. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011.

Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. *Resident Aliens*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2014.

Horton, Michael. *People and Place: A Covenant Ecclesiology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

Küng, Hans. *The Church*. New York, NY: Doubleday Image Books, 1976.

Luther, Martin. *On the Councils of the Church*.

Robinson, Stuart. *The Church of God as an Essential Element of the Gospel*. Charleston, SC: Nabu Press, 2010.

Schreiner, Thomas and Shawn Wright ed., *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2007.

Tennant, Timothy. *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Trueman, Carl. *The Creedal Imperative*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, vol. 3. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1997.

Volf, Miroslav. *After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997.

Waters, Guy Prentiss. *How Jesus Runs the Church*. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2011.

Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Systematic Theology 519: Ecclesiology and Sacraments

Professor: Dr. Scott Swain

Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the 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 outcomes.</i>		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	Exams, 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.)	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Focus of all ST courses
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
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	Careful engagement with other views of church and sacraments
Teach	Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Sound understanding of biblical theology promotes sound teaching
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Biblical bases for denominational distinctives are addressed to some degree.
MAR Specific SLO	An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one's own calling in society	Moderate	By studying the theology taught in God's Word, the man of God is equipped to better use his "gifts and callings," to encourage, reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching.