
REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DISTANCE EDUCATION



INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
DR. JAMES N. ANDERSON



Course Overview

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Course Description:

OST502 Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies, 3 hours

Lecturing Professor: Dr. James N. Anderson

Professor of Record: Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

This is a survey course on the basic tenets of Reformed Theology that developed during the time of the Reformation. Specifically the course will focus on the Reformation Solas and the five points of Calvinism, and their impact on Christian living and pastoral ministry.

Course Objectives:

- To familiarize the student with the basics of Reformed Theology (specifically, the Reformation Solas and the “Doctrines of Grace”) in their historical context
- To familiarize the student with the core biblical arguments for Reformed theology
- To encourage the student to reflect on some of the hermeneutical and practical implications of Reformed theology
- To help the student appreciate the significance of a Reformed world view for pastoral and theological studies

Required Textbooks:

Currid, John D. *Why Do I Suffer?.* Ross-shire, UK: Christian Focus, 2004.

Frame, John M. “How to Write a Theological Paper.” Appendix F in *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God.* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1987.

[A copy of this will be made available in the Learning Management System (LMS)]

Kuyper, Abraham. *Lectures on Calvinism.* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.

Lawrence, Michael. *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Packer, J. I. “‘Saved By His Precious Blood’: An Introduction to John Owen’s *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ.*” in *A Quest for Godliness.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1994

[A copy of this will be made available in the LMS]

Reeves, Michael. *The Unquenchable Flame*. Nashville, TN: B&H, 2010.

Silva, Moises. “*The Case for Calvinistic Hermeneutics*.” in *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

[A copy of this will be made available in the LMS]

Sproul, R. C. *What is Reformed Theology?* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005.

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

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.

Summary of Requirements:

1. Listen to all recorded [Lectures](#)
2. Complete all [Readings](#)
3. Participate in [Forum Discussions](#) (with other students and the professor)
4. Take the [Midterm Exam](#)
5. Take the [Final Exam](#)
6. Submit [Research Paper](#)
7. Submit [Mentor Report or Course Application Paper](#)

Meet the Professors

Lecturing Professor:



Dr. James N. Anderson is an ordained minister in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Dr. Anderson came to RTS from Edinburgh, Scotland, and specializes in philosophical theology, religious epistemology, and Christian apologetics. His doctoral thesis at the University of Edinburgh explored the paradoxical nature of certain Christian doctrines and the implications for the rationality of Christian faith. His research and writing has also focused on the presuppositionalism of Cornelius Van Til, particularly his advocacy of the transcendental argument. Dr. Anderson has a longstanding concern to bring the Reformed theological tradition into greater dialogue with contemporary analytic philosophy. Before studying philosophy, Dr. Anderson also earned a Ph.D. in Computer Simulation

from the University of Edinburgh. He is a member of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion, and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. Prior to joining RTS Charlotte, Dr. Anderson served as an assistant pastor at the historic Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh where he engaged in regular preaching, teaching, and pastoral ministry. He is active now in service at Ballantyne Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. He is married to Catriona and they have three children. You can follow his blog at www.proginosko.com or on Twitter [@proginosko](https://twitter.com/proginosko)

Professor of Record:



Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer is minister of discipleship at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina (B.A. Philosophy), Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Westminster Theological Seminary (PhD.). Prior to coming to First Presbyterian, Gabe served as the founding pastor of Shiloh Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC, after having been ordained to the gospel ministry at Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC in 2008. He is the editor of three books, *Atonement* (P&R 2010), *These Last Days* (P&R 2011), and *Solid Ground* (P&R 2012). When not with his family, he enjoys South Carolina football, hunting, music, and going to the beach.

Grades

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 25%):

The midterm exam will cover lessons 1-8. The format of the exam will be a series of multiple choice questions based on the material covering the first half of the course. Use the Lecture Review Questions at the end of each lesson to assist you in studying. The student will have 90 minutes to complete this exam.

The final exam will be cumulative covering all lessons, 1-14. You should review all of the lecture material and course notebook in preparation for the exam. The final exam will consist of a combination of short-answer and short-essay questions based on all of the lecture material. The student will have three hours to complete this exam.

The midterm and final 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%):

You should write a paper (3500-4500 words, excluding footnotes) that discusses either one of the five "Reformation Solas" or one of the five "Doctrines of Grace." You are free to choose which one of these ten articles of doctrine to discuss. Your paper should try to either defend or refute your chosen article of doctrine. See section titled "[Research Paper Instructions](#)" in this syllabus.

Reading Report (5%):

The student must complete all of the required reading. Reading assignments are broken down week by week within the LMS. The Reading Report will indicate the amount of required reading that has been completed during the semester and must be filled out and submitted at the end of the course. No partial credit will be given for readings that have not been completed.

Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree program, you are required to submit a mentor report at the end of the course. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom.

If you are receiving your degree through another **RTS campus** (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.), or are a certificate student, or special student (e.g. from another seminary), 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. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 200 words will receive a grade deduction.

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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Lessons

Lesson One Introduction: What is Theology?	Lesson Two Foundations: The Doctrine of Scripture
Lesson Three Background: The Reformation and Its Theology	Lesson Four Doctrine of Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)
Lesson Five Doctrine of Solus Christus (Christ Alone)	Lesson Six Doctrine of Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)
Lesson Seven Doctrine of Sola Fide (Faith Alone)	Lesson Eight Doctrine of Soli De Gloria (Glory to God Alone)
Lesson Nine The Reformed Doctrines of Providence and Predestination	Lesson Ten The Doctrine of Radical Depravity
Lesson Eleven The Doctrine of Unconditional Election	Lesson Twelve The Doctrine of Efficacious Grace
Lesson Thirteen The Doctrine of Persevering Grace	Lesson Fourteen The Doctrine of Particular Redemption

Research Paper Instructions

You should write a paper (3500-4500 words, excluding footnotes) that discusses either one of the five “Reformation Solas” or one of the five “Doctrines of Grace.” You are free to choose which one of these ten articles of doctrine to discuss. Your paper should try to either defend or refute your chosen article of doctrine. Your paper should include all of the following:

- A clear statement and explanation of the article of doctrine under discussion, with supporting references.
- An argument either for or against your chosen article, based primarily on a responsible exegesis of relevant biblical texts. You may also use arguments based on other doctrines (e.g., doctrine X is implied by doctrines Y and Z).
- A treatment of at least two prominent objections to the position you have taken (i.e., the objections and then try to refute them). You should cite sources (either popular or scholarly) for these objections.
- A discussion of some of the practical applications of the position you have taken (i.e., answer the question: what real difference does it or should it make in the life of a Christian believer?).
- A standard bibliography (see below on sources and citations).

Your paper will be graded according to the following criteria, in no particular order: responsible use of Scripture, responsible use of sources, extent of research, creativity, clarity, structure and coherence, cogency of argument, evidence of critical thinking, practical relevance, and good writing style (including grammar, spelling, and punctuation). Your paper should cite at least 6 scholarly sources. For the purposes of this paper, a scholarly source is a book or article by a recognized expert in the field (and not aimed at a popular level for a general audience). Please consult the professor if you have any doubts about whether a source is scholarly. You should not rely heavily on web-based sources. Use the library!

The paper should be word-processed, not hand-written. Use a 12-point font and double line-spacing for the main text. Use section headings where applicable to improve readability. Use footnotes (10-point font) rather than endnotes. Use Turabian style for citations, footnoting, and bibliography. The paper should be submitted with a title page containing all of the following: the name and year of the course, your name, the professor’s name, the title of the paper, and the exact word count for the paper (obtained from your word processor’s word-count feature).

The following rubric contains some of the key criteria by which your paper may be graded:

1. **Clear & Viable Thesis:** The paper puts forth a viable thesis that is clearly stated and can be reasonably defended in a paper of the assigned length.
2. **Structure & Argumentation:** The paper has a logical structure and provides appropriate argumentation in support of the thesis.

3. **Use of Resources:** The paper uses the proper number and types of resources. This includes using diverse, quality resources in a responsible manner.
4. **Turabian Formatting:** The paper is properly formatted according to the RTS Turabian guidelines. These guidelines can be downloaded within your course on the “Notebook” page.
5. **Depth of Paper:** The paper has depth that reflects scholarly research, critical analysis, theological insight, and creativity.
6. **Presentation of Paper:** The paper reflects good grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with clarity of expression and appropriate academic style.

You **will be penalized** if you do not observe the requirements and guidelines above.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies
Professor: James N. Anderson

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <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>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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.	Moderate	1. Pastoral application paper 2. Final exam tests knowledge and articulation of course topics 3. Class discussion questions testing understanding and application
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. Detailed discussion of biblical basis for doctrines of grace 2. Covers basic principles of biblical interpretation 3. Discussion of Reformed doctrine of Scripture
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	1. Introduction to Reformed theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	1. Personal application of doctrines of grace 2. Emphasis on cross-centered living
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	1. Relevance of Christian doctrines to all of life
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	1. Distinction between Christian orthodoxy and Reformed distinctives 2. Respectful engagement with non-Reformed views
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	1. Importance of doctrines as foundation/framework for preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	1. Introduces Reformed views on worship (application of Sola Scriptura)
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	1. Emphasis on pastoral application of doctrines of grace 2. Discusses implications of Reformed theology for evangelism/discipleship
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	1. Understanding and appreciation for Reformed distinctives 2. Reformed theology placed in context of broader Evangelical tradition