# REFORMED ✠ THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
## DISTANCE EDUCATION

# ORIENTATION SEMINAR
## MR. DAVID R. JOHN, III

# Course Overview

*Course Description:*

0CE750 Orientation Seminar, 3 hours
Professor of Record:
Mr. David R, John, III

An introduction to distance learning techniques, theological bibliography, and academic disciplines in the seminary curriculum. Special emphasis is given to the unique aspects and requirements of Global Education M.A. programs.

*Per the RTS Catalog, a student can take any Church History/Historical Theology, Systematic Theology or biblical language course(s) to fulfill their specialized electives for the MATS.

*Course Objectives:*

- Overview of RTS Global and Distance Education
- Overview of Course Registration Process
- Understand the Role of Student Services
- Complete Canvas LMS Training
- Be Able to Access Course Lectures on RTS Mobile App
- Complete Reading and Writing Tips Videos
- Understand Mentoring and Degree Advising
- Introducing the Thesis Process

*Required Textbooks:*

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 3rd ed. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Cameron, Andrew J.B. and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *The Trials of Theology: Becoming a 'Proven Worker' in a Dangerous Business*. Scotland: Christian Focus, 2010.

Dreyfus, Hubert. *On the Internet*. London: Routledge, 2002.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

[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. Watch all Videos
2. Complete all Quizzes on the Videos
3. Participate in Forum Discussions
4. Submit the Final Exam Essay
5. Submit Book Interaction Paper
6. Submit Thesis/Biblical Book Topic Paragraph
7. Submit Mentor Agreement Form

# Meet the Professors and Staff

## Professor of Record:

David R. John III joined the RTS staff in 2007 and now serves as the Executive Director for the RTS Distance Education Department. Mr. John has worked in the distance education field for higher education for nearly 16 years. In addition to his time in higher education, he has worked in television production and news broadcasting fields and has an extensive background in video-conferencing, streaming platforms, smart classroom design and integration, and a variety of multimedia platforms and course delivery systems for education. David received his B.S. in General Communication from Florida State University and holds an M.A. (Theological Studies) from Reformed Theological Seminary.

## Global and Distance Education Staff:

David R. John III, Executive Director (djohn@rts.edu)
Alice Hathaway, Executive Assistant and Registrar (ahathaway@rts.edu)
Brittian Brewer, Director of Admissions (bbrewer@rts.edu):
Donn DeHart, Baculty Liaison and Business Office (ddehart@rts.edu)
Evan Frazier, Instructional Designer and Canvas Admin (efrazier@rts.edu)
Jason Knight, Information and Instructional Technologist (jknight@rts.edu)
Jaime Miller, Instructional Design and Graphics (jmiller@rts.edu)
David Ponter, Distance Education Librarian (RTS Jackson) (distance.librarian@rts.edu)
Todd Whiting, Director of Instructional Design and IT (twhiting@rts.edu)

## RTS Distance Education Professors:

Michael Allen, Ph.D. John Dyer Trimble Professor of Systematic Theology, Academic Dean
James Anderson, Ph.D. (x2), Associate Professor of Theology & Philosophy
Richard Belcher, Jr., Ph.D., Academic Dean and John D. & Francis M. Gwin Professor of Old Testament
Robert J. Cara, Ph.D., Hugh & Sallie Reaves Professor of New Testament and Chief Academic Officer
J. Ligon Duncan, Ph.D., Chancellor & CEO, John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology
Gabriel Fluhrer, Ph.D. from Westminster Theological Seminary
S. Donald Fortson, Ph.D., Professor of Church History and Practical Theology Director, Doctor of Ministry Program
Mark Futato, Ph.D., Robert L. Maclellan Professor of Old Testament
Benjamin Gladd, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of New Testament

Mark House, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of New Testament
Michael J. Kruger, Ph.D., President and Samuel C. Patterson Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity
Mark McDowell, Executive Director, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology
Guy Waters, Ph.D., James M. Baird, Jr. Professor of New Testament

# Grades

## Participation (35%):

The student is required to watch all video presentations, complete all quizzes composed of material from the video and interact in all discussion forums, including an introduction. Your introduction should include some details about who are you, why are you pursuing this degree, your prior experience of distance education, your family, and your church membership/responsibility. Please be sure to respond to the introductions of your fellow classmates.

## Examination (Final 20%):

To complete your final exam, choose one of the topics listed below. Your essay should be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced with standard margins. There is no time limit for the exam. You are required to upload your finished exam essay in MS Word or PDF format using the appropriate upload link in the Learning Management System (LMS/Canvas). You are not required to have a title page or bibliography but please be sure your name and date are on the submitted document:

1. What are advantages and disadvantages of distance education for theology?
2. Why is "lifelong learning" increasing in society?
3. What is the process of mentoring at RTS Global?
4. What are some tips for gaining full advantage of the distance education courses?
5. What can I do with this degree?

## Book Interaction Paper (20%):

Read chapters 2 and 3 from Hubert Dreyfus' *On the Internet* and write a 2-3 page double-spaced interaction with the material. You should focus on the areas where you agree and disagree with Dreyfus concerning distance education and thoughtfully explain why.

## Thesis/Biblical Book Topic (20%):

In a discussion forum, MAR and MATS students will write a one-paragraph description of a possible topic for your thesis. Why is it important and how might you write a proposition to support your topic using biblical studies, systematic theology, and church history? Then respond to the posts from others with your suggestions and encouragement. These ideas come from the passion the Lord has given you as you look at the needs in family, church, and society. Respond to fellow students and read students' responses to your ideas.

If you are in the Global MABS degree program, instead of a thesis topic consider a chapter from the Bible that will be of most interest for expositional language exegesis. What is the purpose and passion for your designation of this chapter? Why do you think that knowing Greek or Hebrew will help in your personal Christian life and ministry to others?

## Mentor Agreement Form (5%):

The church-based mentor is a key component of M.A. degree programs and all Global M.A. students are required to choose a mentor. Your mentor may be a pastor, elder, or other mature Christian in the

church. You must upload a completed Mentor Agreement form, signed by your mentor, to register your mentor with RTS.

As you take courses during your program, you are required to meet with your mentor once every month (3 credit hour course = 3 mentor meetings) to discuss course material and the application of what you have learned to your personal, professional, and ministerial growth. A copy of the Mentor Agreement form is available for download in the LMS.

### *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:*

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education
2101 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 900-1257
1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/global

# REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

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

Course:        Orientation Seminar, 0CE750

Professor:    David R. John, III

| MAR Student Learning Outcomes | | Rubric ➢ Strong ➢ Moderate ➢ Minimal ➢ None | Mini-Justification |
|---|---|---|---|
| *In order to measure the success of the MAR 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 MAR outcomes.* | | | |
| **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 | - Description and explanation of MAR curriculum and disciplines <br> - Description and explanation of MAR thesis |
| **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.) | Minimal | -Librarian lectures on theological research for courses and thesis <br> -Peer interaction from a variety of global cultures |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | None | |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification. | Moderate | -Mentoring process for theological distance education <br> -Student to student learning and fellowship online |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Strong | -Thesis topics to be relevant personally and professionally |
| **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.) | Moderate | -Academic work applied to cultural transformation |
| **Teach** | Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | -Encouragement to match church assignments with course selection |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | -Testimony of reason for MAR <br> -Critical thinking about the role of the MAR in career |
| **MAR Specific SLO** | An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one's own calling in society | Strong | -Thesis format with history, theology and biblical chapters <br> -Advisement and interaction with peers |