

**INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (4ST502)**  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta

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Fall Semester 2008  
Mondays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
September 08 – December 08

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*An Introduction to biblical, theological, and practical ministry studies within the Reformed tradition. Key terms, figures, and issues are introduced and integrated into the life of pastoral ministry. Various ecclesiological subjects will also be examined such as Presbyterian polity, women in ministry, and other pertinent contemporary issues. In addition, an emphasis on spiritual formation and reflection will also be incorporated into each class session. Ultimately, the understanding and appreciation we attain during this course should help us “Glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” 3 credit hours. No prerequisites required.*

**II. BOOK LIST (Required)**

- Clowney, Edmund P. *Called to the Ministry*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 1964.
- Horton, Michael. *Putting Amazing Back into Grace*. Second Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Johnson, Dennis. *Him We Proclaim*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2007.
- Marshall, Walter. *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification*. Translated by Bruce McRae. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- Frame, John M. *Salvation Belongs to the Lord*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006.
- The Westminster Confession of Faith  
Available free online at -- [www.reformed.org/documents/wcf\\_with\\_proofs/](http://www.reformed.org/documents/wcf_with_proofs/)

**(Highly Recommended)**

- Turbian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Seventh Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

**III. COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>September 08: Prolegomena</b>
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- a. Introduction to the Course (Syllabus and General Orientation)
- b. Introductions of the class and small groups
- c. Lecture 1: **“The Theological Curriculum”** (The identity, purpose, and correlation between Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology and Historical Theology)
- d. Excursus: **“How to Write an Academic Paper”** (A brief outline of K. Turabian’s approach to academic style)
- e. Small Groups: discussion and prayer

**Reading Assignments:**

1. Walter Marshall, *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification* (Hereafter *TGMS*), Chapters One and Two (One page reflection paper)
2. Edmund P. Clowney, *Called to the Ministry*, pp. 3-90. (One page reflection paper) [87 pp.]

**September 15: Practical Theology**

- a. Lecture 2: **“What is Your Vocation?”** (The Call to the Ministry)
- b. Class Discussion of Clowney’s *Called to the Ministry*
- c. Small Groups: Discuss Marshall’s *TGMS* and share reflection papers

**Reading Assignments:**

1. \*John Dillenberger, “An Introduction to Martin Luther,” in *Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings* (New York: Doubleday, 1962), pp. xi-xxxiii. [22 pp.]
2. \*Lewis W. Spitz, “Calvin and Calvinism,” in *The Renaissance and Reformation Movements*, Vol. II: The Reformation (Revised Edition; St. Louis: Concordia, 1987), pp. 411-440. [29 pp.]
3. \*Mark Noll, “Introduction,” in *The Princeton Theology 1812-1921*, ed. M. Noll (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983), pp. 11-45. [34 pp.]
4. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Three (One page reflection paper)

**September 22: Historical Theology**

- a. Lecture 3: **“Figures of the Evangelical Reformed Tradition”** (Luther, Calvin, Old Princeton)
- b. Class Discussion
- c. Small Groups

**Reading Assignments:**

1. WCF: Chapters 9-18
2. Horton, Chapters 1-10
3. Frame, Chapters 13-17
4. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Four (One page reflection paper)

**September 29: Historical and Systematic Theology**

- a. Lecture 4: **“What is the Gospel?”** (Reformed Soteriology)
- b. Class Discussion
- c. Small Groups

**Reading Assignments:**

1. WCF: Chapter 1
2. \*B.B. Warfield, “The Inerrancy of the Original Autographs,” “The Divine and Human in the Bible,” and “Inspiration” in *The Princeton Theology 1812-1921*, ed. M. Noll (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983, 2001), pp. 268-288. [20 pp.]
3. \*Sinclair Ferguson, “How Does the Bible Look at Itself?” in *Inerrancy and Hermeneutic: A Tradition, A Challenge, A Debate* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988), pp. 47-66. [19 pp.]

4. Frame, Chapters 4-6
5. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapters Five and Six (One page reflection paper)

<b>October 06: Systematic Theology</b>
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- a. Lecture 5: **“What is Scripture?”** (The Doctrine of Inspiration and Inerrancy)
- b. Class Discussion
- c. Small Groups

**Reading Assignments:**

1. WCF: 6-8
2. Dennis Johnson, *Him We Proclaim*, pp. 1-166.
3. Frame, Chapter 9
4. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Seven (One page reflection paper)

<b>October 13: Practical and Biblical Theology</b>
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- a. Lecture 6: **“What is Christ-Centered Preaching?”** (The Meaning and Purpose of the Ministry of the Word)
- b. Class Discussion
- c. Small Group Time

**Assignment:**

Preparation for Mid-Term (A Mid-Term study sheet will be handed-out)

<b>October 20: Mid-Term Examination</b>
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- a. Short Essay Format
- b. Two hour time limit

**Reading Assignments:**

1. Frame, Chapters 18-21
2. \*Wayne Grudem, “The Church: Its Nature, Its Marks, and Its Purpose” and “Church Government” in *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), pp. 853-72; 904-949.
3. WCF: Chapters 25-31
4. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Eight (One page reflection paper)

<b>October 27: Systematic Theology</b>
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1. Lecture 7: **“What is the Church?”** (The People of God; The Work of the Holy Spirit; The Structure of the Church)
2. Class Discussion
3. Small Group Time

**Reading Assignments:**

- a. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church*, pp. 117-136.
- b. D.G. Hart & J.R. Muether, *With Reverence and Awe* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2002), “Means of Grace,” pp. 131-144; “Song in Worship,” pp. 159-174; “Discernment in Worship,” pp. 175-187.
- c. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Nine (One page reflection paper)

<b>November 03: Systematic Theology</b>
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1. Lecture 8: **“What is Worship?”** (The Regulative Principle; Does Style Matter?; The Sacraments)
2. Class Discussion
3. Small Group Time

**Reading Assignments:**

- a. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church*, pp. 155-197. [42 pp.]
- b. Hart & Muether, “The Purpose of the Church,” pp. 37-48.
- c. Jeffrey K. Jue, "What's Emerging in the Church? Postmodernity, The Emergent Church, and the Reformation," *Themelios* 31.2 (January 2006): 29-39.
- d. W. Robert Godfrey, “Friends or Foe: The Mission and the Confession of the Church,” *Evangelium* 6.1 (May 2008): 2-13.
- e. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Ten (One page reflection paper)

<b>November 10: Systematic Theology</b>
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1. Lecture 9: **“What is the Mission of the Church?”** (The Implications of the Great Commission; Missional vs. Confessional?)
2. Class Discussion
3. Small Group Time

**Reading Assignments:**

- a. Frame, Chapters 22-25
- b. Grudem, “The Millennium,” pp. 1109-1139.
- c. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Eleven (One page reflection paper)

<b>November 17: Systematic Theology</b>
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1. Lecture 10: **“The Church and Last Things”**
2. Class Discussion
3. Small Group Time

**Reading Assignments:**

- a. \*Duane A. Garrett, “Historical Criticism of the Old Testament” in *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994), pp. 187-204. [17 pp.]
- b. \*Craig L. Blomberg, “Historical Criticism of the New Testament,” in *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*, pp. 414-433. [19 pp.]
- c. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapter Twelve (One page reflection paper)

<b>November 24: Thanksgiving- No Class</b>
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**Reading Assignment:**

- a. Marshall, *TGMS*, Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen (One page reflection paper)

<b>December 1: Biblical Studies</b>
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1. Lecture 11: “**An Introduction to Biblical Studies**” (Old Testament Criticism; New Testament Criticism; Textual Criticism; Presuppositions in Biblical Studies)
2. Class Discussion
3. Small Group Time
4. Final Examination Review

**Assignment:**

Preparation for Final (non-cumulative; Final exam study sheet will be handed-out)

<b>December 08: Final Examination</b>
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- a. Short Essay Format
- b. Two hour time limit

<b>Paper Due: December 15 by 5:00 p.m.</b>
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**IV. ASSIGNMENTS**

- a. **Small Group Reflection Papers:** Each student will be required to turn in a set of reflection papers each week at the end of each small group session. The papers are a means to interact with the assigned reading as well as to facilitate discussion during each small group time. These papers will be graded and handed back the following week.
- b. **Course Paper:** Each student will also be required to write an 8-10 page (12-font, double-spaced paper with proper academic footnotes or endnotes and bibliography) on one of the topics covered this semester. More information will be given in class.
- c. **Theological Vision of a Church** (in keeping with B. McRae’s course): Submit a 3-page, double-spaced paper on the theological vision of a church. Here is what I want you to do. Go and visit a church other than the one you regularly attend. Attend Sunday school class or a small group and a worship service at that church. Carefully observe what you see and hear. Pick up literature from the church. And then, having gone there, write a three page double spaced paper on this basic question: What theological vision did you see at that church? Remember, every church has a theology, whether explicitly stated or not, which drives everything it does. So, what did you observe? What did the church present about God, about Christ and the gospel, or anything else you observed about its priorities? For instance, if the church had 15 minutes of worship, and 50 minutes of preaching, what does that tell you about the church’s priorities, and thus about its theological vision? I would encourage you to do this assignment in a group. You can make the visit together, and then discuss what you observed. If you do it as a group, you are to submit one paper for the entire group, which you have written as a group. Every member of the group will get the same grade for the paper.

**V. ATTENDANCE, LATE ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING**

- A. **Attendance** for each class is important. If in the event an absence is necessary, please notify the instructor prior to missing class- especially before exams and due dates.

**B. Late assignments** will be penalized one-half letter grade for every week (i.e., each class session) that it is not turned in.

**C. Scale.** The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

A (97-100)

A- (94-96)

B+ (91-93)

B (88-90)

B- (86-87)

C+ (83-85)

C (80-82)

C- (78-79)

D+ (75-77)

D (72-74)

D- (70-71)

F (below 70)

**B. Basis for computation**

*Midterm Examination* 25%

*Final Examination* 25%

*Reflection Papers* 10%

*Paper* 30%

*Theological Vision Paper* 10%