

ST502 : Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies 2010: Course Syllabus

Instructors:

William Davis (Theology),
Bruce Lowe (New Testament), John Yeo (Old Testament).

Course Description: An introduction to biblical, theological and practical ministry studies within the Reformed tradition. A foundational course for integrating other courses at RTS.

Objectives: By the end of the course the participants will demonstrate:

1. a basic understanding of each area of the RTS curriculum by interacting in class discussions and completing reading and writings assignments.
2. the ability to discuss theological method within the Reformed tradition in ways appropriate for the church today by interacting in class discussion and reading and writing assignments.
3. an awareness of the importance of spiritual maturity for the theological enterprise by completing exercises and writing assignments in and out of class.

Texts:

Books (required):

Frame, John M., *Salvation Belongs to the Lord* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2006), ISBN 978-1596380189.

The Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms, available on-line at <http://www.opc.org/documents/standards.html>

Carson, D. A. & Woodbridge, John D., *Letters Along the Way* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993), ISBN 978-0891076735.

Spencer, Duane Edward, *Tulip: The Five Points of Calvinism in the Light of Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002) ISBN 9780801063930

Pratt, Richard, *Pray with Your Eyes Open* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1987), ISBN 9780875523781.

Recommended Additional Reading:

Marshall, Walter (Bruce H. McRae), *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification Growing in Holiness by Living in Union with Christ* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2005), ISBN 978-0875523781.

Carson, D. A., *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor: The Life and Reflections of Tom Carson* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008), available free at <http://spurgeon.wordpress.com/2009/06/03/free-d-a-carson-books/>

Clowney, Edmund P., *Called to the Ministry* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1976). ISBN 978-0875521442

_____. *The Church* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995)

ISBN 9780830815340

_____. *The Unfolding Mystery* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1988). ISBN 978-0875521749

Steele, David, & Thomas, Curtis, *The Five Points of Calvinism* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1963), ISBN 9780875524443.

Writing Assignments

(Note: electronic submission are required for this course, but please do not send it as a PDF – it is difficult for your instructor to maximize feedback by commenting on the document itself.)

1) Significant Other Report (25%): 1200-1500 words. Each student is required to find a close “significant other” (spouse / friend / relative) who is willing to read and discuss “Letters Along the Way.”¹ The discussion should focus on at least 10 points which most stood out to either the student or the significant other. This report will summarize the most important lessons learned about the student’s calling to ministry and to other life obligations. **Due to be submitted on Self-Service Website, under the activity name, on or before midnight Saturday, July 31, 2010 (See instruction sheet for details on how to do this).**

2) Confession Response (50%): 1200-1500 words for EXPLANATION; 800-1200 words for ANSWERS to Instructor’s Questions:

A thoughtful and reasoned EXPLANATION of the student's ability to subscribe to EITHER the Westminster Standards (Confession and Catechisms) OR the Three Forms of Unity (Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession & Canons of Dordt) OR some other confessional/affirmational standard, *depending upon* the tradition the student is most likely to serve. (Standards other than the two major Reformed standards need to be approved, but the instructor cares most about having students respond to their own standards. So expect approval in some form.) Responses should address the overall system of doctrine, particular strengths and weaknesses on the system, and areas where any degree of exception would be likely. **Due to Davis at davis@covenant.edu by midnight Saturday, June 12, 2010 (Self-Service Website may not be fully setup).**

ANSWERS to the Questions posed the course instructor(s). (**Due to be submitted on Self-Service Website, under the activity name, on or before midnight Saturday, September 4, 2010 (See instruction sheet for details on how to do this).**)

3) Final Exercise (25%): Eight page maximum (12 pt, double-spaced, 1 in. margins) set of answers to essay questions over lecture material and readings. **Due to be submitted on Self-Service Website, under the activity name, on or before midnight Saturday, October 9, 2010 (See instruction sheet for details on how to do this).**

¹ Ideally it would be great if this person could read the entire book. But they should at least read the first half – Letter’s 1-24.

Dr Davis (May 11 & 12, 2010)

Lecture Time	Topics Covered	Required reading
Tuesday the 11 th 9am-4:30pm	I. The Purpose and Plan of ST 502 A. First things first: The Gospel of Jesus Christ B. An introduction to study at RTS (or, to seminary training) C. Overview of course structure and expectations II. Follower of Christ in the Reformed Tradition A. The Reformed Tradition builds on the faith professed by the church through the ages, so the place to begin for the Reformed Tradition is with the profession of the early church B. "The Rule of Faith" C. The Ecumenical Creeds & Councils: their biblical foundation and role in church history	Dr Davis requires that you have read chapters 3, 10, and 12 of Frame's <i>Salvation Belongs to the Lord before the <u>Wednesday</u> afternoon session.</i>
Wednesday the 12 th 9am-4:30pm	III. Theological Prolegomena (nuts, bolts, and things-taken-for-granted any time we apply the faith to our lives) A. A simple, common occurrence: praying for the safety of a missionary in a hostile environment B. Doing Theology (what it is to have a theology) C. What it is to have a tradition D. The Reformed Tradition: emphases which the "Reformed" have cherished and their practical implications	

Dr Yeo (September 9-10, 2010)

Lecture Time	Topics Covered	Required reading
Thursday 9 th 9am-6pm	IV. Doctrine of Scripture A. What does the Bible teach about itself? Objective revelation or subjective historiography? B. What divine "inspiration" is and what it's not. (A survey of current views) C. A look at the doctrine of inerrancy and its ongoing significance in the Church. D. What is the canon of Scripture? Did the Church establish the Scriptures or did the Scriptures establish the Church? V. Biblical Studies	Dr Yeo requires that chapters 4-5, 9, 18-21 in Frame's <i>Salvation</i>

	<p>A. Christian Presuppositions toward Biblical Studies</p> <p>B. Liberal Modernistic Presuppositions toward Biblical Studies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The principles of Historical Criticism (E. Troeltsch) 2. Due to the Bible’s supernaturalism, its historicity must be questioned. 3. The Bible is a human book. <p>C. Postmodernism and Biblical Studies</p> <p>D. Evangelicals, Historical Criticism, and Biblical Studies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Plundering the Egyptians” and Common Grace 2. Believing Criticism: How far is too far? 	<p><i>Belongs to the LORD be read before his class.</i></p>
<p>Friday 10th 9am-1pm</p>	<p>VI. OT/NT themes</p> <p>A. An Introduction to Typology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key texts: Genesis 22 and John 8 2. Key texts: Exodus 12 and John 19 <p>B. Covenant Theology: Federal Headship</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Covenant of Redemption (John 17; Eph. 1) 2. Adamic Covenant: Conditional 3. Noahic Covenant: Unconditional/Common Grace 4. Abrahamic Covenant: Unconditional 5. Mosaic Covenant: Conditional 6. Davidic Covenant: Unconditional 7. New Covenant: Unconditional <p>VII. The Church: Our Life Together</p> <p>A. The Service of the Church</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Worship of God: A Biblical survey 2. Reformed Perspectives on Worship <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the Regulative Principle of Worship? b. The Means of Grace and Reformed Spirituality c. The Dialogical Principle and the elements in Worship <p>B. The Mission of the Church</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Great Commission (Matt. 28: 18-20) and the Great Constitution (Matt. 16:17-19): God’s program, God’s power, and God’s presence manifested in and through the Church (Matt. 28). 2. The Spread of the Gospel into all the world (Acts 1:8) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is divine foreordination and evangelism a contradiction? b. The Church–equipped with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit–is God’s main vehicle in evangelism. (The progress of the Church in the Book of Acts) 	<p>The assigned reading above from Frame’s <i>Salvation Belongs to the LORD</i> will introduce the student to most of these lecture topics</p>

Dr Lowe (September 10-11, 2010)

Lecture Time	Topics Covered	Required reading
Friday 10 th 2pm-6pm	<p>VIII. "The Doctrines of Grace" – <i>as demonstrated in Romans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. "To Him be the glory for ever. Amen" (<i>Romans 11:36</i>) B. Wrath and Depravity in <i>Romans 1-3</i> C. God's righteous answer in Jesus (<i>Romans 3-5</i>) D. The "ULIP" of TULIP (<i>Romans 8-9</i>) <p>IX. Sanctification – <i>as described by Romans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Who is the guy in <i>Romans 7</i>? B. "The Law of the Spirit of life" (<i>Romans 8</i>). C. What (practically) does it mean to walk in the Spirit? 	<p>Before Dr Lowe's class – read <i>Pray with Your Eyes Open</i> and <i>TULIP</i></p>
Saturday 11 th 9am-6pm	<p>X. Ecclesiology – <i>Romans & beyond</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Father's gracious "call" (<i>Romans 1</i>) B. Binding and Loosing (<i>Matt. 16&18</i>) C. Leadership - singular or plural? <p>XI. Pastoral Theology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Preaching B. Pastoral Care C. Ethics 	