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

Instructors:
William Davis (Theology),

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):


Recommended Additional Reading:

_______. The Church (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995)
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.” 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)

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<tr>
<th>Lecture Time</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
<th>Required reading</th>
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| Tuesday the 11th 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 *Salvation Belongs to the Lord* before the Wednesday afternoon session. |
| Wednesday the 12th 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)

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| Thursday 9th 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 *Salvation* |
**VI. OT/NT themes**

A. An Introduction to Typology
   1. Key texts: Genesis 22 and John 8
   2. Key texts: Exodus 12 and John 19

B. Covenant Theology: Federal Headship
   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

C. Covenant Theology: Federal Headship
   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

VII. The Church: Our Life Together

A. The Service of the Church
   1. The Worship of God: A Biblical survey
   2. Reformed Perspectives on Worship
      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

B. The Mission of the Church
   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)
      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)
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| Friday 10th      | VIII. “The Doctrines of Grace” – *as demonstrated in Romans*  
A. “To Him be the glory for ever. Amen” (*Romans 11:36*)  
B. Wrath and Depravity in *Romans* 1-3  
C. God’s righteous answer in Jesus (*Romans* 3-5)  
D. The “ULIP” of TULIP (*Romans* 8-9)  
IX. Sanctification – *as described by Romans*  
A. Who is the guy in *Romans* 7?  
C. What (practically) does it mean to walk in the Spirit? | Before Dr Lowe’s class  
– read *Pray with Your Eyes Open*  
and TULIP |
| 2pm-6pm          |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Saturday 11th    | X. Ecclesiology – *Romans* & beyond  
A. The Father’s gracious “call” (*Romans* 1)  
B. Binding and Loosing (*Matt. 16&18*)  
C. Leadership - singular or plural?  
XI. Pastoral Theology  
A. Preaching  
B. Pastoral Care  
C. Ethics |                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9am-6pm          |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |