ThM Seminar
2HT831—REFORMATION VIEWS OF SCRIPTURE

Reformed Theological Seminary
Orlando, Florida

Professor: Justin Holcomb
Dates: Jan 15-19, 2007
Time/Place: RTS Seminar Room, 9 AM – 5 PM

OBJECTIVES

This is a graduate seminar with three basic components—lectures, student presentations, and tutorials. This seminar is designed to introduce the graduate student to Reformation views of scripture. It is the goal of this program to provide students with graduate level critical and analytical skills, a good broad background in the field of Reformation studies as well as a high level of competence in the area of their thesis research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be 1 major research paper (20+ pages) on a topic approved by professor. The complete first draft is due April 2, 2007. The final draft of the research paper is due April 30, 2007.

There are also two Response Papers (6-8 pages) on the reading assignments, which are to be completed BEFORE the January session. Each paper is to be a formal, well-written, footnoted, balanced, summary, analysis and critical response to specified chapters from Christian Theologies of Scripture. (That is a total of 2 response papers). One response paper must engage either chapter 6, 7, or 8. The second response paper must engage either chapters 2-4 or 10-13.

These response papers will be presented informally in the morning sessions and will provide the basis for seminar discussions. In afternoon tutorials, I will work with students to help (i) to assess and develop scholarly skills and (ii) to begin work on research paper for the seminar.

Student presentation (20-30 min) of the fruits of his/her Response Paper, followed by class discussion. Students will provide me with a copy of the presentation on the first day of session. It will be photocopied and distributed to class.

The major research paper is 80% of the final grade. Each response paper will be 10% of the final grade.
COURSE READING
Students will be REQUIRED to read the following BEFORE the seminar

**Required texts:**


**Electronic or photocopied readings (these will be made available):**


J.I. Packer, “Calvin’s View of Scripture”


Bruce McCormack, “The Being of Holy Scripture is in Becoming: Karl Barth in Conversation with American Evangelical Criticism”

Other (not required) texts:

John Kelman Sutherland Reid, *The Authority of Scripture: A Study of the Reformation and Post-Reformation Understanding of the Bible*


**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Scripture and Tradition: <em>Christian Theologies of Scripture</em></td>
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<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Counter-Reformation</td>
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<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics and J. Edwards</td>
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<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>F. Schleiermacher, A. A. Hodge, and B. B. Warfield</td>
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<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Karl Barth and Reformed Evangelicalism</td>
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**INTERNET SCHEDULE**

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Feb 12</td>
<td>Preliminary Outline to Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Feb 19</td>
<td>Professor responds to Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Feb 26</td>
<td>5-7 pages to Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of March 5</td>
<td>Professor responds to Student Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Mar 12</td>
<td>10-13 pages to Professor</td>
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**Nota Bene:**  Each student should also send a copy of this draft to all seminar participants for feedback

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Mar 26</td>
<td>All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Apr 2</td>
<td><em>First Draft</em> to Professor</td>
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week of April 9</td>
<td>All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of April 30</td>
<td><em>Final Draft</em> due to Professor</td>
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**Final Draft due April 30, 2007**
Nota Bene: All preliminary drafts will be via email. The final draft should be one hard copy of the paper and should be mailed to Justin Holcomb by the due date. The address is: 128 Chancellor Street, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Criteria for Evaluation of ThM Papers

I. Grammar and Style (25%)
   * Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
   * Is the text punctuated correctly?
   * Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
   * Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (Turabian, A Manual for Writers).
   * Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (e.g., the guidelines in Strunk and White, The Elements of Style)?

II. Organization (25%)
   * Is the subject of the paper clearly delimited? Is it significant, but still manageable?
   * Does the subject correspond to what was assigned in the syllabus?
   * Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
   * Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
   * Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?

III. Clarity and Force of Argument (25%)
   * Is a convincing case made to support the thesis statement?
   * Is the evidence marshaled to support the argument used judiciously?
   * Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
   * Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
   * Is there evidence of mature Christian reflection on the subject matter?

IV. Research (25%)
   * Does the paper draw on primary sources for its main evidence?
   * Are the secondary sources selected and used judiciously?
   * Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?
Recommended Resources:

