

## 2ST608 – The Doctrine of Scripture in the Modern World

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*Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando  
 Spring 2009*

### Course Description

An intensive exegetical, historical, and dogmatic survey of the Christian doctrine of Scripture, including such topics as revelation, inspiration, authority, infallibility, inerrancy, canonicity, hermeneutics, and self-attestation. Consideration of representative contemporary formulations of these loci is included along with recent attacks on the historical Christian doctrine of Scripture. This course will follow a seminar format (2 hours).

This course meets Thursdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, February 03 - May 13.

### Required Reading

#### *Textbooks*

Peter Enns, *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament* (ISBN-13: 978-0801027307)

Richard Gaffin, *God's Word in Servant-Form: Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck on the Doctrine of Scripture* (ISBN-13: 978-0980037005)

Roy A. Harrisville and Walter Sundberg, *The Bible in Modern Culture: Baruch Spinoza to Brevard Childs* (ISBN-13: 978-0802839923)

A. T. B. McGowan, *The Divine Authenticity of Scripture: Retrieving an Evangelical Heritage* (ISBN-13: 978-0830828791)

#### **Articles and Essays (available on the internet, from the professor, or on reserve in the library)**

A. A. Hodge and B. B. Warfield, "Inspiration," *The Presbyterian Review* 6 (April 1881): 225-60. (Available at: <http://www.bible-researcher.com/warfield4.html>)

Abraham Kuyper, *Principles of Sacred Theology*, 564-99. (Available on reserve)

Robert Letham, "Applying God's Word to All of Life? The Use and Abuse of the Bible," *Modern Reformation* (Jan/Feb 2001): 40-43. (Available from professor)

Scott Swain, "The Trinity, the Kingdom, and the Word of God" (Available from professor)

John Webster, "On the Clarity of Holy Scripture," in *Confessing God*, 33-67. (Available from professor)

### **Weekly Seminar (40 % of final grade)**

This course is structured as a seminar. Accordingly, lectures will be minimal; class discussion maximal. In order to facilitate a meaningful seminar, students will be expected (1) to have read the assigned readings for a given week *before* they come to class that week; (2) to engage actively in class discussion of the assigned readings for that week; (3) to lead class discussion of the assigned readings from time to time (2 or 3 times during the semester). Failure with respect to any of the three aforementioned points will result in a deduction of points from the student's final grade.

Given the seminar format of this course, I have kept the weekly reading assignments to a manageable length in order to facilitate intelligent discussion of the authors' arguments.

### **Reading Report (30 % of final grade)**

Students will turn in a reading report stating the percentage of the assigned readings that they have read over the course of the semester.

Please note: While I have only required certain chapters from Harrisville and Sundberg, Enns, and McGowan on our weekly course schedule (see below), I expect students to have read all three books in their entirety by the end of the semester. ***Reading reports are due on May 15.***

### **Book Review (30 % of final grade)**

Students will write a critical book review of A. T. B. McGowan's, *The Divine Authenticity of Scripture: Retrieving an Evangelical Heritage*, following the format prescribed in Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, 5th ed., 220-21 (available from the professor). ***Book reviews are due on May 15.***

## **Course Outline**

### ***I. Holy Scripture and the Economy of God***

Feb 5

Feb 12 Swain, all

Feb 19 Harrisville and Sundberg, chaps 1-2

***II. The Word Incarnate and Inscribed***

Feb 26 Gaffin, Parts I-II

Mar 5 Gaffin, Part III

Mar 12 Enns, TBA

***III. Perfections of Holy Scripture***

Mar 19 Hodge/Warfield, all

Mar 26 Spring Break

Apr 2 Harrisville and Sundberg, chap 10; Enns, TBA

Apr 9 McGowan, chap. 5

Apr 16 Letham, all

Apr 23 Webster, all

***IV. Scripture and Tradition***

Apr 30 Kuyper, all

***V. Scripture and the sermo Christi***

May 7