

Church Polity (PCA)
1PT520, 2 hrs., 3PT520, 2hrs., 2PT520, 1hr. credit
Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL
January 6-8, 2009
Dr. L. Roy Taylor, Adjunct Professor¹

Course Description:

Students examine the biblical and historical data relative to church government and the *Book of Church Order*. The organization and functions of church courts, including discipline and appeals are considered. The purpose of the course is for students to acquire and understanding of the polity and procedures of the Presbyterian Church in America sufficient for ministry in the PCA. Non-PCA students may study the polity of their respective denominations.

Class Meetings:

- Tuesday – 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday – 8:30 a.m.-12:00 m.
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Professor Contact Information:

1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 105
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Phone 678 825-1000
rtaylor@pcanet.org

Office Hours – Professor does not have an on-campus office. He will be available for conferences after class hours upon request.

Text Books:

- *Book of Church Order of the PCA*, Atlanta, Office of the Stated Clerk, 2006.
 - Students from other denominations may substitute the *Book of Church Order* of their particular denomination (ex. OPC, ARPC, EPC, RCUS, KAPC, PCUSA).
 - Students from denominations or independent churches that do not have a *Book of Church* order may read equivalent documents with the permission of the professor.
- *Who Runs the Church: Four Views on Church Polity*
Paul Engle, Series Editor, Steven B. Cowan, Editor
Peter Toon, Anglican Contributor
L. Roy Taylor, Presbyterian Contributor
Samuel Waldron, Plural-Elder Congregationalism
Paige Patterson, Single-Elder Congregationalism
Zondervan Publishing Co. ISBN 0-310-24607-5. 312 pp.

¹ Served 10 years on faculty of RTS-J (Professor of Practical Theology, Department Chairman, D.Min. Program Director), 16 years as a PCA pastor, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PCA since 1998.

Course Requirements for Orlando Students, 2PT520, 1hr. credit:

- Attend Lectures. (1/4 & 6, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 1/5, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 m.)
- Read both textbooks before taking exam, 20% of grade.
- Take examination, 80% of grade.

Course Requirements for 1PT520, 2 hrs., 3PT520, 2 hrs. credit:

- Attend Lectures. (1/4 & 6, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 1/5, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 m.)
- Read both textbooks before taking exam, 10% of grade,
- Take examination, 40% of grade.
- Write a 15-page research paper (double-spaced, one-inch margins, in standard form) on a topic approved by the professor, 50% of grade.

Examination: The exam will be a take-home exam. It is *not* an open-book exam.

Deadline: Exams and research papers (HARD COPIES ONLY. So not send me electronic copies.) are to be submitted to Ceci Helm in the Dean's Office by 4:00 p.m., Thursday February 19, 2009.