Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies
0ST502, 3 Hours

Lectures by
James N. Anderson Ph.D.
This course notebook is for the coordination of your course materials, including reading assignments and lecture recordings. Each course notebook for RTS Distance Education is arranged by the GUIDE acronym. The five components of GUIDE are organized in each lesson by the following steps in the notebook:

**GUIDE**

**Getting Started**  To do the lessons, reading and listening assignments are listed.

**Understanding**  To maximize learning, the purposes are given.

**Investigating**  To explore the content, outlines are provided for note taking.

**Developing**  To expand content, readings are suggested.

**Evaluating**  To help review, lesson questions are based on purposes.
COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Theological Studies, 0ST502 3 hours
Lecturing Professor Dr. James N. Anderson
Professor of Record: Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Lecturing Professor
Dr. James Anderson comes to RTS from Edinburgh, Scotland, and specializes in philosophical theology, religious epistemology, and Christian apologetics. He has a long-standing concern to bring the Reformed theological tradition into greater dialogue with contemporary analytic philosophy. Dr. Anderson has a Ph.D. in philosophical theology from the University of Edinburgh. He is a member of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the British Society for Philosophy of Religion, and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. Prior to joining the faculty at RTS/Charlotte, Dr. Anderson served as an assistant pastor at Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh where he engaged in regular preaching, teaching, and pastoral ministry.

Professor of Record
Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer is minister of discipleship at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina (B.A. Philosophy), Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Westminster Theological Seminary (PhD.). Prior to coming to First Presbyterian, Gabe served as the founding pastor of Shiloh Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC, after having been ordained to the gospel ministry at Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC in 2008. He is the editor of three books, Atonement (P&R 2010), These Last Days(P&R 2011), and Solid Ground (P&R 2012). When not with his family, he enjoys South Carolina football, hunting, music, and going to the beach.

Course Description
This is a survey course on the basic tenets of Reformed Theology that developed during the time of the Reformation. Specifically the course will focus on the Reformation Solas and the five points of Calvinism, and their impact on Christian living and pastoral ministry.
Course Objectives

1. To familiarize the student with the basics of Reformed Theology (specifically, the Reformation Solas and the “Doctrines of Grace”) in their historical context.
2. To familiarize the student with the core biblical arguments for Reformed theology.
3. To encourage the student to reflect on some of the hermeneutical and practical implications of Reformed theology.
4. To help the student appreciate the significance of a Reformed world view for pastoral and theological studies.

Required Textbooks


Packer, J. I. “‘Saved By His Precious Blood’: An Introduction to John Owen’s The Death of Death in the Death of Christ.” in A Quest for Godliness. Crossway, 1994


COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Introduction to Theological Studies, 0ST502 3 hours
Lecturing Professor Dr. James N. Anderson
Professor of Record: Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS Distance Education website (www.rts.edu/distance) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Course Requirements

• Listen to all Recorded Lectures
• Complete all Readings
• Participate in Forum Discussions
• Take the Midterm exam
• Take the Final Exam
• Write Course Paper
• Complete Mentor Report / Course Application Paper

Forum Discussions (15%)
The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
   A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
   B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student’s answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question therefore requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts).
   C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.

2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
   • A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

Examinations (Midterm: 20%, Final 25%)
The midterm exam will cover lessons 1-8. The format of the exam will be a series of multiple choice questions based on the material covering the first half of the course. Use the Lecture Review Questions at the end of each lesson to assist you in studying. The student will
have 90 minutes to complete this exam.

The final exam will be cumulative covering all lessons, 1-14. You should review all of the lecture material and course notebook in preparation for the exam. The final exam will consist of a combination of short-answer and short-essay questions based on all of the lecture material. The student will have three hours to complete this exam.

The midterm and final exams for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

Research Paper (30%)

You should write a paper (3500-4500 words, excluding footnotes) that discusses either one of the five “Reformation Solas” or one of the five “Doctrines of Grace.” You are free to choose which one of these ten articles of doctrine to discuss. Your paper should try to either defend or refute your chosen article of doctrine. Further requirements and guidelines for the course paper are located in section titled “Course Paper Instructions” in this syllabus.

Reading Report (5%)

Students will be required to submit a reading report acknowledging how much of the required reading has been completed. No partial credit is given for readings that have not been completed.

Mentor Report / Course Application Paper (5%)

Each Global/Non-Residential student is required to have a mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student’s grade. For students who are not Global/Non-Residential, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education
2101 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 900-1257
1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/distance
You should write a paper (3500-4500 words, excluding footnotes) that discusses either one of the five “Reformation Solas” or one of the five “Doctrines of Grace.” You are free to choose which one of these ten articles of doctrine to discuss. Your paper should try to either defend or refute your chosen article of doctrine. Your paper should include all of the following:

- A clear statement and explanation of the article of doctrine under discussion, with supporting references.
- An argument either for or against your chosen article, based primarily on a responsible exegesis of relevant biblical texts. You may also use arguments based on other doctrines (e.g., doctrine X is implied by doctrines Y and Z).
- A treatment of at least two prominent objections to the position you have taken (i.e., the objections and then try to refute them). You should cite sources (either popular or scholarly) for these objections.
- A discussion of some of the practical applications of the position you have taken (i.e., answer the question: what real difference does it or should it make in the life of a Christian believer?).
- A standard bibliography (see below on sources and citations).

Your paper will be graded according to the following criteria, in no particular order: responsible use of Scripture, responsible use of sources, extent of research, creativity, clarity, structure and coherence, cogency of argument, evidence of critical thinking, practical relevance, and good writing style (including grammar, spelling, and punctuation). Your paper should cite at least 6 scholarly sources. For the purposes of this paper, a scholarly source is a book or article by a recognized expert in the field (and not aimed at a popular level for a general audience). Please consult the professor if you have any doubts about whether a source is scholarly. You should not rely heavily on web-based sources. Use the library!

The paper should be word-processed, not hand-written. Use a 12-point font and double line-spacing for the main text. Use section headings where applicable to improve readability. Use footnotes (10-point font) rather than endnotes. Use Turabian style for citations, footnoting, and bibliography. The paper should be submitted with a title page containing all of the following: the name and year of the course, your name, the professor’s name, the title of the paper, and the exact word count for the paper (obtained from your word processor’s word-count feature).
Note: You are not required to read any of the below, but you may find them useful to consolidate the course material and for further study as your interests dictate. For many of these, the table of contents can be viewed on Amazon.com or Google Books.


An overview of Christian doctrine from the original Calvinist; a classic of Reformed Theology. Battles’ translation is widely considered to be the best. Henry Beveridge’s earlier translation is available online in various places, e.g., http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes.html


A helpful little study on the love of God and its relation to God’s sovereignty and wrath, from a broadly Calvinistic perspective.


Accessible introduction to systematic theology from a Reformed perspective.


A study of the doctrine of providence by a Reformed philosophical theologian.


A four-way debate over the doctrines of providence and foreknowledge a classical Calvinist (Helm), a fuzzy Calvinist (Ware), a classical Arminian (Olson), and an Open Theist (Sanders). Unlikely to change anyone’s mind, but useful for understanding the basic differences between the positions and the typical rationales for holding them. Not as exegetical as one might wish.


A comprehensive biblical defense of penal substitutionary understanding of the atonement in the face of recent attacks on the doctrine; strongly recommended.

A very practical and encouraging (but deceptively profound) introduction to the theology of prayer by a Reformed scholar, powerfully illustrated from personal experience.


A classic exposition of the Reformed understanding of the atonement and the ordo salutis.


Not so much a defense of Arminianism against Calvinism as an attempt to correct common misconceptions and misrepresentations of classical Arminian theology and to clearly present its disagreements with Calvinism. Probably the best book of its kind.


A classic treatment by a Reformed Anglican theologian.


A solid and workmanlike defense of unconditional election, but rather dry in style.


An influential collection of essays in defense of (various versions of) Arminianism.


A defense of classical Arminianism from historical systematic and exegetical perspectives.


A collection of essays from a broadly Reformed perspective based on talks given at the 2005 Desiring God National Conference. Not sophisticated treatments, but for the most part theologically sound and pastorally sensitive. The book can be read online at the Desiring God website.


A clear and thorough case for unconditional election.


A popular introduction to Calvinism.

A responsible case for classical (Wesleyan) Arminianism; stronger philosophically than exegetically.


A thorough exegetical defense of the Reformation doctrine of justification by faith alone.


An insightful defense of the sufficiency of Scripture with reference to Roman Catholic objections.
Lesson One
   Introduction: What is Theology?

Lesson Two
   Foundations: The Doctrine of Scripture

Lesson Three
   Background: The Reformation and Its Theology

Lesson Four
   Doctrine of Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)

Lesson Five
   Doctrine of Solus Christus (Christ Alone)

Lesson Six
   Doctrine of Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)

Lesson Seven
   Doctrine of Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

Lesson Eight
   Doctrine of Soli De Gloria (Glory to God Alone)

Lesson Nine
   The Reformed Doctrines of Providence and Predestination

Lesson Ten
   The Doctrine of Radical Depravity

Lesson Eleven
   The Doctrine of Unconditional Election

Lesson Twelve
   The Doctrine of Efficacious Grace

Lesson Thirteen
   The Doctrine of Persevering Grace

Lesson Fourteen
   The Doctrine of Particular Redemption
## MDiv® Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MDiv® curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv® Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Articulation (oral & written)** | Moderate | 1. Pastoral application paper  
2. Final exam tests knowledge and articulation of course topics  
3. Class discussion questions testing understanding and application |
| **Scripture** | Strong | 1. Detailed discussion of biblical basis for doctrines of grace  
2. Covers basic principles of biblical interpretation  
3. Discussion of Reformed doctrine of Scripture |
| **Reformed Theology** | Strong | 1. Introduction to Reformed theology |
| **Sanctification** | Minimal | 1. Personal application of doctrines of grace  
2. Emphasis on cross-centered living |
| **Desire for God** | Minimal | 1. Relevance of Christian doctrines to all of life |
| **Wisdom** | Minimal | 1. Distinction between Christian orthodoxy and Reformed distinctives  
2. Respectful engagement with non-Reformed views |
| **Preach** | Minimal | 1. Importance of doctrines as foundation/framework for preaching |
| **Worship** | Minimal | 1. Introduces Reformed views on worship (application of Sola Scriptura) |
| **Shepherd** | Moderate | 1. Emphasis on pastoral application of doctrines of grace  
2. Discusses implications of Reformed theology for evangelism/discipleship |
| **Church/World** | Minimal | 1. Understanding and appreciation for Reformed distinctives  
2. Reformed theology placed in context of broader Evangelical tradition |