Systematic Theology: Ecclesiology and Sacraments

0ST519, 2 Hours

Lectures by
Douglas F. Kelly, 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
ST: Eccl, Sacraments; 0ST519 2 hours
Lecturing Professor: Dr. Douglas F. Kelly
Professor of Record: Dr. Scott R. Swain
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Lecturing Professor
Dr. Douglas Kelly is a scholar marked by profound piety as exemplified in volumes such as If God Already Knows, Why Pray? and Preachers with Power: Four Stalwarts of the South. His firm grasp of multiple languages and his theological competence are capably demonstrated in translating such works as Sermons by John Calvin on II Samuel. He is serving with David Wright of the University of Edinburgh as a general editor for a revision of Calvin’s Old Testament Commentaries. In addition, he is co-editor for a twenty volume dogmatics series, for which he is writing a volume on the Trinity. He has written Creation and Change: Genesis 1.1 - 2.4 in the Light of Changing Scientific Paradigms and Carolina Scots: An Historical and Genealogical Study of Over 100 Years of Emigration, and is currently writing a systematic theology.

Professor of Record
Scott R. Swain joined the faculty of Reformed Theological Seminary in 2006. Prior to that, he taught theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois and served on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Academic Dean on the Orlando campus.

In his teaching and research, Dr. Swain seeks to retrieve the riches of patristic, medieval, and Reformation patterns of biblical interpretation and theologizing for the sake of the contemporary church’s renewal according to the Word of God. With Michael Allen, he edits two series that endeavor to embody a theology of “renewal through retrieval”: Zondervan Academic’s New Studies in Dogmatics and T & T Clark’s International Theological Commentary. Dr. Swain’s main research interests include the doctrine of God and the theological interpretation of Scripture. At present, he is working on a book on the divine names.

Dr. Swain is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. He and his wife, Leigh, have four children.
**Course Description**

This course explores the doctrines of Scripture from a systematic perspective. Topics include Christology, Soteriology, and Eschatology.

**Course Objectives**

- To define the relationship of NT ecclesiology to the OT people of God.
- To engender comprehension of important theological concepts related to the doctrine of the church, such as the visible versus invisible church, metaphors for the church, the marks of the church, the covenant, and the sacraments.
- To analyze the biblical teaching regarding the government of the church.
- To facilitate conversance with the biblical teaching regarding the means of grace and their importance in the Christian life.
- To appraise the Puritan regulative principle of worship and its implications related to modern questions of Christian worship.
- To outline the biblical teaching regarding the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

**Required Reading**


______. “The True Church: A Reformed View.” [Provided]

The Westminster Confession of Faith.


All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
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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 Requirements
• Follow the Study Guide provided.
• Listen to all Recorded Lectures.
• Complete all Readings.
• Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and Professor)
• Take the Mid Term Exam
• Take the Final Exam.
• Write a Course Paper
• Submit 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 25%, Final 25%)  
There are two examinations for this course. The midterm examination will cover all the lectures and readings from Lessons 1-5. The final examination will cover all the lectures and readings from Lessons 6-10.

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%)  
See section titled “Research Paper” for a description and requirements of the research paper.

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  
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Charlotte, NC 28226  
(704) 900-1257  
1-855-854-6920  
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E-mail: dess@rts.edu  
Web site: www.rts.edu/distance
Lesson One
   Scriptural Words for the Church

Lesson Two
   Biblical Images of the Church

Lesson Three
   The Church as the Fulfillment of the OT

Lesson Four
   The Government of the Church

Lesson Five
   The Attributes and Marks of the Church

Lesson Six
   The Means of Grace

Lesson Seven
   The Puritan Regulative Principle

Lesson Eight
   The Definition of Sacrament

Lesson Nine
   The Sacrament of Baptism

Lesson Ten
   The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
RESEARCH PAPER
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Assignment

Choose one topic from among the following topic options. Write a 12-15 page paper, utilizing the theological categories presented in this course and demonstrating from how scripture bears upon your subject. Significant interaction with course lectures, notes, and reading is encouraged insofar as they relate to your topic.

Your paper should be 12 pt. font and double spaced, formatted according to Turabian style with single spaced 10 pt. font footnotes (not endnotes) and a properly formatted bibliography at the end. Please make sure that your paper has in the first paragraph a clearly presented thesis statement defining the aim and scope of the paper. In addition, your paper should cite at least 8 scholarly sources; 2 of these sources must be academic journal articles. For the purposes of this paper, a scholarly source is a book or article by a recognized expert in the field, not aimed at a popular level for a general audience (Wikipedia is not a scholarly source, but may be useful in locating scholarly sources.). Please consult student services (dess@rts.edu) if you have any doubts about whether a source is scholarly.

It is highly recommended that the student:

- View the Reading and Writing Tips videos before starting their research paper. These videos can be accessed on the course home page by clicking on the light bulb icon labeled Tips.
- Read the Research Paper Formatting Guide document found under Modules in the Course Resources Section.
- Access the Research Paper Helps page found under Modules in the Course Resources Section.
- Use the Historical Theology Sample Paper as a guide for formatting and writing with a clear thesis. This can be found under Modules in the Course Resources Section.
- Discuss with the Professor of Record (by phone, forums, video conference, etc.) their paper topic prior to writing, as the professor of record will be able to guide the student in their writing and help with recommending resources. (For further help with tracking down and acquiring resources please contact the Distance Education librarian David Ponter. His contact information can be found in the Research Paper Helps page.)

Choose from one of the topics below:

1. The relationship between Israel and the Church.
2. The role of women in the church (narrow topic to one angle).
3. What is “contemporary worship”? Define this movement, and explain the views of 2-3 important advocates of contemporary worship. One of these advocates must explicitly interact with the Puritan regulative principle in their writings. How do these advocates...
of contemporary worship explain the relationship of contemporary worship to the regulative principle? How do these advocates answer challenges from other viewpoints? Which arguments do you think are strong, and which do you think are weak?

4. What is “traditional worship”? Define traditional worship, and explain the views of 2-3 important advocates of traditional worship. One advocate must use arguments for traditional worship that are informed by the Puritan regulative principle. How do these advocates answer challenges from other viewpoints? Which arguments do you think are strong, and which do you think are weak?

5. Discuss one of the sacraments (narrow topic to one angle).
### Course Objectives Related to MAR Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Systematic Theology: Ecclesiology and Sacraments  
**Professor:** Dr. Douglas Kelly

In order to measure the success of the MAR 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 MAR outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAR Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Teach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAR Specific SLO</strong></td>
<td>An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one’s own calling in society</td>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
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