Orientation Seminar
09CE750, 1 Hour

James N. Anderson, Ph.D.
COURSE SYLLABUS
Orientation Seminar, 09CE750, 1 hour
Professor of Record:
Dr. James N. Anderson
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Professor
Dr. James Anderson is an ordained minister in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Dr. Anderson came to RTS from Edinburgh, Scotland, and specializes in philosophical theology, religious epistemology, and Christian apologetics. His doctoral thesis at the University of Edinburgh explored the paradoxical nature of certain Christian doctrines and the implications for the rationality of Christian faith. His research and writing has also focused on the presuppositionalism of Cornelius Van Til, particularly his advocacy of the transcendental argument. Dr. Anderson has a longstanding concern to bring the Reformed theological tradition into greater dialogue with contemporary analytic philosophy. Before studying philosophy, Dr. Anderson also earned a Ph.D. in Computer Simulation from the University of Edinburgh. He is a member of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion, and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. Prior to joining RTS Charlotte, Dr. Anderson served as an assistant pastor at the historic Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh where he engaged in regular preaching, teaching, and pastoral ministry. He is active now in service at Ballantyne Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. He is married to Catriona and they have three children.

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James Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology & Philosophy
Richard Belcher, Jr., Ph.D., Academic Dean and John D. & Francis M. Gwin Professor of Old Testament
Course Description

An introduction to distance learning techniques, theological bibliography, and academic disciplines in the seminary curriculum. Special emphasis is given to the unique aspects and requirements of the New York City MABS program.

Course Objectives

- Understand the Role of Student Services
- Understand How to Navigate an RTSDE Course in the Learning Management System
- Understand How to Access Course Lectures
- Understand How to Use the Library Services Effectively
- Tips for Academic Writing

Required Textbooks

[Available online: http://coursebooks.rts.edu/c/ProductDetails.aspx?a=0226065669]

[Available as an e-book for: Kindle, Nook, iBooks]

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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

1. Watch All Videos
2. Complete All Quizzes
3. Participate in Forum Discussions
4. Submit Book Interaction
5. Attend On-Site Orientation

Participation: (50%)

1. Watch all video presentations.
2. Post a personal introduction in the Canvas discussion forum (include some details about who you are, why you are pursuing this degree, your prior experience of distance education, your family, and your church membership/responsibility). You are encouraged to respond to the personal introductions posted by your fellow students.
3. Attend the on-site orientation in New York City on September 10.

Quizzes (25%)

1. RTS Distance Education Overview Quiz
2. Registering for a Course Quiz
3. Student Services Presentation Quiz
4. Canvas Training Quiz
5. Turabian Citation Quiz

Readings and Interaction (25%)

1. Read all chapters of *The Craft of Research* and write a 2-3 page double-spaced interaction with the material, focusing on the most important points learned about how to write a good research paper.
2. Read all chapters of *The Trials of Theology*. Chapters 1-6 should be read before September 10, because there will be a group discussion of the material during the on-site orientation. Chapters 7-12 should be completed before the course end date.
3. Read all chapters of *How to Stay Christian in Seminary* and use the material for personal reflection.
4. You do not need to read all of the Turabian book, but you should review its contents, and you will need to refer to it in order to complete the Turabian Citation Quiz.
Assignments

All work must be submitted by midnight, September 30th. 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. Your work will be graded and your final grade recorded once you submit the course completion form located in the last module of the course.

Contact Information

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# Course Objectives Related to MABS Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Orientation Seminar, 09CE750  
**Professor:** James N. Anderson

## MABS Student Learning Outcomes

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

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<th>MABS Student Learning Outcomes</th>
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| Articulation (oral & written) | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Moderate | Required reading on how to write good research papers. Instruction on how to make effective use of library resources. |
| Scripture                    | 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.) | Minimal | Consideration and discussion of biblical teachings relevant to theological studies and preparation for church ministry. |
| Reformed Theology            | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | None | |
| Sanctification               | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | Required readings focus on spiritual formation through theological studies. |
| Desire for Worldview         | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Minimal | Discussion of integration and application of various disciplines. |
| Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic | 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.) | Minimal | Students interact from various denominational backgrounds. |
| Teach                        | Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | None | |
| Church/World                 | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal | Students interact from various denominational backgrounds. |