

# **Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies Course Guidelines, Syllabus, and Assignments (4ST502) – January 2012**

**Presenter – Dr. James Saxon**

**Email – [jsaxon@apostles.org](mailto:jsaxon@apostles.org) – (easiest way to reach me)**

## **Course Description:**

The catalogue course description for 4ST502, Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies, states that the purpose of this course is “An introduction to biblical, theological, and practical ministry studies within the Reformed tradition.”

## **Class Schedule:**

**Four Weekend Intensive Format – January, 2012**

Fridays/Saturdays – 6:00-9:00pm; 8:30-4:30pm

January weekends – 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21, 27 & 28

## **Objectives:**

1. To offer a comprehensive overview of foundational theological terms that will orient each student to the world of theology and empower them toward authentic and meaningful reflection, conversation, and influence in the theological arena.
2. To offer a comprehensive overview of the history of theology that will orient each student to theological development as it occurred in time.
3. To review the core elements of a Life Calling and have each student submit a personal assessment of where they are in God’s calling to personal ministry.
4. To offer a summary of the core elements of a basic philosophy of ministry, flowing out of a theological foundation.
5. To familiarize students with the Westminster Confession of Faith, the basic conceptual framework of Reformed Theology.

**Course Schedule – Friday night - 6:00-9:00pm; Saturday – 8:30-4:30pm**  
15 minute breaks mid-session

**DATE**

Class 1 – Friday – 1/6	Part I: Theology – Types, Divisions, and Definitions Part II: Life Calling – Basic Parameters
Class 2 – Saturday – 1/7	Part I: Sola Scriptura – “The Rule of Faith”, Characteristics Part II: World View Core, Criticism, and Defense of the Bible The Essential Framework
Class 3 – Saturday – 1/7	Part I: Historical Overview – Creeds, Councils, and Confessions Part II: Philosophy of Ministry Overview
Class 4 – Friday – 1/13	Part I: God, Trinity, Decrees, Creation Part II: Providence
Class 5 – Saturday – 1/14	Part I: Free-will, Sin, Fall, and the Gospel Part II:
Class 6 – Saturday – 1/14	Part I: Covenant Part II:
Class 7 – Friday – 1/20	Part I: Ordo Salutis – Part I Part II:
Class 8 – Saturday – 1/21	Part I: Ordo Salutis – Part II Part II:
Class 9 – Saturday – 1/21	Part I: Ecclesiology – The Church, Polity Part II: Sacraments, Discipline
Class 10 – Friday – 1/27	Part I: Eschatology – The End Times Part II: Millennium Views
Class 11 – Saturday – 1/28	Part I: Theological Systems Comparison – Calvinism vs Arminianism, Reformed vs Dispensationalism
Class 12 – Saturday – 1/28	Part II: Key Historical Figures – Men Who Made Theological History

## **Texts - Books List of Required/Recommended Readings:**

Roger E. Olson and Adam C. English

*Pocket History of Theology*

InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois - Copyright 2005

Louis Berkhof

*A Summary of Christian Doctrine*

The Banner of Truth Trust, Carlisle, PA - Copyright 2002

*Westminster Confession of Faith* – free online – at

[www.reformed.org/documents/wcf\\_with\\_proofs/](http://www.reformed.org/documents/wcf_with_proofs/)

Various Assigned Articles – “*Life Calling To Personal Ministry*” and “*Philosophy of Ministry*” - access through the course materials posted on the website.

### **Required for Purchase and Class Reference (not to be read):**

Stanley J. Grenz, David Guretzki & Cherith Fee Nordling

*Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*

InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois - Copyright 1999

### **Highly Recommended (but not required for purchase):**

Louis Berkhof

*The History of Christian Doctrine*

The Banner of Truth Trust, Carlisle, PA –

Copyright 1975

A.A. Hodge

*Outlines of Theology*

The Banner of Truth Trust, London WIM IPS

Copyright 1972

## ***READING REPORT GUIDELINES***

**Your Name**  
**Course Title & Number**  
**Professor**  
**Date**

Please limit your report to one typed, single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic  
(*Overview, Critique, Application*)

### **Title of Book** **Complete Bibliographic Reference**

***Overview*** – Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

***Critique*** – Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

***Application*** – Offer some specific application to your own ministry – demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

***Best Quote*** – Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Did you read the entire book though fully (not merely skimmed)? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ % Read (0-100)

**Writing Assignments: (All papers emailed into the professor must have your name and the specific paper assignment on the cover sheet)**

1. **Life Calling Reflection Paper** – A summary of your current perception of how God is shaping your Life Calling to Personal Ministry (1-2 pages, double-spaced). **Due Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 5pm.**
2. **Church Theological Vision & Philosophy of Ministry Paper** - Submit a 3-page, double-spaced paper on the Theological Vision/Philosophy of Ministry of the church where you now attend. Allow yourself to attend on a Sunday as a ‘visitor’ and see the church through the eyes of a new person. In order to collect data, attend a Sunday School class, a small group, a worship service, and talk with the church leaders. Carefully observe what you see and hear. Pick up literature from the church and visit the church website. And then, after having collected sufficient data, write a three page double spaced paper on this basic question: What theological vision did you see at that church? Remember, every church has a theology, whether explicitly stated or not, which drives everything it does. It also has a style of ministry that shapes what it does. So, what did you observe? What did the church present about God, about Christ and the gospel, or anything else you observed about its priorities? For instance, if the church had 15 minutes of announcements, 5 minutes of singing and 40 minutes of preaching, what does that tell you about the church’s priorities, and thus about its theological vision? I would encourage you to pair up with another student, and after visiting each other’s churches, share observations of each other’s churches. This will help you not miss the obvious. **Due Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 5pm.**
3. **Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter Summary** – Read the Confession and submit a one paragraph (not less than 5 sentences) summary of each chapter. **Due Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 5pm.**

**Quizzes:** Lists of Theological Terms will be given after the weekend classes from which a brief quiz will be emailed the following Monday (9, 16, 23, 30) and should be turned in the next day (Tuesday) by 8am.

**Final Exam:** A final exam consisting of theological terms from the weekly quizzes and a few reflection questions on the course material will be emailed to everyone on Friday, February 3rd and must be sent back on or before 5pm on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Attendance, Grading, and Late Assignments

*Class attendance and interaction* – 10% of the final grade – this includes active participation in all the classes. Missed class sessions must be cleared by the professor.

*Weekly Quizzes* – 20% - **Given on Mondays after the weekend of class instruction – January 9, 16, 23, 30 to be turned in by 8am, Tuesday, the next day.**

*Life Calling to Personal Ministry Reflection Paper* – 10% - **Due Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 5pm.**

*Reading of Assigned Texts* - 15% of the final grade - Each assigned reading requires a one page single spaced report highlighting the main theses as well as key principles and insights gathered from the reading. **Due Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5pm.**

*Final Exam* – 20% - **Due by Friday, February 10, 5pm.**

*Philosophy of Ministry Reflection Paper* – 10% - **Due Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 5pm.**

*Summary of the Westminster Confession* – 15% - **Due Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 5pm.**

**\*\*\*Late Assignments must be cleared by the professor.**

I. **Course Grading Computation:** The standard RTS grading scale.

- A (97-100)
- A- (94-96)
- B+ (91-93)
- B (88-90)
- B- (86-87)
- C+ (83-85)
- C (80-82)
- C- (78-79)
- D+ (75-77)
- D (72-74)
- D- (70-71)
- F (below 70)

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies

Professor: James Saxon

Campus: Atlanta

Date: January, 2012

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weekly quiz testing knowledge of foundational theological terms</li> <li>2. Final exam tests overall comprehension</li> </ol>
<b>Scripture</b>	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.)	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Essential doctrines in Ordo Salutis will be discussed in detail</li> </ol>
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overview to Westminster Confession of Faith</li> <li>2. Outlining the WCF assignment</li> </ol>
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Class discussion centering upon essential doctrines will provoke personal examination</li> </ol>
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introductory Emphasis on worldview – integrating reason and revelation</li> </ol>
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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.)	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Class discussion on essentials, nonessentials, and the attitudes of love and humility</li> </ol>
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thoughtful study will inform one's preaching directly and indirectly</li> </ol>
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paper on Theological Vision and Philosophy of Ministry</li> <li>2. Discussion on the Regulative Principal of Worship</li> </ol>
<b>Shepherd</b>	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learning theology enables the spiritual direction of</li> </ol>

	in America and worldwide.		souls 2. The love for the lost is energized by light of the truth
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	1. Proper understanding of Reformed theology in and outside of Presbyterian circles

## Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

**Teacher/Professor** – This course will be led by Dr. James Saxon, an ordained PCA minister since 1979, who has actively served in the pastorate for the last 32 years. He was converted to Christ at the age of twenty while a student at the University of Alabama. His conversion was so dramatic that he decided against going into the business world with his Marketing Degree and instead began pursuit of his call to pastoral ministry by enrolling in RTS Jackson in the summer of 1975. After serving as a youth director for two summers, and taking a year internship at the well-known Spanish River Presbyterian Church in Boca Raton, Florida, he discerned God’s calling to go into church planting. He founded and pastored the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida for 20 years and had oversight of the founding of one daughter church, Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Brandon, Florida. He joined the staff of the fast-growing, outreach-minded Church of The Apostles in Atlanta in the fall of 2000. Since coming to Apostles, he has served in a variety of staff roles and has recently assumed the role of Director of ApostlesLife

In addition to being a successful church-planter, James spearheaded the founding of the Southwest Florida Presbytery in the early 1990’s, and then led the effort to host the 2000 General Assembly in Tampa by that presbytery. He graduated from the RTS Doctorate of Ministry program in the spring of 2005, completing his dissertation entitled, “Empowering the Local

Church through Mentoring” which featured a practicum that field-tested mentoring seminary students as a part of their theological education.

He is currently the director of the ministry initiative entitled ApostlesLife, a twenty year outreach ministry strategy. This core ministry of The Church of The Apostles is a cutting-edge evangelism strategy that inculcates many current ideas and approaches that are successfully being utilized in soul-winning around the country.

He also supervises four departments – Children’s, Student, College, and Young Adult Ministries. Since 2005, he has served as a guest lecturer at RTS Atlanta and has taught two courses, Evangelism and Pastoral Care. This summer he will be teaching Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies. Though he is currently involved in outreach ministry, he is a pastor at heart and his life ministry verse is Colossians 1:28, “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.”