Course Description
A study **soteriology** (the application of Christ's work of redemption, the *ordo salutis*, and its benefits), **sacraments** (the biblical doctrines of the sacraments), and **eschatology** (the study of the last things). Our survey of doctrine will be based on the exegesis of Scripture, with continual reference to historical theology. All along we will remember the crucial nexus between faith and life, doctrine and practice, and thus endeavor to stress the importance of these doctrines for Christian thought, life, and ministry.

Prerequisites

Course Objectives
To introduce the student to the main Biblical themes in soteriology, sacraments, and eschatology. To increase the student's understanding of these doctrines (and the historical/contemporary debates surrounding them) and ability to communicate them (in both academic and popular settings). To strengthen the student's commitment to historic Reformed theology and to assist in preparing the student to deal with unbiblical systems of theology in their various contemporary manifestations. To move the student to obedience and worship of the God who redeemed him.

Contact Information
Professor: Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III

*Campus Office:* Dean Center, Phone 601.923.1689 (extension 689 if dialed internally)

*Church Office:* First Presbyterian Church
1390 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Phone 601.973.9104

Executive Assistant Jan Hyde: jhyde@fpcjackson.org

If you would like discuss matters related to this course or future ministry, please contact my assistant to set up an appointment.

TA: Ryan Biese
Phone: 601.973.9120
Email: rbiese@rts.edu

Reading Requirements
Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (415-549; 604-738)
John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (684-1008; 1276-1428)
Rowland Ward, *Baptism in Scripture and History* (all)
Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit* (all)
Anthony A. Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future* (all)
Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms (WCF 9-33)

Academic Integrity
All work submitted must be the student’s own. **Group-produced work is not permitted.** Plagiarism and copying of old assignments are all considered cheating. Students who do not fulfill assignments with requisite academic integrity will be referred to the Academic Dean with a recommendation for discipline (the student should also consult pp. 33-34 in the *Handbook* for further details).
Class Methodology

Lecture
Lectures will cover all the major topics, but there will not be uniformity. Some topics are more important than others. Some topics are covered adequately in the reading material (when this is the case, it may be pointed out in class). Students should bring their copy of the Holy Scripture to class every day as well as the Westminster Standards (1788 American Edition).

Attendance
Attendance is necessary for successful completion of this course; to that end my TA will take attendance at the end of every class session. If you have a planned absence, please notify my TA via email and plan to obtain notes from the lectures.

Technology Use
Laptop computers may not be used during this course. Students desiring to use a laptop for note-taking purposes only may request an application for permission to do so.

Study Sessions
For students who wish to discuss topics in class on a deeper level or for students who desire to have more instruction in the material covered in the course, there will be weekly study sessions/seminars for that purpose. Please work with the TA to find a time agreeable to most.

Evaluation

Weekly Quizzes (20%)
These quizzes are based on the scheduled reading assignments, and will be given on a weekly basis. If you will miss a class or portion of a class, please contact the TA to schedule a time to make up this quiz.

Doctrinal Précis (30%)
Each student will submit a précis on Union with Christ, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, Faith and Repentance, Perseverance, Assurance, Sacraments, and Eschatology for a total of nine assignments. Each précis will be one page, include a brief bibliography, cite scripture, and follow the proper format (see attached example). Points will be deducted for refusing to follow the proper format.

Westminster Confession of Faith Outline (10%)
Each student will submit a detailed outline of the Westminster Confession of Faith (Chapters 1 – 33). These will provide a brief summary of each paragraph/major idea within the chapter.

Final Exam (40%)
A comprehensive exam covering the seven topics of this course will be administered to assess student comprehension of the material. Further details will be given; contact the registrar for precise details related to time and day of the examination.
Course Assignment Schedule

Due Dates Summary:
Feb. 9  Précis on Union with Christ
Feb. 23 Précis on Faith and Repentance
Mar. 1  Précis on Justification
Mar. 8  Précis on Adoption
Mar. 22 Précis on Sanctification
Mar. 29 Précis on Perseverance
Apr. 5  Précis on Assurance
Apr. 12 Précis on Sacraments
Apr. 26 Outline of the Westminster Confession of Faith (1788)
May 3  Précis on Eschatology

Course Reading Schedule

Please note, it is the student’s responsibility to read WLC and WSC questions that correspond to the WCF assignment.

February 2  Syllabus/Reading/Assignment Review  Week 1
Introduction to Soteriology
Union with Christ
DUE: WCF 9-18.
DUE: ICR, pp. 684-725

February 9  Effectual Calling  Week 2
Regeneration
Faith
DUE: Berkhof, Systematic Theology (415-479).
DUE: ICR, pp. 725-762
DUE: Murray, Redemption ... Applied (79-113).
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON UNION WITH CHRIST.

February 16  Faith  Week 3
Repentance
Justification
DUE: WCF 19-22
DUE: Berkhof, Systematic Theology (480-526).
DUE: ICR, pp. 763-802
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Justification</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>DUE: Fesko, <em>Justification</em> (165-263)</td>
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<td>DUE: ICR, pp. 802-849</td>
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<td><strong>ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON FAITH AND REPENTANCE.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Justification</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>DUE: Fesko, <em>Justification</em> (264-348)</td>
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<td>DUE: ICR, pp. 850-920</td>
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<td><strong>ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON JUSTIFICATION.</strong></td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>DUE: WCF, 23-25</td>
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<td>DUE: ICR, pp. 947-1008; 1276-1303</td>
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<td><strong>ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON ADOPTION.</strong></td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK (no class)</td>
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<td>Glorification</td>
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<td>DUE: ICR, pp. 1303-1428</td>
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<td><strong>ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON SANCTIFICATION.</strong></td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Sacraments</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>DUE: WCF 27-29</td>
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<td>DUE: Ward, <em>Baptism in Scripture and History</em> (all)</td>
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<td><strong>ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON PERSEverANCE.</strong></td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>DUE: WCF, 30-31</td>
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<td><strong>ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON ASSURANCE.</strong></td>
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April 12
Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit (Polemical)
DUE: Ferguson, The Holy Spirit, 115-256

April 19
Grace, Obedience, and the Christian Life

April 26
Eschatology
DUE: WCF 32-33
DUE: Berkhof, Systematic Theology (661-707)
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT OUTLINE OF WCF

May 3
Eschatology [Last day of class]
DUE: Berkhof, Systematic Theology (708-738)
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT PRÉCIS ON ESCHATOLOGY.

Paper Day: TBA
Final Exams: Presumed May 14-16
Student Information form

Full Name: ___________________________  Preferred Name: ______________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: __________  Cell Phone: ______________  Do You Text? ______________

E-mail: ____________________________  Year at RTS: ___  Date of Birth: _________

Married □  How Long? ______  Name of husband/wife: ____________________________

Single □  Divorced □  Separated □  Widowed □  Special Circumstances

Name(s) of children: ______________________________________________________________________

My church membership is at: ____________________________  What denomination?

Are you ordained? ______  How long? _____________  In what capacity?

Ministry experience:

Here in Jackson I attend church at: _______________________________________________

I graduated from (college/university): ____________  year: ______  major: ____________

What other degrees do you hold (give degree, institution and date)?

When/in what circumstances did you become a Christian?

Were you involved in a campus Christian organization?

Which one? ______________  Were you an officer? ______  Title: ______________________

What work were you doing prior to coming to RTS?

What aspect of Christian vocation are you preparing for at RTS?

What Church/Christian organization do you want to work with?

In what capacity?

What specific issues are you particularly interested in covering in this class?

Have you read the Westminster Confession and Catechisms? ________  Thoroughly?
Do you consider yourself to be fairly knowledgeable of the history behind and the theology of the Westminster Confession? □ Explain:

Is your own personal theological position in agreement with the WCF? Yes __ No __ Partially

Explain:

What do you think is/are the biggest problem(s) in the Church today?

Are you having regular devotion and prayer times?

Does your family have a daily worship time?

Do you struggle with academic study?

Are you considering further studies after RTS?

If yes, how can I assist your preparation?

How can I be praying for you?

Other Comments or Suggestions:
## MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will demonstrate knowledge of the material by the completion of several précis assignments and an outline of the Confession of Faith; a cumulative final exam will measure student mastery of the concepts. Students will have the option of oral articulation at weekly study sessions.</td>
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<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The students will argue from and prove doctrines using Scripture; the student will integrate the application of Scripture to modern circumstances throughout the course.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>By the completion of the Systematic Theology courses, the student will have a solid foundation and introduction to Reformed Theology as articulated in the Westminster Confession and Catechisms.</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>In addition to a discussion of the interplay between Grace and Obedience in the Christian life, the student will be exhorted to persevere in the grace that saved him.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>We engage in the “science of living blessedly forever;” through the study of God's word, the student will know how better to apply the Word of God to the world of the 21st Century.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The Gospel of Jesus Christ, rightly understood, leads those who have been transformed by it, to proclaim it; the Systematic Theology courses are designed so that the student attains a right understanding of that gospel.</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>This course aims to help the man of God rightly apply and divide the word of truth by studying the God who gave us His Scripture.</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>This course will aid the worshiper to better know the God who commands us to worship Him according to His word.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>By studying the theology taught in God's Word, the man of God is equipped to better use his “gifts and callings,” to encourage, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>While ecclesiology is covered a different course, proper theology is essential for good and right doxology, both to understand how</td>
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<td>significant public issues.</td>
<td>to love one's neighbor as well as love one's brethren.</td>
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