Course Description
An introductory study of 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. This course is designed to complete the Systematic Theology core for MFT Students only.

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, Manual of Christian Doctrine (pp., 223-275; 306-364)
John Murray, Redemption Accomplished and Applied (pp, 79-181)
Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms (WCF 9-33)
William Hendrickson, The Reason for Heaven (pp. 1-13, 127-261)
Timothy S. Lane and Paul Tripp, How People Change (pp. 1-208)
Selected Reserve Readings
Fesko, Justification: Understanding the Classic Reformed Doctrine (Chs. 7-10)
Additional articles and selections, to be announced.

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 will be pointed out in class). Due to the mixed nature of the classroom, questions will be limited, but welcome. Special seminars will be arranged on a voluntary basis for students who desire additional help with the reading and study for the course. Students should bring their copy of the Holy Scripture as well as their copy of the Westminster Standards (1788).

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 Application Essays (30%)
Each student will submit an essay on Union with Christ, Justification, Sanctification, Faith and Repentance, and Eschatology for a total of five assignments. In the essay the student will define and summarize the doctrine as well as detail practical application of each doctrine to the counseling setting.

Citations: Please list all sources used at the bottom of the second page as well as include page numbers from any quotes.

Format: Two pages, single spaced, one-inch margins, size 12, Times New Roman font; put your name and the course number at the top right of the first page; please do not use a “cover page” of any kind.

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. All work must be the student’s own, group work is prohibited.

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  Essay on Union with Christ

Feb. 23  Essay on Faith and Repentance

Mar. 1  Essay on Justification

Apr. 12  Essay on Sacraments

Apr. 26  Outline of the Westminster Confession of Faith (1788)

May 3  Essay 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.

**NB, page numbers corresponding to Louis Berkhof’s Systematic Theology and Hendriksen’s The Bible and the Life Hereafter are given in brackets after the weekly assignment from the text for students who wish to read those texts instead of the assigned texts.

February 2  Syllabus/Reading/Assignment Review  Week 1
Introduction to Soteriology
Union with Christ
DUE: WCF 10-11.

February 9  Effectual Calling  Week 2
Regeneration
Faith
DUE: Murray, Redemption ... Applied (79-113).
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT ESSAY ON UNION WITH CHRIST.

February 16  Faith  Week 3
Repentance
Introduction to Justification
DUE: WCF 12-13
DUE: Berkhof, Manual of Christian Doctrine (241-264) [ST, 480-526])
February 23  Justification  Justification  Justification  Week 4
DUE: WCF 14-15
DUE: Fesko, *Justification* (189-240)
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT ESSAY ON FAITH AND REPENTANCE.

March 1  Justification  Justification  Justification  Week 5
DUE: WCF: 16-17
DUE: Fesko, *Justification* (241-280)
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT ESSAY ON JUSTIFICATION.

March 8  Adoption -week 6
Sanctification
Sanctification
DUE: WCF, 18-19
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT ESSAY ON ADOPTION.

March 15  SPRING BREAK (no class)

March 22  Perseverance  Week 7
Assurance
Glorification
DUE: WCF 20-21
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT ESSAY ON SANCTIFICATION.

March 29  Sacraments  Week 8
Baptism
Baptism
DUE: WCF 22-24

April 5  Lord’s Supper  Week 9
Lord’s Supper
Lord’s Supper
DUE: WCF 25-27
April 12  
Holy Spirit  Week 10
Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit (Polemical)
DUE: WCF, 28-29
DUE: Lane & Tripp, How People Change (1-94)

April 19  
Grace, Obedience, and the Christian Life  Week 11
DUE: Lane & Tripp, How People Change (95-196)

April 26  
Eschatology  Week 12
Eschatology
Eschatology
DUE: WCF 30-31
DUE: Berkhof, Manual of Christian Doctrine (333-342) [ST, 661-707]
DUE: William Hendricksen, Heaven (pp. 1-13, 127-184) [15-25, 111-156]
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT OUTLINE OF WCF

May 3  
Eschatology  [Last day of class]  Week 13
Eschatology
Eschatology
DUE: WCF 32-33.
DUE: Berkhof, Manual of Christian Doctrine (343-364) [ST, 708-738]
DUE: William Hendricksen, Heaven (pp. 185-266) [157-217]
ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT ESSAY 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:
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
### With Mini-Justification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong>&lt;br&gt;(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</td>
</tr>
<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</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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<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>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to love one's neighbor as well as one's brethren.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>