Catalog Description
An in-depth examination of the minister’s role in preaching with a particular stress on theological assumptions and difficulties from the perspective of Calvinism. In particular, the course will focus on those points of tension in which Calvinism has impacted preaching positively and negatively as it collides with Arminianism, easy-believism, and other theological systems.

Course Overview
Lectures. This course will begin with an overview of the preaching ministry of John Calvin, its nature, role, parameters and implications in the context of Geneva in the sixteenth century. The course will also explore issues of Calvinism as they developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including the Marrow Controversy, Preparationism, Supralapsarianism, the Free Offer, etc. from diverse sources (e.g. William Perkins' 'Ocular Catechism,' The Auchterader Creed of 1717, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress) in order to see how some of these issues affected the content and manner of gospel preaching. Taking Luther's statement that "he who can discern the difference between law and gospel is a theologian" we will range over contemporary issues of grace, law and faith. In particular, we will examine those points of tension in preaching where issues of divine sovereignty impact mission, evangelism, urgency, and the experiential element.

Workshops. Within this context the class time will be punctuated by a series of “hands-on” workshops in which class members will participate and share, examining and discussing how biblical thinking shapes and informs preaching ministry in the local church.

Required Reading:
The following works should be considered required reading:

T H L Parker  Calvin’s Preaching (Westminster John Knox, 1992)

Assignments

1. **Response Papers.** The following papers should be written—maximum length two pages single spacing, responding to the following questions, and written specifically with another pastor in view. These must be written prior to the class and brought to the class for discussion.

   **Paper 1:** Reflect on the relationship of preaching to theology and vice versa.
   **Paper 2:** Reflect on your present series of sermons (say, the last 15-20) and highlight in bullet form areas where Calvinism has been an issue.
   **Paper 3:** From the reading material, consider and assess the different style of approach in one of the books from your current practice of preaching.
   **Paper 4:** Write a brief tract on ONE of the following topics (this should be one that you haven’t already written on!): Divine Sovereignty and evangelism; Election and the urgency of mission; Predestination and the Free Offer of the Gospel.
   **Paper 5:** Write a brief letter to, or tract for your congregation entitled: *The church and Calvinism*

2. **Term Paper.** This paper is to apply what has been learned from the assigned readings, the lectures, and class discussions of this course to the local situation in which the student serves. Some description of the ministry situation in which you serve should be included. The paper should develop a biblical philosophy of pastoral care fine-tuned by way of application and implications to your specific local context. In particular this should reflect on three questions:

   1: Where are we now in our congregation in relation to the topic
   2: In what ways, do we need to develop, grow, and if need be reform in this/these areas?
   3: What, if any are the obstacles to, and means of development involved in this?

   The paper should be grounded in a biblical theology of pastoral care, and informed by a sensitivity to the lessons of history and ecclesiology. The paper should be between fifteen and twenty pages in length, including footnotes or endnotes. Note that the length is itself part of the exercise. The final date for submission is **tbd**
Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em><em>DMin</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biblical/Theological Foundations:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Several principal loci of theology will be examined in detail in relation to pastoral ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical/Contemporary Practices:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Past and current practices relative to these issues will be contrasted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integration:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>An attempt is made in this course to ensure theological integration into pastoral application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification:</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>All theology has sanctification as its goal and this will be the case here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student's sanctification.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>