01ST624 THEOLOGY of WESTMINSTER STANDARDS

(Fall 2015)

Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas

These classes will meet during Oct 5-8, 2015 (9-5)
Due date for all completed work: December 20, 2015

Course Description/Objectives

The course will attempt to provide a comprehensive survey and analysis of the Westminster Standards, including historical background and contexts. The lectures will aim to establish lines of continuity and discontinuity both within the Standards themselves (reflecting the diversity of opinion among the Westminster Divines) as well as provide trajectories to and from other Reformed Confessions. Occasional mention will made to the area of Theological/Reformed 'Symbolics.' Attention will be given to tracing a Reformed tradition from the Patristic theologians to Aquinas (yes!) and Calvin showing that the alleged discontinuity of Puritan Theology with the Reformation is largely a theologically prejudicial construct imposed upon the Westminster Standards.

Course Requirements:

i. Notebook. This should be handed in at the end of the semester and should reflect notes taken during class as well as those made during the assigned reading. The Readings must include all the assigned reading PLUS 200 pp from the “optional reading” list. Evidence of this reading must be clearly given in your notebooks! (25%)

ii. Paper: 12-15 pages research paper (40%)

iii. Final Examination. If numbers permit, this will be in the form of either a written exam OR an oral examination (Skype) reflecting the nature of a typical ordination examination in a Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of America. Students may choose which form they wish to take. In both cases, some verbatim knowledge of the Westminster Standards is advisable for the best grades to be assigned. (35%)

Assigned Reading

Beeke, Joel R. & Sinclair Ferguson (Eds.) Reformed Confessions Harmonized (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999)


Dixhoorn, Chad Van, Confessing the Faith: A Reader’s Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2014)
Optional Reading:


Carson, John *To Glorify and Enjoy God* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1994)


Duncan, Ligon (Ed.) *The Westminster Confession into the 21st Century* Vol. 3 (Fearn, Ross-shire: CFP, 200)


Ridgeley, Thomas *Commentary on the Larger Catechism* 2 Vols (Edmonton, Canada: Still Water Revival Books; nd)


Whyte, Alexander *Exposition of the Shorter Catechism* (Fearn, Ross-shire: CFP, 2005)
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

## With Mini-Justification

**Course:** ST624 Westminster Standards  
**Professor:** Derek W. H. Thomas  
**Campus:** Jackson  
**Date:** Fall 2012

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<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>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>
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<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>Minimal</td>
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<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>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>STRONG</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>MODERATE</td>
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<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>
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<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>WEAK</td>
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<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>STRONG</td>
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<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><strong>MODERATE</strong></td>
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<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><strong>MODERATE</strong></td>
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