

FALL 2011

IPTS@RTS/O

COURSE NUMBER:
2ST502/01

SYLLABUS • V. 1.0

SEMPER
REFORMANDA

INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

LEARNING THE DISTINCTIVES OF REFORMED THEOLOGY, PIETY, AND PRAXIS.

Reggie M. Kidd • Prof of NT

rkidd@rts.edu

h) 407.539.1670

m) 407.415.4317

Off. hrs. ... by appt., &
Mon. 11-noon; Tues. 9-11;

Wed. 11-noon; 1-3

...

Kimberly Anderson

anderson.kimberlyallen@gmail.com

256-572-7837

Tim Bentson

t.bentson411@gmail.com

253-468-7195

Jared Jones

jared.lane.jones@gmail.com

404-384-5779

Maribel Rodriguez

rodrigm@hotmail.com

407-754-6967.

Greg Salazar

gregsalazaris@gmail.com

828-242-9036

Fritz Schalmo

fritzschalmo@yahoo.com

423.309.2460

Tim Trouten

tim.trouten@gmail.com

765.409.2727

Louis Schieferdecker

MirrorImage1018@gmail.com

407.267.5738

Handouts available online
before class each Monday:

We will email them to you
(in doc & pdf format).

And they will be
downloadable via PowerCAMPUS
Self-Service.

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COURSE VALUES

THEOLOGY – RTS stands within a distinctive strain of evangelical Christian theology. We are committed 100% to the authority of the Bible and its message of God’s lordship, control, and presence. One course goal is that you come to appreciate the contours of a robustly biblical Reformed theology.

COMMUNITY – We believe that there are no “Lone Ranger” Christians, that Christian theology is learned from community and in community. We believe that one of the most important factors in your ability to sustain ministry over the course of a lifetime will be the relationships that you carry through your ministry. One course goal is to afford you the opportunity to step into just such potentially lifelong relationships.



CHARACTER – We believe that theology is done with heart and hands as well as with the mind. We believe that questions about God necessarily lead to questions about ourselves. One course goal is to invite you to consider, through the lens of the “seven deadly sins” and their counterparts in Jesus’s beatitudes, what is happening in your own faith journey.

WORLDVIEW – We share with historic Christianity a sense that we are called to take the saving message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Historically Reformed communities have also had a distinct posture towards questions of “grace” versus “nature” or of “the sacred” versus “the secular.” One course goal is to familiarize you with the conversations within “the Reformed camp” about how best to ask the so-called “Christ and culture” question.

WORSHIP – The God of the Bible is known only in worship. We believe that Christian theology is necessarily, therefore, (among other things) a sung and prayed theology. One course goal is to give you the opportunity to develop worship as a “habit of the heart” – to wit, to grow in your love for the Lord and to honor him with your worship as you learn from his Word.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*. With an Introduction by C. S. Lewis. St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1996. (ISBN: 978-0913836408).

Donald K. McKim, ed. *Calvin’s Institutes*. Abridged ed. Westminster John Knox, 2001. (ISBN: 9780664222987)

Os Guinness, *Steering Through Chaos: Vice & Virtue in an Age of Moral Confusion*. NavPress, 2000. (ISBN: 978-1576831588). Available via: <http://www.ttf.org/> -> Store -> Curricula (some other really great teaching resources here ... bookmark!)

Reggie Kidd, *With One Voice: Discovering Christ’s Song in Our Worship*. BakerBooks, 2005, chaps. 1-7 (ISBN: 978-0801065910).

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*. 3rd ed. HarperOne, 2001 (ISBN: 978-0060652920).

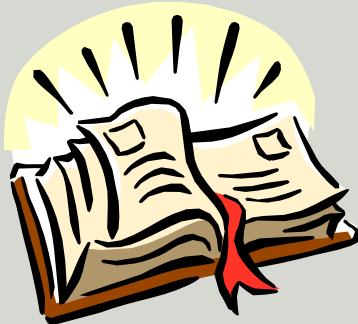
Kenneth J. Stewart, *Then Myths About Calvinism: Recovering the Breadth of the Reformed Tradition*. IVP-Academic, 2011. (978-0830838981)

Robert E. Webber, *Who Gets to Narrate the World?: Contending for the Christian Story in an Age of Rivals*. IVP, 2008. (ISBN-13: 978-0830834815).

ASSIGNMENTS

Grading

- 10% Reading
- 20% Reflection Paper: Guinness Readings (2,000 words max; due Wed. Dec. 7, by 11:00 a.m.)
- 20% Midterm Exam (take home; due at start of class Mon. Oct. 31)
- 25% Final Exam (take home; due Tues. Dec. 13, 4:00 p.m.)
- 25% Small Group (weekly participation – “My Story” paper, Guinness discussion, course material, ministry experience)



RUBRICS FOR REFLECTION PAPER EVALUATION

Logic & Flow: Does the paper state a clear and cogent thesis, and maintain a sustained argument?

Writing Style: Is the paper written in English that is grammatically correct? (A “first person” voice is welcomed – undisciplined “stream of consciousness” is not.)

Use of Sources: Does the paper interact appropriately with sources (citations may conform either to Turabian or to APA)?

Artfulness: Does the paper “sing”?

Reading: On the final exam, you will indicate what percentage of the reading you have accomplished during the semester.

Reflection Paper: Guinness Readings. We’d like you to reflect on how your own faith has been enhanced or challenged or otherwise affected by your study of the “seven deadly sins” and Christ’s Beatitudes. (**No more than 2,000 words, due Dec. 7**). Suggestions:

- Based on *Steering Through Chaos*, choose one of the seven deadly sins with which you struggle. Explain why it is so easy to fall into this sin and how you can avoid it. Also include how you can cultivate the corresponding virtue.

or perhaps:

- Read and reflect more extensively on one or more of the sources from which Guinness draws (e.g., Milton, *Paradise Lost*; Golding, *The Spire*; Augustine, *Confessions*) or even that he merely mentions (e.g., Dante’s *Divine Comedy*).

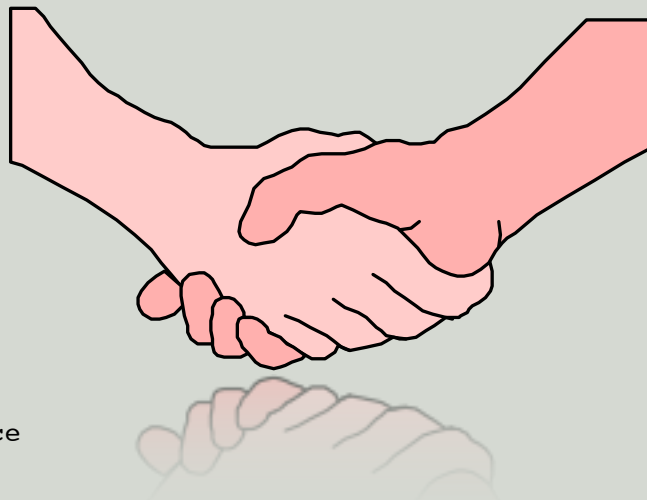
Take Home Midterm Exam: Combination of objective and essay questions. The focus will be on lectures and on all readings assigned through Week 6. Expect to write two brief essays: one on your proposed paper, and one on the lecture and reading material (**Due Oct. 31**) (We’ll provide sample questions to aid your preparation.)

Take Home Final Exam: Combination of objective and essay questions. The essay portion of the exam will be cumulative, but the objective portion will cover lectures and readings since the midterm. (**Due Dec. 13**)

On the essay portion you should expect to be asked to compare “Great Church Christianity” (Athanasius & Lewis) and “Great Reformation Christianity” (Calvin & Stewart). You should be able to identify and assess the offerings of each expression of the faith for answering various challenges arising in the emerging postmodern world (per Webber).

SMALL GROUP PARTICIPATION

- We know that truth is personal – it is as much “caught” as “taught.”
- We believe your spiritual life is desperately important.
- We have learned from experience that 5, 10, 20, & 30 years from now, friendships you make here & now will be as significant as anything else in sustaining you in ministry.
- We ask you, therefore, to participate in a small group experience beginning **Week 3 (9/19.)**
- Groups will meet during the last hour of class – **attendance is mandatory.**
- Read the assigned material in Os Guinness, *Steering Through Chaos* (as assigned) and participate in your group’s discussion about the seven deadly sins and the beatitudes.
- **Reflection Paper: “My Story”:** Initial course readings cover “God’s Narrative” (Webber), the Psalms’ story (Kidd and Athanasius), and David’s story (Kidd); moreover, in *With One Voice* (ch. 2) Kidd tells his own story of coming to faith in Christ and struggling to balance truth, goodness, and joy. With those readings as backdrop, would you please write a paper telling your own story, interacting with the thoughts from the reading & lectures. Guiding questions: What is your story? Where have you been? Where do you see yourself going? Where do you see yourself now? Are your struggles with God’s Authority (Truth), with God’s Control (Goodness), God’s Presence (Beauty/Feelings)? This paper should be around **1000 words**, written in 1st person. The purpose of the assignment is: a) to allow the professor and your sempai to get to know you better; b) to allow you to practice expressing yourself in written form; and c) to provide an you an opportunity to receive feedback on your writing (no grade, just feedback). We are looking for honest reflection and a well-written, grammatically proper paper.
- Your sempai will help you process the lectures and readings, and give you feedback on your writing projects.
- Your sempai will help you as much as you will allow in establishing good devotion and study habits.
- We believe that “theology is application,” that is, something you live, not just think about in your head. So, your sempai will oversee some sort of experience in ministry. We’ll explain in class.



DATES	THEME	READING DUE (BEFORE CLASS!)	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
1 Aug 29	Course Intro		
2 Sept 12	Doing Theology w/ Head & Heart & Hands	Webber, Intro. Kidd, Chs. 1-2, "A Red Guitar..." & "The Psalms..." Athanasius, pp. 3-24, 97-120 (Intro, Life, & Psalms)	
3 Sept 19	The Great Narrative: Israel	Guinness: "Intro" Kidd, Chs. 3-4 • David & Psalm 22 Webber, Ch. 1, "God's Narrative" C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Bk I Athanasius, Chs. I-II (§§ 1-10), pp. 25-37	Small groups start
4 Sept 26	The Great Narrative: Jesus	Guinness: "One: Pride," Pt. 1, pp. 35-52 Kidd, Chs. 5-6 • Jesus's Songs of Lament and Victory Chant C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Bk II Athanasius, Chs. III-IV (§§ 11-25) pp. 37-56	"My Story" Paper Due
5 Oct 3	The Great Church, Pt. 1	Guinness: "One: Pride," Pt. 2, pp. 53-70 Webber, Chs. 2-3 • The Church Emerges and Shapes Culture C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Bk III Athanasius, Chs. V-VI (§§ 26-40), pp. 56-75	
6 Oct 17	The Great Church, Pt. 2	Guinness: "Two: Envy," Pt. 1, pp. 71-90 C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Bk IV Athanasius, Chs VII-IX (§§ 41-57), pp. 75-96 Calvin, Bk 1, pp. 1-32	
7 Oct 24	The Great Reformation, Pt. 1	Guinness: "Two: Envy," Pt. 2, pp. 91-113 Calvin, Bk. 2, pp. 33-64	
8 Oct 31	The Great Reformation, Pt. 2	Guinness: "Three: Anger" Calvin, Bk. 3.1-3.10, pp. 65-92 Stewart, Intro & Myth 1	Take Home Midterm Due
9 Nov 7	The Great Reformation, Pt. 3	Guinness: "Four: Sloth" Calvin, Bk. 3.11-3.25, pp. 92-123 Stewart, Myths 2 & 3	
10 Nov 14	A Great Mission & a Biblical Worldview, Pt. 1	Guinness: "Five: Avarice" Webber, Ch. 4, "How the West Lost God's Narrative" Calvin, Bk. 4.1-4.13, pp. 124-144 Stewart, Myths 4 & 5	
11 Nov 21	A Great Mission..., Pt. 2	Guinness: "Six: Gluttony" Webber, Ch. 5, "Our Postmodern, Post-Christian, Neopagan World" Calvin, Bk. 4.14-4.20, pp. 145-173 Stewart, Myths 6 & 7	
12 Nov 28	A Great Mission..., Pt. 3	Guinness: "Seven: Lust" Webber, Ch. 6, "New Contenders Arise to Narrate the World" Stewart, Myths 8, 9, & 10	
13 Dec 5	A Great Mission..., Pt. 4	Guinness, "Conclusion: Five Reminders" Webber, Ch. 7, "A Call to Narrate the World Christianly" Stewart, "Recovering our Bearings"	
Dec. 7			Guinness Reflection Paper Due • 11:00 a.m.
Dec. 13			Take Home Final Exam Due: Tues. Dec. 13, 4:00 p.m. (Last Day of Exams)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: IPTS
 Professor: Reggie Kidd
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: Fall 2011

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<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"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Introduction to the scope of the seminary curriculum.
Scripture	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.)	Strong	Overview of concerns of biblical theology; introduction to tools of exegesis; biblical languages not required.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Overview of history of emergence of the Reformed communities; introduction to the contours of Reformed theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Study of the "Seven Deadly Sins" and the Beatitudes, via Guinness book and in small groups
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Emphasis on origins and content of Reformed worldview.
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	Strong	Focus on the Reformed communities relationships with the rest of Christ's church
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Introduction to Reformed philosophy of worship; assignments encouraging personal and corporate worship
Shepherd	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.	Strong	The whole course is aimed at forming good shepherds!
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Assignments that involve students in ministry outside the class.