

ST 520/ST 524 – Ecclesiology and Sacraments

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Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando
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Course description

In this course we will study the doctrines of the Church and the Sacraments. We will seek to understand, appreciate, and apply these doctrines as they are revealed in Holy Scripture and summarized in the Reformed confessions to the end that God might be glorified “in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations” (Ephesians 3:21). (2 hours.)

Required reading

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Volume 4 (Baker, 2008). ISBN 13: 9780801026577

Russell D. Moore, *The Kingdom of Christ*, chap. 4 (available on reserve/from professor)

J. van Genderen and W. H. Velema, *Concise Reformed Dogmatics*, chap. 14 (available on reserve/from professor)

Cornelis Venema, “The Doctrine of the Sacraments and Baptism according to the Reformed Confessions” (available on reserve/from professor)

Cornelis Venema, “The Doctrine of the Lord’s Supper in the Reformed Confessions” (available on reserve/from professor)

Other short articles and essays will be made available during the course of the semester.

Assignments

1. Reading report (20 % of final grade): Attached to the final exam, students will turn in a reading report stating the percentage of the assigned readings that they have read over the course of the semester.

2. Exams (60 % of final grade): Students will take two exams over the course of the semester. Exams will test students’ comprehension and ability to communicate doctrinal topics covered in class lectures, readings, and the Reformed confessions.

3. Reflection paper (20 % of final grade): Students will write a theological reflection paper on a topic to be assigned by the professor. Details forthcoming.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SYSTEM

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Ecclesiology and Sacraments

Professor: Scott R. Swain

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	Exams, reflection paper
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	Focus of all ST courses
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
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	Careful engagement with other views of the sacraments
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Sound understanding of biblical theology promotes sound preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Sound understanding of church and sacraments promotes sound worship practices
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	Strong	Sound understanding of church and sacraments promotes wise pastoral

	in America and worldwide.		ministry
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Biblical bases for denominational distinctives are addressed to some degree