

2ST624 Theology of the Westminster Standards

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RTS-Orlando Fall 2011
(2 credit hours)

Course Outline

- I. Introduction: Creeds & Confessions
- II. Ancient Creeds
- II. Continental Reformed Confessions
- III. The Westminster Assembly and Its Work
- IV. The Standards in American Presbyterian Context
- V. Survey of the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapters 1-33
(and the Apocrypha, chapters 34-35)

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation in all classes (10 %)
2. Research paper on the theology of the Standards (12-15 pages, 40 %)
3. Confession of Faith writing exercise (30 %)
4. Memorization of portion of the WSC required for the RTS catechism exam (20%).

Course Textbooks

1. A copy of the Westminster Standards (recommended: OPC/PCA clothbound eds.)
2. A copy of the Three Forms of Unity (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, and Canons of the Synod of Dort)

Research Paper (Due: sometime in October)

Choose a controversial topic in contemporary Reformed theology (e.g. Scripture, creation, sabbath, justification, covenant of works) and survey its development in the 16th century Reformers, in the Westminster Standards, and in subsequent reflection in the Reformed tradition. In what ways can you identify the development of Reformed theology on this topic? What is the distinctive contribution of the Westminster Assembly? How does it compare with previous and subsequent Reformed thought? How ought the church further to develop this teaching?

Confession Paper (Due: sometime in November)

Write a contemporary confession of the Christian faith. You may choose to do a comprehensive statement for a denomination, a specific statement that addresses a particular controversy (e.g. Federal Vision), or an abbreviated statement for a church website. (More details on this assignment to come.)