

PT520 Church Polity

January 10-12, 2012

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Course Description

Students examine the biblical data to church government and the Book of Church Order (of the PCA and other American Presbyterian denominations). The organization and function of church courts, including discipline and appeals, are considered, and parliamentary procedure is emphasized.

Class Meetings

- Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Textbooks

Presbyterian Church in America. *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America*. Atlanta: Committee for Christian Education and Publications, 2007. (Note: available electronically; students from other denominations may substitute the BOCO of their particular denomination – ARP, EPC, KAPC, OPC, PCUCA, URCNA, etc.)

Robinson, Stuart. *The Church of God as an Essential Element of the Gospel*. Willow Grove, PA: Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2009.

Waters, Guy. *How Jesus Runs the Church*. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2011.

Course Requirements

- Attend all lectures
- Read all texts
- Sustain final examination

“But all things should be done decently and in good order” (1 Cor 14:40)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Church Polity

Professor: Muether

Campus: Orlando

Date: Winter 2012

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <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> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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.	Moderate	Interacts with topics of polity by writing a paper based on Scriptural and theological principles.
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.)	Minimal	Must engage in the Scriptural arguments for particular forms of polity.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The case is made that Reformed theology yields Reformed polity.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Discusses the importance of church discipline in the life of Christian discipleship.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	None	
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.)	Moderate	Gracious examination of the strengths of other church polities.
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.	Moderate	Readings of PCA and other Books of Church Order in the area of 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	Pastoral oversight of church members and the need for shepherding is stressed.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Polity addresses the connectionalism with broader church and relation to other denominations.