Course Description
A study of the text and canon of scripture, focusing critically on seminal writings from antiquity and on contemporary research. The course will consist of readings, discussions, some lectures, and student presentations of research.

Required Texts. Note: you may not need to buy them all but you will have some readings from each. We will be reading a number of articles as well, most of which will be posted online.


Kruger, Michael J., *Canon Revisited* (Crossway, 2012)

Recommended Texts. Consider adding many of these to your library!


Beckwith, Roger, *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church: And Its Background in Early Judaism*


Evans, Craig, and Emmanuel Tov, eds, Exploring the Origins of the Bible: Canon Formation in Historical, Literary, and Theological Perspective (Acadia Studies in Bible and Theology)
Gamble, Harry Y., Books and Readers in the Early Church (Yale University Press, 1997)
Hengel, Martin, The Septuagint as Christian Scripture. Its Prehistory and the Problem of its Canon, with the assistance of Roland Deines, Introduction by Robert Hanhart, Translated by Mark E. Biddle (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004)
Köstenberger, Andreas, and Michael Kruger, The Heresy of Orthodoxy (Crossway, 2010)
McDonald, Lee M., The Biblical Canon (Hendrickson, 2007)
McDonald, Lee and J. A. Sanders, eds., The Canon Debate (Hendrickson, 2002)
Tov, Emanuel, Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible (Fortress, 3rd edn., 2011)

Classroom Procedure
Generally, at least half of the semester’s meetings will consist of the discussion of readings, with the occasional lecture/soliloquy by the instructor. The last several classes will consist of seminar presentations by the students, presenting papers, approximately 40 minutes in length, and discussion of those papers.

Assignments and Grading
COMPONENT % OF GRADE
Summary of Reading and Discussion 30
Research paper
  Classroom presentation 30
  Final paper 40
  100
The Research Paper is to be on some aspect of the textual criticism of the Bible or the canon of the Bible. The particular topic must be approved in advance by the instructor. This could be the study of a selected text critical problem, the study of a particular manuscript or group of manuscripts, the study of the witness of a Father or a text, a synthetic study of a theme or topic in the history of the canon, focusing on Scripture or on post-canonical history. Alternatively, it may be a critical interaction with a modern author on the text or canon of Scripture. Students will be assigned a one-hour slot in class in which to present and then defend their papers. All other students will submit a grade for this presentation (to be considered by the instructor). The papers may then be rewritten and will be submitted at the end of the semester.

Summary of Reading and Discussion means that once or twice in the semester (depending upon the enrollment) each student will be responsible for summarizing that week’s readings and leading a discussion based on notes/questions from the readings, for the first hour of class.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>Students will prepare and orally deliver a paper on an aspect of the textual criticism or the canon of the New Testament.</td>
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<tr>
<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>Strong</td>
<td>Some of the content of Scripture is studied in detail in terms of its text and the manuscripts which represent it. The whole subject of canon is concerned with Scripture.</td>
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<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Stress on the doctrine of Scripture as expressed in the WCF and other Reformed confessional documents.</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Although one could be a complete louse and be an expert on technical matters of canon and textual criticism, a proper approach and appropriation of this material will of great</td>
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<td>Category</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Level</td>
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<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>Winsomely Reformed</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>Moderate</td>
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<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td>Shepherd</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>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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