Reformed Pastors (02HT620)
Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

Dr. Don Sweeting                     Elective, 1 hour
Phone: 407-278-4406                 Thursdays, 11-12
Office Hours: Make an Appointment with Cheryl Foca Aug. 26-Dec. 3, 2015
cfoca@rts.edu
Teaching Assistant: Aaron Opgenorth   aaronopgenorth@gmail.com>

Course Description
The Reformed tradition has a rich lineage of pastors who have endeavored to faithfully shepherd
the flock and preach the Word of God. In this one hour class, which combines the areas of
church history, biography and practical theology, we will study the lives, works and ministries of
some of these individuals (such as Augustine, Calvin, Baxter, Bunyan, Edwards, Spurgeon,
Lloyd-Jones, and others) and what it means to be a reformed pastor today. It will be a kind of
Reformed “walking with the giants” course.

This class gets its name from Richard Baxter’s classic on pastoral ministry called The Reformed
Pastor. Its focus will be on certain noted Reformed pastors from different eras of the church
whose lives, ministries, and gifts, though very different, we dare not forget.

The individuals we study in this course embodied their theology. They pastored in the classic
pastoral tradition. Their faith was Calvinistic. They were shepherds of people and passionate
about the truth. They gave themselves to pastoring, proclaiming the Word, and ultimately
pointing to people to Jesus Christ.

This class embodies the thrust of Hebrews 13.7-8, which says, “Remember your leaders who
spoke the Word of God to you, consider the outcome of their life and imitate their faith. And
remember, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

Course Instructor
I serve as the president of Reformed Theological Seminary’s Orlando campus, and as the James
Woodrow Hassell Professor of Church History. Prior to this I served as the senior pastor of an
EPC church for 12 years in Denver, and before that I planted a non-denominational church in
Northern Illinois for 10 years. Before to coming to Orlando I taught church history at Denver
Seminary as an adjunct professor.

Pastoring is a joyful vocation, but it is not easy. You will need friends, models and encouragers
along the way. This course will introduce you to some of them, with the hope that you will make
some friends for life.
Class Time: Each class will include a 30-35 minute overview and 20 minutes of discussion

SPECIAL NOTICE:
Due to my travel schedule as president, I will be away some weeks, and therefore have to plan a few double sessions where we go from 11-12.55 with the second hour being a lunch hour session.

Tentative Outline 2015
I may add a pastor not on this list.
August 26  Class 1 Introduction to the Class, Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition from the Early Church to the Reformation
September 3  Class 2 The Life and Ministry of Augustine
September 10 (Double)  Class 3 The Life and Ministry of John Calvin, Part 1
Class 4 The Life and Ministry of John Calvin. Part 2
September 17  No Class
September 24  Class 5 The Life and Ministry of Richard Baxter
October 1  Class 6 The Life and Ministry of John Bunyan
October 8 (Double)  Class 7 The Life and Ministry of George Whitefield
Class 8 The Life and Ministry of Jonathan Edwards
October 15  No Class Reading Week
October 22  Class 9 The Life and Ministry of C.H. Spurgeon
October 29  Class 10 The Life and Ministry of Abraham Kuyper
November 5  Class 11 The Life and Ministry of Martin Lloyd-Jones
November 12 (Double)  Class 12 The Life and Ministry of John Piper
Class 13 Conversation with David Matthis on John Piper
November 19  No Class ETS
November 26  No Class Thanksgiving
December 3  Class 14 Make up Class

Course Requirements
1 Attendance 20%
2 Reading 60%
3 Practicum Project 20%
   5 page paper
4 No Tests

Readings
You are required to read some combination of 1000 pages of careful reading. By careful, I mean that you do not skim, but you read the entire text. In this class I encourage you to read biographies that you may have wanted to read and that will help you get to know some of these pastors better.
Required
*The Reformed Pastor*, Richard Baxter, 252

Choice for the remaining pages from these books:
*Calvin: Pilgrim and Pastor*, Robert Godfrey, 200
*Calvin*, F. Bruce Gordon, 400

*Jonathan Edwards*, Ian Murray, 472,
*A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards*, George M. Marsden, 145

*George Whitfield: God’s Anointed Servant in the great revival of the 18th century*,
Arnold Dallimore, 224

*Spurgeon: A New Biography*, Arnold Dallimore, 247

*The Life of Martin Lloyd-Jones, 1899-1981*, Ian Murray, 496,
*Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*, Eryl Davies, 128

*Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*, Andrew Purves, 144

**Practicum Project**
As you are listening, reading, discussing and reflecting, you are to be thinking about what are the marks of ministry that characterize a Reformed Pastorate in the 21st century. Please write a 5 page paper on marks of a reformed pastorate that you would like to characterize your ministry.
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>Reformed Pastors 02HT620</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor:</td>
<td>Don Sweeting</td>
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<td>Campus:</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
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**MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

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.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<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>Moderate</td>
<td>This is a one hour class that seeks to expose students to various Reformed pastors, get them reading good biographies, and start to formulate an idea of a reformed pastoral ministry.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<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>Moderate</td>
<td>This class will measure various pastoral ministries by Scripture</td>
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<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will be exposed to pastors who articulated Reformed theology and practiced reformed ministry in different ways.</td>
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<th>Sanctification</th>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>This class will be based on the conviction that a pastor’s godliness is extremely important.</td>
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<th>Desire for Worldview</th>
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<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>It will promote the desire to conform all pastoral ministry to the Word of God.</td>
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<th>Winsomely Reformed</th>
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<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>Strong</td>
<td>It will look at the different kinds of Reformed pastors and personalities that God uses.</td>
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<th>Preach</th>
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<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>It will review the preaching ministry of many pastors</td>
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<th>Worship</th>
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<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>It will examine the approach to worship of many pastors</td>
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<th>Shepherd</th>
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<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>Strong</td>
<td>This class is all about shepherding and helping current and future pastors think through their ministries.</td>
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<th>Church/World</th>
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<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>This class will look at various kinds of Reformed traditions: African, French, Dutch, English, American</td>
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