

Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies



Revised Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary
Washington D.C.

6ST502 (3 Credits)
McLean Presbyterian Church
Spring 2011

Dr. Howard Griffith
Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
hgriffith@rts.edu
703-408-3157

Office Hours: make an appointment – I will be delighted to meet with you.

Course Description:

We will seek to understand the Reformed family profile in history, piety and worldview. Most important, we will work at constructing theology – what is a biblical, orthodox and Reformed theology?

Texts

John M. Frame, *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*.

“Doctrine of the Knowledge of God Study Guide” found on the course homepage.

Pierre C. Marcel, *In God's School*.

Ecumenical and Reformed Creeds and Confessions, available at
http://marsbooksonline.com/index.php?l=product_detail&p=37

Assignments

1. For February 4-5, please read Pierre C. Marcel, *In God's School* in its entirety and the *Apostles' Creed*, the *Nicene Creed* and *Athanasian Creed*. (Found in *Ecumenical and Reformed Creeds and Confessions*). Come prepared to discuss these two questions:
 - What is the gospel?
 - How was your view challenged or supplemented by Marcel?

2. March 4-5 and April 1-2 will be devoted to a seminar discussion of *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*. Discussion leaders will be assigned. Please begin reading this now, along with the study guide.

3. May 20-21 will be devoted to a seminar discussion of *The Canons of Dort*. Discussion leaders will be assigned.

4. Written assignments TBA.

The class will be conducted as a seminar, therefore class attendance is mandatory.

Completed reading, 20%, class participation, 50%, written assignment, 30%.

Supplemental Bibliography

Benedict, Philip. *Christ's Churches Purely Reformed: A Social History of Calvinism* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002).

Clowney, Edmund P. *CM Christian Meditation* (any edition, available from wtsbooks.com).

Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of the Christian Life, A Theology of Lordship* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Publishing, 2008).

Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God, A Theology of Lordship* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Publishing, 1987).

Frame, John M. *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Publishing, 2006).

W. Robert Godfrey, *Reformation Sketches: Insights Into Luther, Calvin and the Confessions*. Emphasizes Reformed piety.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation* (Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity, 2006).

Johnson, Dennis E. *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing, 2007).

Kuyper, Abraham. *Lectures on Calvinism*.

Lillback, Peter A. ed., *The Practical Calvinist: An Introduction to the Presbyterian and Reformed Heritage* (Ross-shire: Mentor, 2002). Broad Reformed history and theology.

McNeill, John T. *The History and Character of Calvinism* (New York: Oxford, 1954).

Murray, John. *The Collected Writings of John Murray*. Four volumes. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1976-82).

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Worship*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995).

Packer, James I. *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 1990).

Packer, James I. *Concise Theology* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway).

Warfield, Benjamin B. "A Brief and Untechnical Statement of the Reformed Faith," available at <http://www.graceonlinelibrary.org/etc/printer-friendly.asp?ID=59>



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 6ST502, Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies

Professor: Howard Griffith

Campus: Washington D.C.

Date: Spring 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	Oral presentation of issues in the Reformed tradition.
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.)	None	
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	At a survey level – reading <i>Canons of Dordt</i> and the <i>WCF</i> ; at a deeper level, theological prolegomena.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.	Strong	Urges Reformed piety.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Introductory presentation of Christian worldview.
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	Presents the Reformed tradition in the context of catholic Christianity.
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.	None	
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and	None	

	encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.		
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	