

Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington DC

Educational Ministry of the Church (6CE514)

2 credit hours

Fall 2011

Instructor: Geoffrey M. Sackett
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Class meets at Reformed Theological Seminary (McLean, VA campus)

Thursdays, 12:00-4:00pm

September 22, October 6, 20, November 3, 17, December 1

1. Office Hours

By appointment. I am delighted to meet with you – please feel free to contact me.

2. Course Objective

Our overall objective is to grow in our appreciation for the covenantal character of the church in nurturing the people of God to maturity of faith – in worship, knowledge, piety, and service.

3. Course Expectations

Students are expected to attend each class, barring an unexpected turn of events. If you must miss a class session, please notify the professor in advance. Please come prepared to engage in class discussion. Assignments are due on the dates posted below.

4. Required Texts

Archibald Alexander, *Catechetical Instruction*

(available online at: <http://www.reformedreader.org/cc/catinstruction.htm>)

Herman Bavinck, *The Sacrifice of Praise*

(available online at: <http://spindleworks.com/library/bavink/TheSacrificeOfPraise.pdf>)

Daniel Estes, *Hear, My Son*

Carl Trueman, *Reformation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (can be purchased inexpensively from Westminster Bookstore – www.wtsbooks.com)

Various articles will be distributed via Self-Service.

5. Assignments and Evaluation

1. Reading report (2 @ 5%). Read the first half (see schedule below) of the required reading by the mid-term exam; the second half (see below) by the final exam. You will report on the mid-term and the final exam the percentage of the reading you completed.
2. Paper (30%). Write an 8-10 page paper on a topic of your choice approved by the professor. Proposal is due Oct 13. We'll discuss details in class. Due November 24.
3. Mid-term Exam (30%). Due Oct 27.
4. Final Exam (30%). Due Dec 8. More details on the mid-term and final will be given in class.

5. Due Dates

October 13 – paper proposal
October 27 – mid-term exam
November 24 – paper
December 8 – final exam

6. Lecture and Reading Schedule

*****Note: schedule is subject to change, but the below gives a good idea of the direction we're heading**

1st class: September 22 (Thursday)

Lectures: course introduction; the modern world: why things are the way they are
Reading: Berger

2nd class: October 6 (Thursday)

Lectures: secularization and its effects on the church and the world
Reading: Rieff

3rd class: October 20 (Thursday)

Lectures: Christian discipleship in the 21st century
Reading: Lasch

*****Mid-term exam distributed**

4th class: November 3 (Thursday)

Lectures: educating for wisdom
Reading: Estes, chapters 1-3; Bavinck

5th class: November 17 (Thursday)

Lectures: educating for wisdom

Reading: Estes, chapters 4-7; Wolterstorff

6th class: December 1 (Thursday)

Lectures: educating to *be* the church

Reading: Trueman; Alexander

*****final exam distributed**

7. Grading Policy

The standard RTS grading scale (found in the catalogue) will be used:

A	(97-100)	4.00
A-	(94-96)	3.66
B+	(91-93)	3.33
B	(88-90)	3.00
B-	(86-87)	2.66
C+	(83-85)	2.33
C	(80-82)	2.00
C-	(78-79)	1.66
D+	(75-77)	1.33
D	(72-74)	1.00
D-	(70-71)	.66
F	(below 70)	0.00