

SPRING 2012

IPTS@RTS/D.C.

SYLLABUS • V. 1.0



**SEMPER
REFORMANDA**

INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

LEARNING THE DISTINCTIVES OF
REFORMED THEOLOGY, PIETY, AND PRACTICE.

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Handouts available online
before class each session:

I will email them to you
(in doc & pdf format).

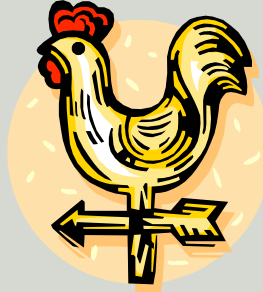
And they will be
downloadable via
selfservice.rts.edu/



COURSE VALUES

THEOLOGY – RTS stands within a distinctive strain of evangelical Christian theology. We are committed 100% to the authority of the Bible and its message of God's lordship, control, and presence. One course goal is that you come to appreciate the contours of a robustly biblical Reformed theology.

COMMUNITY – We believe that there are no "Lone Ranger" Christians, that Christian theology is learned from community and in community. We believe that one of the most important factors in your ability to sustain ministry over the course of a lifetime will be the relationships that you carry through your ministry. One course goal is to afford you the opportunity to step into just such potentially lifelong relationships.



CHARACTER – We believe that theology is done with heart and hands as well as with the mind. We believe that questions about God necessarily lead to questions about ourselves. One course goal is to invite you to consider, through the lens of the "seven deadly sins" and their counterparts in Jesus's beatitudes, what is happening in your own faith journey.

WORLDVIEW – We share with historic Christianity a sense that we are called to take the saving message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Historically Reformed communities have also had a distinct posture towards questions of "grace" versus "nature" or of "the sacred" versus "the secular." One course goal is to familiarize you with the conversations within "the Reformed camp" about how best to ask the so-called "Christ and culture" question.

WORSHIP – The God of the Bible is known only in worship. We believe that Christian theology is necessarily, therefore, (among other things) a sung and prayed theology. One course goal is to give you the opportunity to develop worship as a "habit of the heart" – to wit, to grow in your love for the Lord and to honor him with your worship as you learn from his Word.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*. With an Introduction by C. S. Lewis. St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1996. (ISBN: 978-0913836408).

Donald K. McKim, ed. *Calvin's Institutes*. Abridged ed. Westminster John Knox, 2001. (ISBN: 9780664222987)

Os Guinness, *Steering Through Chaos: Vice & Virtue in an Age of Moral Confusion*. NavPress, 2000. (ISBN: 978-1576831588). Available via: <http://www.ttf.org/> -> Store -> Curricula (some other really great teaching resources here ... bookmark!)

Reggie Kidd, *With One Voice: Discovering Christ's Song in Our Worship*. BakerBooks, 2005, chaps. 1-7 (ISBN: 978-0801065910).

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*. 3rd ed. HarperOne, 2001 (ISBN: 978-0060652920).

Richard Pratt, *Building Your Theology* (Third Millennium, 2004). 4 Pt. video series, download from <http://thirdmill.org/video-curriculum/free-downloads>

Kenneth J. Stewart, *Ten Myths About Calvinism: Recovering the Breadth of the Reformed Tradition*. IVP-Academic, 2011. (978-0830838981)

Robert E. Webber, *Who Gets to Narrate the World?: Contending for the Christian Story in an Age of Rivals*. IVP, 2008. (ISBN-13: 978-0830834815).

ASSIGNMENTS

Grading

- 10% Reading
- 20% "My Story" paper (due at start of class, Fri. Mar. 16)
- 20% Midterm Exam (take home; due by noon, Fri. Mar. 23)
- 25% Reflection Paper: Guinness Readings (2,000 words max; due by 4:00 p.m., Fri. May 18)
- 25% Final Exam (take home; due by 4:00 p.m., Fri. May 24)

Reading: On the final exam, you will indicate what percentage of the reading you have accomplished during the semester.

"My Story" Paper: Initial course readings cover "God's Narrative" (Webber), the Psalms' story (Kidd and Athanasius), and David's story (Kidd); moreover, in *With One Voice* (ch. 2) Kidd tells his own story of coming to faith in Christ and struggling to balance truth, goodness, and joy.

With those readings as backdrop, would you please write a paper telling your own story, interacting with the thoughts from the reading & lectures. Guiding questions: What is your story? Where have you been? Where do you see yourself going? Where do you see yourself now? Are your struggles with God's Authority (Truth), with God's Control (Goodness), God's Presence (Beauty/Feelings)? This paper should be around **1000 words**, written in 1st person. The purpose of the assignment is: a) to allow the professor to get to know you better; b) to allow you to practice expressing yourself in written form; and c) to provide you an opportunity to receive feedback on your writing. I am looking for honest reflection and a well-written, grammatically proper paper.

RUBRICS FOR REFLECTION PAPER EVALUATION

Logic & Flow: Does the paper state a clear and cogent thesis, and maintain a sustained argument?

Writing Style: Is the paper written in English that is grammatically correct? (A "first person" voice is welcomed – undisciplined "stream of consciousness" is not.)

Use of Sources: Does the paper interact appropriately with sources (citations may conform either to Turabian or to APA)?

Artfulness: Does the paper "sing"?

Reflection Paper: Guinness Readings. Please reflect on how your own faith has been enhanced or challenged or otherwise affected by your study of the "seven deadly sins" and Christ's Beatitudes. (**No more than 2,000 words**). Suggestions:

- Based on *Steering Through Chaos*, choose one of the seven deadly sins with which you struggle. Explain why it is so easy to fall into this sin and how you can avoid it. Also include how you can cultivate the corresponding virtue.
- or perhaps:
- Read and reflect more extensively on one or more of the sources from which Guinness draws (e.g., Milton, *Paradise Lost*; Golding, *The Spire*; Augustine, *Confessions*) or even something that he merely mentions (e.g., Dante's *Divine Comedy*).

Take Home Midterm Exam: Combination of objective and essay questions. The focus will be on lectures and on all readings assigned through Session 2. Expect to write two brief essays: one on your proposed paper, and one on the lecture and reading material. (I'll provide sample questions to aid your preparation.)

Take Home Final Exam: Combination of objective and essay questions. The essay portion of the exam will be cumulative, but the objective portion will cover lectures and readings since the midterm.

On the essay portion you should expect to be asked to compare "Great Church Christianity" (Athanasius & Lewis) and "Great Reformation Christianity" (Calvin & Stewart). You should be able to identify and assess the offerings of each expression of the faith for answering various challenges arising in the emerging postmodern world (per Webber).



DATES	THEMES	READINGS BEFORE CLASS	READ BEFORE OR AFTER CLASS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Sesion 1 Feb. 17-18	Course Intro Doing Theology w/ Head & Heart & Hands The Great Narrative: Israel, Jesus, the Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guinness, Intro & Ch. 1 ("Intro" & "Pride," thru p. 70) • Webber, Intro. & Chs. 1-3 • Kidd, Chs. 1-2, "A Red Guitar..." & "The Psalms..." • C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i>, Bk I • Pratt, Lesson 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athanasius, pp. 3-24, 97-120 (Intro, Life, & Psalms) • Kidd, Chs. 3-6 	
Sesion 2 Mar. 16-17	The Great Church: For Credal Orthodoxy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guinness, Chs. 2-3 ("Envy" & "Anger") • Webber, Chs. 2-3 • The Church Emerges and Shapes Culture • Athanasius, Chs. I-IX (§§ 1-56), pp. 25-96) • Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i>, Bks. II-IV • Calvin, Bks. 1-2 (pp. 1-64) • Pratt, Lesson 2 		"My Story" Paper Due
Noon Fri. Mar. 23				Take Home Midterm Due
Sesion 3 Apr. 20-21	The Great Reformation: For Confessional Faithfulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guinness, Chs. 4-5 ("Sloth" & "Avarice," thru p. 269) • Calvin, Bk. 3 (pp. 65-123) • Stewart, Intro & Myths 1-4 (thru p. 120) • Pratt, Lesson 3 		
Sesion 4 May 11-12	A Great Mission & a Biblical Worldview: For & Against the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guinness, Chs. 6-7 ("Gluttony" & "Lust," plus "5 Reminders") • Calvin, Bk. 4 (pp. 124-173) • Stewart, Myths 5-10 & "Recovering..." (thru p. 290) • Webber, Chs. 4-7 • Pratt, Lesson 4 		
Fri. May 18				Reflection Paper Due (by 4:00 p.m.)
Fri. May 24				Take Home Final Exam Due: Tues. May 24, 4:00 p.m. (Last Day of Exams, RTS/O)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: IPTS
 Professor: Reggie Kidd
 Campus: Washington, D. C.
 Date: Spring 2012

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<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	Introduction to the scope of the seminary curriculum.
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.)	Strong	Overview of concerns of biblical theology; introduction to tools of exegesis; biblical languages not required.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Overview of history of emergence of the Reformed communities; introduction to the contours of Reformed theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Study of the "Seven Deadly Sins" and the Beatitudes, via Guinness book and in class discussion (or small groups, depending on class size)
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Emphasis on origins and content of Reformed 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	Focus on the Reformed communities relationships with the rest of Christ's church
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.	Strong	Introduction to Reformed philosophy of worship; assignments encouraging personal and corporate 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	The whole course is aimed at forming good shepherds!
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Assignments that involve students in ministry outside the class.