

## Preparing for Ordination



Reformed Theological Seminary  
Washington D.C.

May 18-19, 9AM—4PM

6PT612 (1 Credit)

Dr. Howard Griffith

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*Office Hours:* TBA.

*Course Description:*

This seminar is intended to be the capstone of your theological degree. It should help you state and defend your theological views, as they will be examined in presbytery.<sup>1</sup> The focus will be on the most important theological matters, but we will also consider various “hot topics”—areas of controversy or concern about which the student needs to be prepared to state and defend his views (e.g., “Open Theism,” “New Perspective on Paul,” “Federal Vision,” women’s ordination, contemporary Roman Catholic theology, theistic evolution, inerrancy, “theonomy,” etc.)

*Course Goals:*

- To sharpen students’ practical skill in stating and defending their theology in live situations.
- To work through practice exams for ordination.

*Assignments:*

**Reading:**

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<sup>1</sup> PCA and OPC are emphasized, but others are welcome and will profit from the course.

1. *The Westminster Confession of Faith, The Westminster Larger Catechism and The Westminster Shorter Catechism.* The version should not be a modern paraphrase, but the original English, adopted as the doctrinal standards of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. (Recommended: *Ecumenical and Reformed Creeds and Confessions*, available at [http://marsbooksonline.com/index.php?l=product\\_detail&p=37](http://marsbooksonline.com/index.php?l=product_detail&p=37).)

This reading has in view your own evaluation of the standards (see below).

2. Bryan Chapell and Jim Meek, *Preparing for Licensure and Ordination Exams.* This book was written for PCA ordination exams. Orthodox Presbyterian students will receive a modified assignment in this book.

3. The *Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America, or The Orthodox Presbyterian Church (depending on the Church to which you belong).

### Writing:

1. Prepare a brief explanation of any exceptions you take to the teaching of the *Confession* and *Catechisms* (12 point font, double spaced). By “exception” we mean any phrase or doctrine you find contrary to the teaching of Holy Scripture, *or* whose faithfulness to Scripture you are unsure. The explanation is to follow these guidelines:

- Where you have a question about the meaning of the *words or phrases* of the Standards, look in the Glossary of terms found in John Bower, *The Larger Catechism, A Critical Text and Introduction* (978-1601780850) and/or Richard A. Muller, *Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms* (both on reserve).
- Where you have a question about a given doctrinal position of the standards, read the exposition of A. A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith* or Rowland S. Ward, *The Westminster Confession of Faith, A Study Guide* (both on reserve).

Briefly state your own view and be prepared to discuss it in class.

2. Prepare one hundred questions with brief biblical/theological answers. Students should feel free to work in groups as they are able.

Both written assignments are due to Dr. Griffith on **May 4, 2012**. Electronic submissions are fine. The professors will read these **before the class** meets.

### Evaluation:

Completed reading and writing, 40%.

Class participation, 60%.

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes  
With Mini-Justification**

- Course: 6PT612
- Professor: Griffith, Lee, Van Dixhoorn
- Campus: Washington
- Date: Spring 2012

<u><b>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</b></u>		<u><b>Rubric</b></u>	<u><b>Mini-Justification</b></u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Verbal practice in expressing views.
<b>Scripture</b>	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.)	Moderate	Bible content exam.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Writing and speaking about the <i>Westminster Standards</i> .
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Respect for ordination vows, clear communication with presbytery.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Careful recognition of the relation of confession and Scripture.
<b>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-	None	

	honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	Minimal	Ability to explain Reformed theology should grow from this class.
<b>Church/ World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	All relevant church issues will be discussed.