ST517: Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology
Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington D.C.
Fall 2015

Howard Griffith, Ph.D.

Revised Syllabus

Please feel free to contact me at hgriffith@rts.edu

Course Description
This course explores biblical doctrine from a systematic perspective. Topics include Christology, soteriology and eschatology.

Class Meetings
Wednesday, 7-10PM, September 2nd – December 9th. No class on October 7th and November 25th.

Required Textbooks


Although I do not require that you purchase them (a number of these titles are available as e-books), I recommend printed books for study. Murray, Collected Writings, Macleod, Christ Crucified, and Gaffin, By Faith, are books you will almost certainly want to read and reread.


**Other Required Reading (on the “Modules” section in Canvas)**


Richard B. Gaffin, “The last Adam, the life-giving Spirit”

Jonathan Gibson, “For Whom Did Christ Die? Particularism and Universalism in the Pauline Epistles”

Tony Lane, “The Wrath of God as an Aspect of the Love of God”

James I. Packer, “Arminianisms”

Fred Sanders, “Introduction to Christology: Chalcedonian Categories for the Gospel Narrative”

John Webster, “‘It was the Will of the Lord to Bruise Him’: Soteriology and the Doctrine of God”

*The Westminster Confession of Faith (WC)*

**Assignments**

1. Final Exam (50 %): Students will take a short essay exam that assesses their understanding and articulation of the course lectures, reading assignments, and relevant creeds and confessions. The exam is due emailed to me by 11:59PM on December 12th, 2015.
2. Research paper (25 %): Students will write a research paper (12-15 pages, double spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, Turabian format, with bibliography) that argues a specific thesis (i.e., a specific claim that can be argued on the basis of sound biblical and theological reasoning and defended against objections). More details will be forthcoming. See the Modules section of the Canvas course homepage. The paper is due emailed to me by 11:59PM on November 21st, 2015.

3. Reading report (25 %): Attached to the final exam, students will turn in a reading report that states the percentage of assigned readings that they have read with reasonable care by the due date of the final exam.

4. For M.Div. students: memorize and recite Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions and answers 20-38. I will ask about this on the exam.

Academic Policies

1. Late assignments: apart from exceptional circumstances, I will not accept late assignments for credit.

2. Plagiarism: plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will result in a failing grade for the course.

Reading Assignments Due

1. Christology: September 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
   - Gaffin, “The last Adam, the life-giving Spirit”
   - Sanders, ”Introduction to Christology,” 1-36
   - Macleod, Person, 15-264
   - WC chapter 7 (the chapter numbers are to the PCA version)
   - Macleod, Christ Crucified
   - Gibson, “For Whom Did Christ Die?”
   - WC chapter 8

2. Soteriology: October 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18
Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 65T517, Christology, Soteriology and Eschatology  
Professor: Howard Griffith  
Campus: Washington  
Date: Fall 2015

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>Strong</td>
<td>Exam and a paper on doctrinal matters vitally related to everything. Recitation.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<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>Strong</td>
<td>Not an exegesis class, but we read and lecture on both systematic and biblical-theological aspects of each doctrine. Scripture memory.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</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>These are the most distinctive of Reformed doctrines.</td>
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- Packer, “Arminianisms”  
- Gaffin, By Faith  
- WC chapter 9-10  
- Murray, Collected Writings, 123-131, 161-317  
- WC chapters 11-17

3. Eschatology: December 2, 9
- MacDonald, Evangelical Universalist  
- Venema, Promise of the Future  
- Lane, “The Wrath of God”  
- Webster, “It was the will of the Lord to Bruise Him”  
- WC chapters 32-33
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<tr>
<th><strong>Sanctification</strong></th>
<th>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>There is no more moving exhibition of the grace of God than in these benefits of salvation.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Stresses the importance of God’s law for all of life.</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<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>I will seek to show the value of Reformed theology for the benefit of all Christians.</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>ST is the message of preaching.</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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