The Church and the World
0HT506, 2 Credit Hours

Lectures by
James N. Anderson, Ph.D.
This course notebook is for the coordination of your course materials, including reading assignments and lecture recordings. Each course notebook for RTS Distance Education is arranged by the GUIDE acronym. The five components of GUIDE are organized in each lesson by the following steps in the notebook:

**GUIDE**

**Getting Started**  To do the lessons, reading and listening assignments are listed.

**Understanding**  To maximize learning, the purposes are given.

**Investigating**  To explore the content, outlines are provided for note taking.

**Developing**  To expand content, readings are suggested.

**Evaluating**  To help review, lesson questions are based on purposes.
COURSE SYLLABUS
The Church and the World, OHT506, 2 hours
Lecturing and Professor of Record:
Dr. James N. Anderson
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Professor
Dr. James Anderson comes to RTS from Edinburgh, Scotland, and specializes in philosophical theology, religious epistemology, and Christian apologetics. He has a long-standing concern to bring the Reformed theological tradition into greater dialogue with contemporary analytic philosophy. Dr. Anderson has a Ph.D. in philosophical theology from the University of Edinburgh. He is a member of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the British Society for Philosophy of Religion, and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. Prior to joining the faculty at RTS/Charlotte, Dr. Anderson served as an assistant pastor at Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh where he engaged in regular preaching, teaching, and pastoral ministry.

Course Description
This is a survey course on the major cultural, theological, and historical developments of the Christian Church in the twentieth century to the present. The course will deal with the impact of Christianity on contemporary culture as well as include key figures and movements.

Course Objectives
• To familiarize the student with the theological landscape of the 20th century: its major movements and its most influential figures.
• To introduce the student to the various ways in which Christian thinkers from different traditions have engaged with their culture: philosophy, science, politics, etc.
• To help the student understand the forces that have shaped modern evangelicalism (i.e., to understand "how we got to where we are now").
• To give the student an appreciation of the contemporary challenges faced by the church through its call to be "in the world but not of the world."

Required Textbooks
[Downloadable from the Learning Management System (LMS)]


[Be sure to get the revised edition.]
[Be sure to get the 50th-anniversary expanded edition.]

[Various reprints are available.]
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
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Online Student Handbook
The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS Distance Education website (www.rts.edu/distance) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Requirements
• Complete all reading assignments.
• Forum Discussions.
• Midterm Exam.
• Final Exam.
• Research Paper.
• Mentor Report / Course Application Paper.

Forum Discussions (15%) 
The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:
1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
   A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
   B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student’s answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question therefore requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts =10 total posts).
   C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
   • A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

Exams (Midterm (20%) Final (25%))
The midterm exam will cover lessons 1-6. The format of the exam will be a series of multiple-choice questions based on the material covered to date. Use the Lesson Questions and Topical Discussion Questions to assist you in your study. You have one hour to complete the exam.
The final exam will be cumulative covering all lessons, 1-15. You should review all of the class material and all of the required reading in preparation for the exam. Use the Lesson Questions and Topical Discussion Questions to assist you in your study. You will be given a series of ten (10) short essay questions and are required to choose three (3) to respond to. Responses should be approximately three paragraphs (500 words) in length. You have two hours to complete the exam.

The midterm and final exams for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

Research Paper (30%)

You should write a paper (between 3500 and 4000 words, excluding footnotes) based on one of the thinkers covered in class (Machen, Barth, Bultmann, Tillich, Moltmann, Hick, McLaren, Niebuhr, etc.). You are free to choose whichever one you want, but be sure to choose one that gives you the scope to write a good paper. If you're in any doubt, consult the professor first using the Student to Professor Forum.

The paper should be themed as follows: Imagine if your chosen thinker were to attend your local church for a year (either your home church or the church where you currently worship). Based on your understanding of the main concerns and claims of your chosen thinker, what recommendations would he (or she) give as to how your church could more faithfully or effectively engage with the world around it? (Clearly you will have to consider what would count as "faithful" or "effective" for this particular person!)

In essence, the paper requires (a) analysis of your chosen thinker, (b) analysis of your church's current engagement with culture/society, (c) application of the former to the latter, and (d) an evaluation of this application in the light of Scripture and reason.

Your paper should include all of the following:
1. An explanation (not merely a statement) of what your chosen thinker would recommend for your church, documented from at least one primary source and any number of secondary sources.
2. An explanation of why these recommendations would be made for your church.
3. A positive appraisal of these recommendations (i.e., how your church could benefit from the insights of this person). If you can't find anything positive to say, then you should choose another thinker!
4. A critical assessment of these recommendations in the light of your reading of Scripture.

Your paper will be graded according to the following criteria, in no particular order: responsible use of Scripture, responsible use of sources, creativity, clarity, structure and coherence, cogency of argument, practical relevance, evidence of critical thinking, and good writing style (including grammar, spelling, and punctuation).

The paper should cite at least 8 scholarly sources (not including Scripture).
1. For the purposes of this paper, a scholarly source is a book or article by a recognized expert in the field (and not aimed at a popular level for a general audience)-ideally one that has been peer-reviewed.
2. Wikipedia is clearly not a scholarly source.
3. That said, with sufficient discernment, Wikipedia can be a useful pointer to scholarly sources and is generally reliable for fact-checking on uncontroversial issues.
4. Please consult the professor (using the Student to Professor Forum) if you have any doubts about whether a source is scholarly.

The paper should be word-processed, not hand-written.
1. Use a 12-point font and double line-spacing for the main text.
2. Use section headings where applicable to improve readability.
3. Use footnotes (10-point font) rather than endnotes.
4. Use the guidelines in the current edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.

The paper should be submitted with a title page containing all of the following: the name and year of the course; your name; the professor's name; the title of the paper; and the exact word count for the paper (obtained from your word processor's word-count feature).

**Reading Report (5%)**

Students will be required to submit a reading report acknowledging how much of the required reading has been completed. No partial credit is given for readings that have not been completed.

**Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)**

Each Global/Non-Residential student is required to have a mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student’s grade. For students who are not Global/Non-Residential, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

**Assignments**

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

**Contact Information**

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Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 900-1257
1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/distance
Lesson One  
The Background of the Enlightenment

Lesson Two  
Major Thinkers of the Enlightenment

Lesson Three  
Three Major Figures of Liberalism

Lesson Four  
Liberalism and Fundamentalism

Lesson Five  
The Neo-Orthodox Reaction to Liberalism

Lesson Six  
Existentialist Theology

Lesson Seven  
Process Theology

Lesson Eight  
Theologies of Hope/History

Lesson Nine  
Liberation Theologies

Lesson Ten  
The Post-modern Turn

Lesson Eleven  
Post-liberal Theology

Lesson Twelve  
Radical Orthodoxy

Lesson Thirteen  
Post-Evangelicalism

Lesson Fourteen  
Christ and Culture

Lesson Fifteen  
Concluding Observations
RECOMMENDED READING
The Church and the World, 0HT506, 2 hours
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Note: You are not required to read any of the below, but you may find them useful to consolidate the course material and for further study as your interests dictate. For many of these, the table of contents can be viewed on Amazon.com.


[A detailed study of the influence of Christianity on Western culture, written from a Reformed perspective.]

Carson, D. A. Christ and Culture Revisited (Eerdmans, 2008).

[As the title indicates, this is Carson's revisiting and updating of Niebuhr's classic work. Not one of Carson's best works—it raises more questions than it answers in the end—but still provides many useful and provocative insights.]


[Contains concise articles on many of the figures and movements discussed in the course, but somewhat dated now (e.g., no articles on recent post-modern movements).]


[A reliable reference work that provides overviews of the major figures and movements in theology over the last century.]


[Part 5 of Frame's volume on Christian ethics provides a superb discussion of how Christians ought to evaluate and engage with the culture around them. Interacts with Niebuhr's Christ and Culture.]

Hunter, James Davison. To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, & Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World (Oxford University Press, 2010).

[Hunter offers explanations for why Christian efforts to change the world have so often failed or turned out to be counterproductive. Includes critiques of the Christian Right (e.g., Colson), Left (e.g., Wallis), and Neo-Anabaptists (e.g., Hauerwas). Hunter's thesis is sure to provoke discussion for some time to come.]

[Jenkins' follow-up to *The Next Christendom* in which he discusses further the differences between the northern and southern hemispheres with regard to Christian beliefs and practices.]


[A series of lectures delivered at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1898 in which Kuyper, a Dutch Calvinist theologian and statesman, argues that Reformed theology is a worldview that has significant implications for all aspects of human culture. Various editions available.]
# Course Objectives Related to MAR Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Church And The World  
**Professor:** James N. Anderson

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## MAR Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MAR 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 MAR outcomes.

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<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| Strong | 1. Integrative research/application paper based on primary sources  
2. Short essay exam tests knowledge and articulation of course topics |
| Moderate | 1. Discusses use/misuse of Scripture by modern theologians |
| Minimal | 1. Contemporary theologies contrasted with confessional Reformed views of God, humanity, Scripture, etc. |
| 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.

**Rubric:** Moderate

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Integrative research/application paper based on primary sources  
2. Short essay exam tests knowledge and articulation of course topics

### 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.)

**Rubric:** Minimal

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Discusses use/misuse of Scripture by modern theologians

### Reformed Theology

Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

**Rubric:** Minimal

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Contemporary theologies contrasted with confessional Reformed views of God, humanity, Scripture, etc.

### Sanctification

Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.

**Rubric:** None

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Highlights role of anti-biblical presuppositions in theological movements  
2. Emphasizes consequences of low view of Bible for subsequent theology

### Desire for Worldview

Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.

**Rubric:** Moderate

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Highlights role of anti-biblical presuppositions in theological movements  
2. Emphasizes consequences of low view of Bible for subsequent theology

### Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic

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.)

**Rubric:** Moderate

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Explores Machen’s position in Fundamentalism-Liberalism debate  
2. Notes points where the Reformed can learn from non-Reformed and non-Evangelical theologians

### Teach

Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.

**Rubric:** Minimal

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Notes challenges involved in communicating Christian doctrines to people in modern/postmodern age

### Church/World

Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.

**Rubric:** Strong

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Interaction with many prominent non-Evangelical theologies  
2. Discusses challenges of secularism  
3. Discusses global Christianity

### MAR Specific SLO

An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one’s own calling in society

**Rubric:** Moderate

**Mini-Justification:**

1. Awareness of theological ideas and movements that can influence individuals and local congregations