2ST624 Theology of the Westminster Standards

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RTS-Orlando Fall 2007
Thursday 8-10 a.m. (2 credit hours)

Course Outline

I. Introduction: Creeds & Confessions
II. Ancient Creeds
III. Continental Reformed Confessions
IV. The Westminster Assembly and Its Work
V. The Standards in American Presbyterian Context
VI. Survey of the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapters 1-33
   (and the Apocrypha, chapters 34-35)

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation in all classes (10 %)
2. Research paper on the theology of the Standards (12-15 pages, 50 %)
3. Reflection paper on the Standards in the church’s ministry today (6-8 pages 20 %)
4. Memorization of WSC Q&A 1-38 (20 %) or the portion of the WSC required for the
   RTS catechism exam.

Course Textbooks


Research Paper (Due: November 1)

Choose a topic in Reformed theology (e.g. Scripture, creation, sabbath, sanctification) and survey its development in the 16th century Reformers, in the Westminster Standards, and in subsequent reflection in the Reformed tradition. In what ways can you identify the development of Reformed theology on this topic? What is the distinctive contribution of the Westminster Assembly? How does it compare with previous and subsequent Reformed thought? Where ought the church to develop this teaching?

Reflection Paper (Due: November 29)

As you look ahead to your calling in ministry, describe how you might use the Westminster Standards in meeting your vocational goals. How ought the Standards to come to bear in the life of the church? How could ecclesial life be better shaped by the Standards? How have the Standards been misused and what are your remedies for healthier churches?