

**The Origin and Authority of the NT Canon/ NT6500**

Summer 2020, Remote Residential

**I. Details**

- A. Time: July 13-Aug 7, 2020
  - 1. Students will listen to select lectures from Dr. Kruger on Canvas (see below).
  - 2. **Class will meet face-to-face over Zoom the last seven days of class: 10AM-Noon, July 30-Aug 7.**
- B. Professor: Dr. Michael J. Kruger
  - 1. Email: [mkruger@rts.edu](mailto:mkruger@rts.edu)
  - 2. Assistant email: [cairing@rts.edu](mailto:cairing@rts.edu)
  - 3. TA email: [ebrown@rts.edu](mailto:ebrown@rts.edu)

**II. Purpose**

- A. To gain familiarity with the history of the NT Canon.
- B. To gain acquaintance with the main theological approaches to the authority of the canon.
- C. To understand the patristic and textual evidence for the development of the canon.
- D. To understand and articulate the Reformed view of biblical authority and the self-authenticating canonical model.

**III. Course Requirements**

- A. Please note that Greek 1 and 2 are required prerequisites for this course.
- B. Listen to NT Canon Lectures Available on Canvas
  - Listen to Lessons 1-6, 8, and 10
  - Students will be responsible for all lecture content for the final exam
- C. Attend class over Zoom (see above for dates/time) which will include the following:
  - Lectures on book production, manuscripts, and textual criticism
  - Greek readings of photographs of P66 (Gospel of John)
  - Discussion of the Self-Authenticating Model of Canon
- D. Before Zoom classes begin, prepare any Greek assignments from the photographic images of P66 by:
  - Providing an English translation
  - Parsing all verbs
  - Assessing the use/function of key words or grammatical constructions
  - Analyzing any noteworthy scribal features or habits.
  - Note: the first photo is of John 1:1-13 and the second photo is of John 7:52-8:14.
- E. Online Interactions on Canvas
  - Students must answer 5 discussion questions and respond to each of Dr. Kruger's follow-up questions.
  - Students must have 5 posts/interactions in the Student to Student Forum.
  - Students must have 5 posts/interactions in the Student to Professor Forum.
- F. Canon Paper
  - This is to be a serious paper, approximately 10 pages in length (typed), due on August 28 at 11:59pm. The paper is to be submitted on Canvas.

- Instructions: Write a fictional dialogue between two individuals contrasting different theological approaches to canon (e.g., Reformed vs. Catholic, Reformed vs. Neo-Orthodox, etc.). The dialogue should demonstrate knowledge of a Reformed approach to defending the canon. Although not a research paper *per se*, you should incorporate the required readings (and other research you may do) into the paper. Creativity, originality, and profundity will be rewarded.
  - For all footnotes, use the standard *SBL* format (sections 3, 4, 5.2, 5.4, 6, 7) and abbreviations (sections 8-16). The *SBL* standards are in the reference section in the library, but you may desire to purchase the book: *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Hendrickson, 1999). The paper should have footnotes (not endnotes) and resemble the articles found in the standard journals; e.g., *JBL*, *JTS*, *JETS*, *NTS*, etc.
- G. Complete the required reading in preparation for class sessions and examinations.
- H. No Midterm Exam. Final Exam to be taken via LockDown Browser by August 28 at 11:59pm.

#### IV. Grading

- A. Greek Readings—10%
- B. Canon Paper—40%
- C. Final Exam—50%

#### V. Textbooks

- A. Michael J. Kruger, *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origin and Authority of the New Testament Writings* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012). ALL.
- B. Bruce M. Metzger, *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1987). ALL.
- C. John Barton, *Holy Writings, Sacred Text* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997), 63-162.
- D. M.J. Kruger, “Manuscripts, Scribes, and Book Production within Early Christianity,” in *Christian Origins and Classical Culture: Social and Literary Contexts for the New Testament* (ed. S.E. Porter and A. W. Pitts; Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2013): 15-40.

## Student Instructions for Exams with LockDown Browser

1. Install the LockDown Browser application on the computer you intend to use for exams, prior to sitting for the exam, using this link: <https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=998253613>
  - This link is ONLY for RTS students and covers Mac and Windows applications.
  - Be sure that you are able to login to your Canvas account from the LockDown Browser before scheduling a time to take your exam.
  - The LockDown Browser application is already installed on the computers in the RTS Charlotte library. (Note that if you elect to use the library computers, your proctor must still be present throughout the duration of the exam.)
  - If you use internet filtering software (for example, Covenant Eyes) you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser. Some types of filtering software can block your computer's connection to Canvas. Also, please be sure to add an exception for our Canvas URL: <https://rts.instructure.com>
2. Make arrangements with a proctor to supervise the exam within the date timeframe set by the professor. The proctor cannot be a family member, current RTS student (current = taken a class within the past year but not yet graduated), or member of the library staff. Typical proctors are pastors or church staff members. The document "Proctor Expectations Letter.doc" has been provided on your Canvas homepage in order to facilitate communication with your proctor. For your convenience, there will be several on-campus proctor blocks where a proctor will be available to supervise your exam. Dates and times will be posted on Canvas and announced in the weekly Semper.
3. The proctor must observe student taking exam and ensure that there are no devices or resources available other than the computer being used for the exam.
4. Access the exam during the date window specified for that midterm:
  - a. Start the LockDown Browser application using a wired or known reliable WIFI connection. We do not recommend using restaurant or coffee shop WIFI to take exams.
  - b. Have your student ID number available to input into the exam.
  - c. If you use internet filtering software, you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser.
  - d. Login to your Canvas account using your Self-Service username and password. If you need to reset your Self-Service password, you may do so at <https://selfservice.rts.edu>.
  - e. Navigate to the exam. You will not be able to access the exam with a standard web browser. For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review this **Student Quick Start Guide (PDF)**.
  - f. Time clock will begin once you open the exam.
  - g. Exam must be completed in one sitting. You may not exit and return to exam later.
  - h. The exam will contain questions requiring the proctor contact information, an honor pledge, and certification that your proctor was present during the entire exam period.
5. Proctors may be contacted to verify information regarding exam administration.
6. In the rare case of a technical issue (for example, if internet service goes out during exam), the proctor should contact the course TA. While the TA's may not be immediately available, the date and time of the email will document when the issue was reported. Please have your TA's contact information available for your proctor before opening the exam. Once you open the exam using the LockDown Browser, you will not be able to access other programs on your computers.

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: New Testament Canon, NT6500

Professor: Dr. Michael J. Kruger

Campus: RTS Charlotte

Date: August 3-7, 2020

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Rubric</b>	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<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"> <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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Course lectures and required paper equip student to teach biblical view of the canon.
<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.)	Strong	Course lectures equip the student with a Reformed and biblical view of the Scriptures <i>as canon</i> .
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed epistemology and self-authentication feature prominently in this course.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Course lectures and reading enforce students' trust in the Word of God.
<b>Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Course lectures thoroughly interact with worldview issues pertaining to history, authority, and revelation.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</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-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	Students will winsomely but critically interact with other positions on NT canon so that they might be equipped to teach and defend the Reformed view of canon.
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Questions concerning canon underlie numerous questions most pastors will face.

