

**09PT5375 (DE)**

**Personal Sanctification**

**Reformed Theological Seminary in New York City**

**Fall 2021**

**Dr. Jay Harvey**

### **Course Description**

The course aims to see students grow in the fruit of the Spirit and their experience of the presence of God through reflection and practice. We will reflect on Scripture, classic writings on sanctification, and other contemporary works. The course includes a special assessment and segment on discerning call to ministry in the context of New York City.

This course will meet in person on Tuesday 9/7/2021 for 3 hours from 5:30-8:30PM. The subsequent meetings will be via Zoom on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00PM (9/14/2021 to 11/16/2021).

### **Course Philosophy**

Each class will have a combination of lecture and discussion. Attendance and participation are vital for your personal growth in the course and your academic success. We will discuss the authors, themes, and works with a view to our own relationship with Christ and the strengthening of discipleship in our churches.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

- 05% Reading—You are asked to read all the material listed for each week. At the end of the term you will submit a reading report indicating what you have read. Completing the reading constitutes 5% of your grade.
- 10% Class Participation—Participation is an important part of the course and is cultivated by the professor.
- 05% MCORE—Dr. Bill Fullilove will place instructions to complete your MCORE inventory in Canvas. To receive full credit, you must upload the appropriate documents and discuss the results with Dr. Fullilove. This is a unique opportunity to benefit from the ministry of your Dean of Students in NYC.
- 15% 5-Page Paper—You will write a five-page paper using a rubric posted in Canvas.
- 20% Meditations on Scripture—Using methods recommended by Dr. Tim Keller, students will complete 4 meditations. These assignments are posted in Canvas.
- 20% Prayer Journal—You will make at least one entry per week in a journal using the rubric posted in Canvas.
- 25% Final Exam—The exam will cover required readings and lectures.

### **Required Texts**

The following texts are required reading for the course.

“The Golden Booklet of the Christian Life,” by John Calvin (posted in Canvas)

[\*Free at Last: The Gospel in African American Experience\*](#), by Dr. Carl Ellis—This book was re-released in June 2020 by Intervarsity Press as part of their IVP Signature Collection. This republication is a significant honor, recognizing that his work was groundbreaking for its contextualization of Reformed

Theology within the African American experience. The African American experience and the Black church is the focus of the book. However, in addressing this context, Dr. Ellis provides a unique perspective on Christianity and Culture and offers his own model for contextualization.

“Fifty Years of Freedom,” by Francis Grimke, pp. 489-496 (posted in Canvas)

[The Beautiful Community: Unity, Diversity, and the Church at Its Best](#), by Dr. Irwin Ince. Rev. Dr. Irwyn Ince serves as a pastor at [Grace DC Presbyterian Church](#) and executive director of the [Grace DC Institute for Cross-Cultural Mission](#). Rev. Ince is a graduate of City College of NY (B.E.E.E, 1995), Reformed Theological Seminary (M.A.R., 2006), and Covenant Theological Seminary (D.Min., 2016). In 2018 He was elected as the 46th Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), the denomination’s first African American moderator.

[“The Reformed View of Sanctification,”](#) by Sinclair Ferguson (web article)

“On the Mortification of Sin,” by John Owen (posted in Canvas)

“Lament is a Necessary Step Toward Healing,” by Soon-Chan Rah (posted in Canvas)

### **Recommended**

The following readings will be engaged in class and inform discussion. They have been required in past years, but in order to conform the course to one credit hour standards of work they are moved to recommended status.

“Letter to Proba,” by Augustine (will be posted in Canvas)

[Confessions](#), by Augustine

“Definitive and Progressive Sanctification,” by John Murray

[Devoted to God](#), by Sinclair Ferguson

The Whole Christ, by Sinclair Ferguson

“A Simple Way to Pray,” by Martin Luther (will be posted in Canvas)

[The Deeply Formed Life](#), by Richard Villodas

### **Class Schedule**

The first class will meet on Tuesday 7 September in person, from 5:30-8:30PM at Central Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. Subsequent classes are on Tuesday evenings via Zoom from 6:00-7:30PM via Zoom.

### **Program Overview**

1. 9/7 Program Orientation and Introduction to Sanctification in an Urban Context Course Introduction (Note: the session is an in person 3-hour meeting from 5:30-8:30PM)
  - a. Reading: Ellis, *Free At Last* (all); Soong-Chan Rah, “Lament is a Necessary Step Toward Healing;” Grimke, “Fifty Years of Freedom,” pp. 489-496

## **Biblical and Theological Foundations of Sanctification**

2. 9/14 The Relationship Between Justification and Sanctification
  - a. Reading: Owen, "Mortification" pp. 1-33. Ferguson, "The Reformed View of Sanctification," by Sinclair Ferguson; WCF 10-15
3. 9/21 The Whole Christ: Legalism, Antinomianism, and Gospel Assurance
  - a. Note: The lecture title is from Ferguson's book by the same title in the recommended reading. You do not have to read the book. We will summarize it and discuss its significance.
  - b. Reading: "The Reformed View of Sanctification," by Sinclair Ferguson; WCF 18-20
4. 9/28 Good Works in Sanctification
  - a. Reading: WCF 16-17

## **Means of Grace**

5. 10/5 Worship and Sacraments
  - a. Reading: WCF 25-29
6. 10/12 Meditation on God's Word
7. 10/19 Praying the Bible
8. 10/29 Praying in Suffering
9. 11/2 Praying in Leadership

## **Implications for Discipleship**

10. 11/9 Discussion: Calvin, *The Golden Booklet of the Christian Life*
  - a. Reading: Calvin, *Golden Booklet of the Christian Life*
11. 11/16 Discussion: Ince, *The Beautiful Community*
  - a. Reading: Ince, chs. 5-7

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

Course: **09PT5375 – Personal Sanctification**

Professor: Rev. Dr. Jay Harvey III

Campus: New York

Date: Fall 2021

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b> <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> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<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.	Strong	Students will be able to articulate the doctrine and practice of sanctification with an emphasis on the ordinary means of grace in an urban context. Students will write a 4-6 page paper.
<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.)	Minimal	Course emphasis is on practical application.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The directly engages significant portions of the Westminster Standards and the syllabus includes classic Reformed texts.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	The class presents a Reformed doctrine and practice of sanctification.
<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.	Moderate	This course aims to cultivate the spiritual practice, rather than theory, of growing in love for God and neighbor. Assumptions of modernity and postmodernity that create challenges to personal sanctification are addressed.
<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.)	Strong	The course design intentionally engages non-Reformed perspectives on and challenges to spiritual growth with a winsome tone.
<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	Course aims and objectives have significant implications for Biblical shepherding.