

**ST5200 – SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY  
CHRISTOLOGY, SOTERIOLOGY, ESCHATOLOGY**

Reformed Theological Seminary  
Dallas, Spring 2022  
Thursdays 6-9PM  
Dr. Mark I. McDowell  
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**1. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To orient and familiarize the student to the theological categories of Christ's person (Christology), Christ's work (soteriology) and the events surrounding Christ's return and the hope we have in Christ's promises to His people (Eschatology)
2. To explore and investigate the exegetical, doctrinal and historical foundations of Christology, Soteriology and Eschatology as understood, taught, and confessed in the Reformed tradition
3. To develop a deeper dependence and love for the prophetic and apostolic witness, a more joyful appreciation for reformed theology, and, ultimately, to grow in one's love and worship of the Triune God of our salvation

**2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. *Class Participation*: includes attendance of all classes and active participation and contribution in class discussion
2. *Provisional Thesis & Bibliography (5%)*: Due by **March 10<sup>th</sup>** Students are required to hand in a brief descript of the topic for their research paper that also includes a provisional thesis statement and a working bibliography. This bibliography should include 10-18 books and articles.
3. *Final Exam (25%) (May 13<sup>th</sup>)*: Exams will test understanding and comprehension of material covered in class, readings, and the ability to articulate and communicate theological material in a clear way. Each exam will consist of short and long questions.

4. *Theological Research Paper (50%): Due May 13<sup>th</sup>*. Students will write a 12–15-page paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt font). The paper must treat a doctrinal topic related to the content of the class, that is, broadly, Christology, Soteriology or Eschatology. To make the essay more specific in nature, please consult your instructor to discuss this, ideally no later than Thanksgiving. Standard *SBL* format ought to be followed. Footnotes to be used (not endnotes)
5. *Reading (20%)*: At the time of the final examination, students will be asked to report the percentage of required course material that they have read (not skimmed!) during the term

## GRADING

a. Reading Report	20%
b. Provisional Bibliography	5%
c. Final exam	25%
d. Theological Research Paper	50%

## TEXTBOOKS

Allen and Swain, eds., *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Grand Rapids, Baker, 2016)

Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960)

Donald Macleod, *The Person of Christ* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1998)

John Murray, *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1955)

\* Additional Readings will be made available to students

## SCHEDULE

### Class 1 (January 27)

#### Introduction to Course & The Covenant of Redemption

- Swain, 'The Covenant of Redemption' in *Christian Dogmatics* (chapter 5: pp. 107-25)
- Macleod, 'Covenant Theology' in *Dictionary of Scottish Church History & Theology*, pp. 214-18

## **Class 2 (February 3)**

### Christology

- Calvin, *Institutes* II. xii, pp. 464-74
- Macleod, *Person of Christ*

## **Class 3 (February 10)**

### Incarnation

- Calvin, *Institutes* II. xiii- xiv, pp. 474-93
- Warfield, 'The Emotional Life of Our Lord' in *The Person and Work of Christ* (PA: P&R, 1950), pp. 93-146

## **Class 4 (February 17)**

### Atonement

- Calvin, *Institutes* II. xv, pp. 494-503
- Macleod, 'The Work of Christ Accomplished' in *Christian Dogmatics* (chapter 11, pp. 243-67)

## **Class 5 (February 24)**

### Resurrection

- Calvin, *Institutes* II. xvi, pp. 503-28
- Berkouwer, 'The Resurrection of Christ' in *The Work of Christ* (chapter 7, pp. 181-201)

## **Class 6 (March 3)**

### Enthronement

- Calvin, *Institutes* II. xvii, pp. 528-34
- Berkouwer, 'Christ's Ascension' in *The Work of Christ* (chapter 8, pp. 202-222)

## **Class 7 (March 10)**

PROVISIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY & THESIS DUE

### Union with Christ

- Murray, *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 201-13

Redemption Applied – Effectual Calling, Regeneration, Faith & Repentance

- Murray, *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied* (chs. 2-4, pp.88-116)

**March 17 (Spring Break – No Class)**

**Class 8 (March 24)**

Redemption Applied – Justification

- Allen, ‘The Place of Justification in Christian Theology’ in *Justification and the Gospel* (chapter 1, pp. 3-31)
- Murray, *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied* (chs. 5, pp.117-31)

**Class 9 (March 31)**

Redemption Applied – Perseverance & Assurance

- Murray, *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied* (chs. 6-8, pp.132-60)
- Murray, ‘The Assurance of Faith’ in *Collected Writings*, Vol. 2 (chapter 20, pp. 264-74)

**March 7 (No Class)**

**Class 10 (April 4-6 TBD)**

Sanctification

- Gaffin, ‘The Work of Christ Applied’ in *Christian Dogmatics* (chapter 12, pp. 268-90)

**Class 11 (April 28)**

Eschatology- Part One

- Berkouwer, ‘The Millennium’ in *The Return of Christ* (chapter 10, pp. 291-322)
- Bauckham, ‘Eschatology’, in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology* (chapter 17, 306-21)

**Class 12 (May 5)**

Eschatology – Part Two

- Berkouwer, ‘The Coming of the Kingdom’ in *The Return of Christ* (chapter 14, pp. 425-53)
- Horton, ‘The Kingdom of God’ in *Christian Dogmatics* (chapter 11, pp. 363-91)

**May 13 (Friday by 5PM)**

FINAL EXAM

READING REPORT DUE

RESEARCH PAPER DUE



**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes  
With Mini-Justification**

Course: ST 5200  
Professor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell  
Campus: Dallas  
Date: Spring 2022

<u><b>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</b></u>	<u><b>Rubric</b></u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u><b>Mini-Justification</b></u>
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<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.	Strong	Exams, theological reflections and theological research 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.)	Strong	Each theological locus finds its explanation and authority in the canonical teaching of Holy Scripture
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Students are guided in this theology course by the Reformed Theology as it is articulated in the Westminster Standards
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Students will read Calvin's book on sanctification in the relevant week but will see the deep value of the application of these doctrines to the Christian life
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	This course enables students to see the coherence these doctrines bring to the understanding of reality
<b>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</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	Approaches theological loci of other traditions in a warm, courteous, respectful and appreciative manner
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Christ's person, work and return ought to shape the best of preaching in a reformed context
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Studying the God of redemption will lead the student into richer worship, both individually and corporately
<b>Shepherd</b>	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Students are encouraged to understand their role in shepherding as a reflection and ordered extension of that of the Good Shepherd
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Broad understanding of cultural issues are informed by a theological framework