

## ST502 Intro to Pastoral and Theological Studies Fall 2022 (v. 060122)

J. V. Fesko

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Class Meeting Day and Time: Tuesdays, 1pm – 4pm

Room TBD

### Course Description

An introduction to biblical, theological, and practical ministry studies within the Reformed tradition.

### Course Objectives

Students will grow in their ability to:

- Understand the connections between theological study and Christian spiritual growth;
- Discern their vocational identity and the way(s) in which theological study will inform its pursuit and practice;
- Read, research, and write in a manner appropriate to graduate theological education;
- Grasp the doctrine of Scripture undergirding the RTS curriculum;
- Gain familiarity with the broad patterns of Reformed theology regarding its catholic commitments and its Reformed distinctives, as well as its unique confessional status among other Protestant approaches;
- Learn the classic patristic and Reformed models of pastoral ministry, as well as analyze their potential to inform and renew churches today.

### Required Texts

Books

*Holy Bible* (any version)

Allen, Michael. *Reformed Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2010). ISBN 9780567034304.

Fesko, J. V. *The Need for Creeds Today: Confessional Faith in a Faithless Age* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020). ISBN: 978-1540962591.

Swain, Scott. *Trinity, Revelation, and Reading: A Theological Introduction to the Bible and Its Interpretation* (London: T & T Clark, 2011). ISBN 9780567265401.

*Westminster Standards* (any modern version – post-1788 American revisions), preferably with Scripture proofs.

Essays and Extracts (PDFs on CANVAS)

Carson, D. A. “The Vindication of Imputation,” in *Justification: What’s at Stake in the Current Debates*, ed. Mark Husbands and Daniel J. Treier (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2004), 46-78.

Frame, John. “Some Questions about the Regulative Principle,” *WTJ* 54 (1992): 357-66.

Gordon, T. David. “Some Answers about the Regulative Principle,” *WTJ* 55 (1993): 321-29.

Hodge, C. W. “On Imputation,” in *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, vol. 3, ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974), 1462-66.

Kuyper, Abraham. *Principles of Sacred Theology* (New York, NY: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1898).

Swain, Scott. “Seven Axioms: On the Trinity, the Bible, and Theological Interpretation,” in *The Trinity and the Bible: On Theological Interpretation* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2021), 121-31.

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, vol. 1, ed. James T. Dennison Jr., trans. George Musgrave Giger (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 1992).

Witsius, Herman. “Fundamental Articles,” in *Sacred Dissertations on the Apostles’ Creed*, 2 vols., trans. Donald Fraser (Edinburgh: Fullerton & Co., 1823), I:16-33. \* PDF on CANVAS

Witsius, Herman. “On the Character of a Genuine Theologian,” *The Biblical Repertory and Theological Review* 4NS (1832): 158-70.

### Course Assignments

**Reading (20%):** completion of all assigned reading. Please only report your reading if you *do not* complete all 100 percent.

**Participation (10%):** attend and actively participate in lectures and class discussions. Note the following grading rubric:

A (100-94)	B (93-86)	C (85-78)	D (77-70)	F (69-0)
Provided good ideas for class consideration; inspired others; clearly communicated desires, ideas, questions, and comments. Was respectful of others.	Participated in discussions; shared questions and comments. Was respectful of others.	Listened mainly; occasionally asked a question or offered a comment. Was respectful of others.	Questions or comments were off topic. Was disrespectful of others. Or, dominated class time by not permitting others to ask their questions.	Failed to attend class—missed more than three lecture periods total without an excused absence.

**Research Paper (30%):** you must write a 12-15 page research paper written in a 12 point Times New Roman font, with 10 point Times New Roman footnotes, double-spaced, footnotes single-spaced. You must use at least ten sources, three of which should be journal articles or essays in

books. Simply place your name at the top of the first page (no title page required) and no bibliography needed. Please use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Turabian's Manual for Writers of Term Papers* for a style guide. Please also note the following grading rubric:

A (100-94)	B (93-86)	C (85-78)	D (77-70)	F (69-0)
Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages primary sources; provides analysis, not simply rehearses information.	Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages minimal primary sources and is more reliant upon secondary sources; has more repetition of information than analysis	Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; does not engage primary sources; relies upon secondary sources exclusively; has minimal analysis.	Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; relies upon secondary sources exclusively, and has no analysis.	Fails to submit paper or significantly fails to meet assignment rules.

**Reflection Paper (10%):** Write a 3-page (single-space) reflection paper where you express your thoughts about the author's arguments for the importance of confessions for the health of a Reformed church.

**Final Exam (30%):** Students will sit for a two-hour exam that covers questions drawn from lectures and assigned readings. The Final Exam date is TBA, but will be between December 7-9, 2021.

### Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
<b>The Theologian</b>		
<b>Aug 23</b>	What Is Theology?	Bavinck, 25-58
<b>Aug 30</b>	The Ethos and Virtues of a Theologian	Kuyper, 583-86; Witsius, "On the Character of a Theologian"
<b>Prolegomena</b>		
<b>Sep 06</b>	Archetypal and Ectypal Theology	Kuyper, 257-91
<b>Sep 13</b>	The Principia of Theology	Kuyper, 341-47, 397-412; Bavinck, 283-300; 497-622
<b>Sep 20</b>	Faith and Reason	Turretin, 20-36
<b>Sep 27</b>	Biblical Reasoning	Swain, <i>Trinity</i> ; Swain, "Seven Axioms;" Allen, chp. 1
<b>Oct 04</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	
<b>Oct 11</b>	Theological Methodology	
<b>Oct 18</b>	Covenant: Ontology and Epistemology	Allen, chp. 2
<b>Reformed Doctrinal Distinctives</b>		
<b>Oct 25</b>	Reforming the Doctrine of God? Unique Reformed Christology?	<b>Paper Early Submission Date</b> Allen, chp. 3

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<b>Nov 01</b>	Faith and Salvation: Imputation	Allen, chp. 4; C. W. Hodge, “On Imputation”; Carson, “Vindication of Imputation”
<b>Nov 08</b>	Sin and Grace: The Arminian Objection	Allen, chp. 5
<b>Nov 15*</b>	Confessions and Authority	Allen, chp. 7; Westminster Standards, all; Witsius, “Fundamental Articles”; Fesko, all; <b>Reflection Papers Due</b>
<b>Nov 22</b>	Worship and Sacraments: The Regulative Principle	Allen, chp. 6; Frame, “Questions about the RPW”; Gordon, “Answers about the RPW”
<b>Nov 29</b>	Eschatology and Culture: Engaging or Transforming Culture?	<b>Papers Due</b> Allen, chp. 8

\*Pre-recorded lecture on CANVAS

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

Course: ST502 Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies

Professor: J. V. Fesko

Campus: Jackson, MS

Date: Fall 2022

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</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>		<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.	STRONG	Students are required to participate in discussions as well as write a 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	Scriptural knowledge is necessary and students are expected to include original-language exegesis in their papers.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	STRONG	This course examines the big picture of Reformed theology and explores its key doctrines.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	STRONG	A key point of this course is that theology is ultimately about knowing and loving 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	A correlative point of this course is to be conformed to Christ's image as we live in the fallen world.
<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	If we truly know who God is, then humility is vital for the Christian minister.
<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	This course does not focus on the exercise of the practical elements of ministry but it does lay the foundation for them.