REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

HT504 History of Christianity II (v. 102722)

J. V. Fesko
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Day: Wednesday
Time: 8:00am – 11:00am
Room: TBA

TA: Dylan Halter
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Catalog Description

A continuation of HT502 History of Christianity I that concentrates on leaders and movements of the church in the modern period of church history from the Reformation to the twentieth century.

Course Objectives

The students will grow in their ability to

- Analyze texts, ideas, and debates in their historical contexts
- Appreciate the interplay between culture and ministry in various times and places
- Gain familiarity with major theologians from the ancient and medieval eras
- Understand and assess the development of Christian doctrine through the centuries
- Read primary sources from a variety of centuries, genres, and styles

Course Requirements

Participation (15%): Each student is required to attend course lectures, answer questions when asked, and participate in class discussions. The course consists of two hours of lecture and one hour of discussion covering assigned readings, which should be completed prior to the beginning of class. The following rubric explains how students will be evaluated:

A (100-94)	B (93-86)	C (85-78)	D (77-70)	F (69 – 0)
Provided many 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.	Seemed bored with discussions; rarely spoke up, and 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.

Course Readings (20%): completion of all assigned reading. Please only report your reading if you *do not* complete all 100 percent. Course readings include all assigned textbook reading and PDFs available through Canvas.

Reading Briefs (20%): Students are expected to prepare a brief on each week's readings. The purpose of the brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument of that text, as well as to state one's own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the text (so long as page numbers are referenced). Briefs should be no more than 350 words. They should be written in complete sentences and edited carefully. Students are to bring a printed copy of their assigned briefs to class each week AND upload their brief to Canvas.

Final Exam (45%): Students will sit for a two-hour exam that covers questions drawn from lectures and assigned readings.

Required Textbooks

Holy Bible (any version)

Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism* (any edition)

Spener, Philip Jacob. *Pia Desideria*, trans. Theodore G. Tappert (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1964). ISBN: 978-0800619534

Recommended Reading

Philip Benedict, *Christ's Churches Purely Reformed: A Social History of Calvinism* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002).

D. G. Hart, *Calvinism: A History* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2013).

D. G. Hart and John R. Muether, *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2018).

John Woodbridge and Frank A. James III, *Church History*, vol. 2, *From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013).

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
01	**Jan 25**	Luther	Luther, Ninety-Five Theses (PDF) Luther, Heidelberg Disputation (PDF) Luther, Freedom of the Christian (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 107-48.

02	**Feb 1**	Zwingli and Bucer	Zwingli, "On the Clarity and Certainty of the Word of God" (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 149-57.
03	**Feb 8**	Bullinger and Calvin	Calvin, On the Necessity of Reforming the Church (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 158-82.
04	**Feb 15**	The Radical Reformation	Muntzer, Sermon Before the Princes (PDF) Conrad Grebel, Letters to Thomas Muntzer (PDF) Simons, On the Ban (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 183-201.
05	**Feb 22**	The Catholic Reformation	Council of Trent, Selections (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 208-15.
06	**Mar 1**	The English and Scottish Reformations	Knox, *First Blast* (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 218-52.
07	**Mar 8**	The Dutch Reformation	Remonstrant Articles (PDF) Canons of Dordt (PDF)
	Mar 15	**SPRING BREAK**	
08	**Mar 22**	Post-Reformation Reformed Theology	Turretin, First Topic (PDF) Formula Consensus Helvetica (PDF) Westminster Confession of Faith (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 253-59, 260-70, 276-81.
09	**Mar 29**	The Enlightenment and Deconfessionalization	Kant, What Is Enlightenment (PDF)

			Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 285-388.
10	**Apr 5**	Pietism and Revivalism	Jacob Spener, *Pia Desideria* (all) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 260-64.
11	**Apr 12**	Protestant Liberalism	Finney, *Systematic Theology*, lectures 8, 13, 14, 17, 20-28
12	**Apr 19**	American Presbyterianism	Haynes, "Divine Decrees" (PDF); Haynes, "Liberty Extended" (PDF); Hodge, "Christianity Without Christ" (PDF) Hodge, "What is Presbyterianism" (PDF)
13	**Apr 26**	The Modernist-Fundamentalist Controversy	Vatican I, First Dogmatic Constitution, (PDF); Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (all); Kuyper, *Lectures on Calvinism* (PDF); Grimke, "The Race Problem" (PDF); Grimke, "Marriage" (PDF) Recommended: Woodbridge and James, 524-62.

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Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: HT504 History of Christianity II
Professor: J. V. Fesko
Campus: Jackson, MS
Date: Spring 2023

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes *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.* **As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*		**Rubric** • **Strong** • **Moderate** • **Minimal** • **None**	**Mini-Justification**
Articulation (oral & written)	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 briefs that analyze assigned readings.
Scripture	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.)	MODERATE	This course focuses on the history of doctrine, which involves the history of exegesis.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	MODERATE	This course examines the development of doctrine, which constitutes many of the key building blocks for Reformed theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	STRONG	A key point of this course is to learn humility and charity by studying early church doctrine and gleaning knowledge from it.
Worldview	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	One of the course's foci is learning from the church's past errors so as not to repeat them in the present.
Winsomely Reformed	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 learn how challenging it was to develop orthodox doctrine, then the aim is to be humble as we propagate it.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched 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 examines various examples of applied ministry.