

**ST5150 – Systematic Theology**  
**Scripture, Theology Proper & Anthropology**

Reformed Theological Seminary  
Spring, 2022

**I. Details**

*Instructor:* Dr. Mark I. McDowell

*Times:* Thursdays 6-9PM

*Office Hours:* By Appointment.

**II. Course Description (3 credits)**

To orient and familiarize the student to the biblical teaching and theological categories of the following doctrines: Scripture, the Triune God, Creation, Providence, Humanity & Sin.

**III. Course Requirements**

- a. Class Participation: be present in body, mind and voice
- b. Readings (25%): A reading report, detailing the percentage of work read will be included in the final exam
- c. Provisional Thesis & Bibliography (5%): Due by **March 16<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.
- d. Final Exam (30%): The final will test understanding and comprehension of material covered in class, readings, and assess the ability to articulate and communicate theological material in a clear and coherent way  
**\*To be taken in Finals Week: May 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**
- e. Theological Research Paper (40%): Students will write a 12–15-page paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt font). Papers will only be graded up to and including the 15-page limit. The paper must treat a doctrinal topic related to the content of the class, that is, broadly, Scripture, Theology Proper and Anthropology. To make the essay more specific in nature, please consult your instructor to discuss this, ideally no later

than Easter. Standard *SBL* format ought to be followed. Footnotes to be used (not endnotes)

\* **Due May 5<sup>th</sup> by 5pm**

#### **IV. Textbooks**

##### Required

Allen & Swain, (eds.), *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Baker Academic, 2016)

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

Gilles Emery, *The Trinity: An Introduction to Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God* (Catholic University of America Press, 2011)

Simon Oliver, *Creation: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: Bloomsbury, 2017)

John Murray, *The Imputation of Adam's Sin* (P&R Publishing, 1977)

Timothy Ward, *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God* (IVP Academic, 2009)

*The Westminster Confession of Faith* (WCF)

**NB.** Additional articles and chapters listed on specific class days

#### **V. Grading Scale:**

A (97-100)  
A- (94-96)  
B+ (91-93)  
B (88-90)  
B- (86-87)  
C+ (83-85)  
C (80-82)  
C- (78-79)  
D+ (75-77)  
D (72-74)  
D- (70-71)  
F (Below 70)

#### **VI. Schedule**

- a. Lecture 1 (Feb 2) – Introduction to Systematic Theology**
- b. Lecture 2 (Feb 9) – Doctrine of the Knowledge of God**
  - i. Michael S. Horton, ‘Hellenistic or Hebrew? Open Theism and Reformed Theological Method’ *JETS* 45/2 (June 2002): 317-41
  - ii. Calvin, *Institutes*, Book I.1.i-v (35-69)
  - iii. WCF: chapter 1
- c. Lecture 3 (Feb 16) – Doctrine of Scripture 1**
- d. Lecture 4 (Feb 23) – Doctrine of Scripture 2**
  - i. Ward, *Words of Life* (ALL)
  - ii. J.I. Packer, *Fundamentalism and the Word of God* (Grand Rapids: MI: Eerdmans, 1958), 41-114
- e. Lecture 5 (March 2) – Doctrine of God 1**
- f. Lecture 6 (March 9) – Doctrine of God 2**
- g. March 16 – Spring Break/Reading Week (NO CLASS)**
- h. Lecture 7 (March 23) – Doctrine of God 3**
  - i. Emery, *The Trinity* (ALL)
  - ii. Mike Allen, ‘Divine Attributes’ in Allen & Swain, *Christian Dogmatics* (pp. 57-77)
  - iii. Scott Swain, ‘Divine Trinity’ in Allen & Swain, *Christian Dogmatics* (78-106)
  - iv. WCF: chapter 2
- i. Lecture 8 (March 30) – Doctrine of Creation**
  - i. Oliver, *Creation* (pp. 1-89)
  - WCF: chapter 3
- j. Lecture 9 (April 6) – Doctrine of Providence**

- i. Oliver, *Creation* (pp. 91-157)

WCF: chapters: 4-5

**k. *Lecture 10 (April 13) – Doctrine of Humanity 1***

**l. *Lecture 11 (April 20) – Doctrine of Humanity 2***

- i. Vincent Bacote, 'Erasing Race: Racial Identity and Theological Anthropology' in *Black Scholars in White Space*, ed. Anthony Bradley (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2015): 13-38
- ii. Kelly Kopic, 'Anthropology' in Allen & Swain (eds.), *Christian Dogmatics* (pp. 165-93)

**m. *Lecture 12 (April 27) – Doctrine of Sin***

- i. Murray, *Imputation*
- ii. WCF: chapter 6

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

Course: ST 5150  
 Professor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell  
 Campus: Dallas  
 Date: Fall 2021

<b><u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<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.	Strong	Exams, theological research paper, reading
<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, elaboration 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 and God's works that aid and encourages the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Emphasized in class, readings and enabled through research for paper
<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	Emphasis on God in himself, God's works helps students to grasp deeper understanding of Scripture
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Studying identity and actions of God 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	Seeing God as the Great Shepherd of His people and the ways He Shepherds in creation and providence shapes our pastoral imagination
<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