

**Reformed Theological Seminary**  
**HT5200 The History of Christianity II**

**Course information**

Times: Monday through Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

Dates: July 10 – July 14, 2023

Instructor: Dr Rufus T Burton

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Office hours: By appointment / Usually, I will be available after class in the library.

**Course description:**

A continuation of History of Christianity I, this course is a general introduction to Christianity in the Reformation, Post-Reformation and Modern eras. The course will focus on the key figures, movements and ideas that have contributed significantly to the history of the Church. As an outcome of the course, students should have a general grasp of Christian history since the Sixteenth Century, and with it a working knowledge of the major ecclesiastical issues and personalities of this period of church history, with particular reference to Europe and North America.

**Goals:**

1. The student will be *introduced* to the history of the Christian Church over the past five centuries, particularly emphasizing the way certain beliefs and practices have shaped Christian identity.
2. Through the lectures, the student will be *exposed* to the cultural and political contexts of Christian thought and *develop* a greater critical appreciation for the Christian tradition.
3. Through the reading and discussions, the student will be *oriented* to key figures, beliefs, practices, and stories in the life of the Christian Church and will *explore* how they relate to contemporary Christian life and ministry.
4. Through the primary source readings, the student will *appreciate* Protestant, and particularly Reformed identity, as a confluence of beliefs, practices, and commitments, which continue to have importance in our world.
5. Through the Digest Papers, and Exams, the student will *reflect* on how Christian identity, and Reformed identity in particular, as represented over the studied period, has relevance for contemporary Christian life and ministry.

**Required texts:**

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2: *The Reformation to Present Day*, revised edition (New York: Harper, 2010); ISBN: 978-0061855894

Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*, trans. Packer & Johnston (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012 [1525]); ISBN: 978-0801048937

J.K.S Reid, ed, *Calvin: Theological Treatises*, (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1954); ISBN: 978-0664223670

**NB:** Any edition of the Reid volume is acceptable. WJKP has reprinted the *Library of Christian Classics* several times without changes to the text or pagination.

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, (Banner of Truth, Edinburgh, 2021 [1652]); ISBN: 978-1800401679

Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009 [1923]); ISBN: 978-0802864994

**Recommended texts:**

Benjamin B. Warfield, *The Emotional Life of Our Lord*, (Log College Press: Madison Mississippi, 2022 [1912]); ISBN 9781948102421

Jonathan Edwards, *Heaven is a World of Love*, (Crossway: Wheaton, 2020 [1749]); ISBN 9781433570711

**NB:** Any edition of these shorter works would be fine, even a download from a sketchy Puritan leaning website. The Warfield text can be found in the P&R Warfield volume entitled *The Person and Work of Christ*. The Edwards sermon was the closing sermon in the collection we know as *Charity and Its Fruits* – which is a good book for a minister to have on the shelf. Likewise, Crossway has a fine edition of *The Emotional Life of Our Lord*. In pointing participants to the Log College Press edition I am trying to point towards a useful resource which might otherwise be unnoticed.

## Course Requirements

### 1) Reading Digests & Church History Biography 30%

#### **Reading Digests:**

(The first one is due the first day of class)

Students will be required to submit three (3) 1750–1950 word (five to six pages typed and double spaced) digests of primary source material. One digest will be required for each of the primary source readings from John Calvin (1), Martin Luther (1), and Thomas Brooks (1), totalling three (3) digests.

#### **Church History Biography:**

(This is due on the last day of class)

Students will be required to submit one (1) 500–750 word (about one page typed and double spaced) brief biography of a figure of historical interest from the week of lectures. This biography is intended to introduce an important figure from church history to an interested member of a local congregation, and should, ideally, include three to four key dates and two or three interesting quotations.

### 2) Exam 60%

There will be a take-home **final** to complete during the week of 27 August to 2 September 2023. This exam should take three hours to complete and will be worth all of the exam grade. Helpful information and a study guide will be given to the students during the class meetings. **The final essay question will require detailed knowledge of Machen's *Christianity and Liberalism*.**

### 3) Attendance and Participation 10%

Students are expected to attend class and to demonstrably participate in the learning process.

## Due Dates:

**Digest      “Reply to Sadolet”      Reid, pp. 219–256 09:00 10 July 2023**

**Church History Biography      13:00 14 July 2023**

**Digest      Bondage of the Will      Luther      23:59 29 July 2023**

**Digest      Precious Remedies      Brooks      23:59 12 Aug. 2023**

**FINAL EXAM Window: 19:45 27 Aug. 2023 to 23:59 2 Sept. 2023**

## **RTS Grading Scale**

The seminary uses the following attenuated grading system:

<b>A</b>	(97-100)	<b>4.00 quality points</b>
<b>A-</b>	(94-96)	<b>3.66</b>
<b>B+</b>	(91-93)	<b>3.33</b>
<b>B</b>	(88-90)	<b>3.00</b>
<b>B-</b>	(86-87)	<b>2.66</b>
<b>C+</b>	(83-85)	<b>2.33</b>
<b>C</b>	(80-82)	<b>2.00</b>
<b>C-</b>	(78-79)	<b>1.66</b>
<b>D+</b>	(75-77)	<b>1.33</b>
<b>D</b>	(72-74)	<b>1.00</b>
<b>D-</b>	(70-71)	<b>0.66</b>
<b>F</b>	(below 70)	<b>0.00</b>
<b>I</b>	(incomplete)	<b>0.00</b>
<b>W,WP</b>	(withdraw, withdraw passing)	<b>0.00</b>
<b>S</b>	(satisfactory)	<b>0.00</b>

The grade "I" indicates that the work required for the course was not completed. It is given only when special, extenuating circumstances (such as illness) prevent the student from completing the work or taking the examination. A written request for an extension must be submitted prior to the due date of the work concerned. If the request is granted, it remains the responsibility of the student to complete all work for the course as soon as possible. In any case, an "I" grade must be removed within the extension time granted; otherwise it will be changed to "F."

### **Late work:**

Late work is not accepted. All assignments are due at the specified time. Only serious personal issues, with excuses almost always cleared in advance of the class, are given consideration. If you are traveling for some important reason and cannot attend class, please arrange to have your work delivered on time.

### **Incomplete work:**

Given that **late work is not accepted**, students should consider submitting incomplete work rather than nothing at all.

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

Course: HT5200  
 Professor: Burton  
 Campus: Washington, DC  
 Date: Summer 2023

<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> • 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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Students will have to speak and write knowledgably about the topics at hand. There are two exams and five papers.
<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.)	Moderate	The history of Christian doctrine includes the history of exegesis.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The survey of the development of doctrine will strengthen understanding of key elements of Reformed theology.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Exploration of the doctrinal and devotional importance of the Trinity in the early church can only help.
<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	Use biblical pre-suppositions to think historically about cultural issues.
<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	In lectures and discussions, model critically sympathetic engagement with other perspectives.
<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	In lectures and course work model helpful pastoral habits and attitudes.

Reading Schedule

**Before July 10**

Have read, marked, and written a digest on:

***The Reply to Sadolet***

***Reid pp. 219-256***

Please have read the following chapters of the Gonzalez text:

<b>Chapter 1</b>	pp. 7-18
<b>Chapter 2</b>	pp. 19-36
<b>Chapter 5</b>	pp. 57-66
<b>Chapter 7</b>	pp. 77-86
<b>Chapter 14</b>	pp. 161-165
<b>Chapter 16</b>	pp. 177-184
<b>Chapter 21</b>	pp. 229-236
<b>Chapter 22</b>	pp. 237-248
<b>Chapter 25</b>	pp. 275-290
<b>Chapter 27</b>	pp. 319-348
<b>Chapter 28</b>	pp. 349-362

(This is roughly 150 pages of reading and slightly less than 1/3 of the Gonzalez book. These chapters will provide a more stable foundation from which to understand the lectures and the course of the class. Specific knowledge from these chapters will be assumed during the week. Knowledge will not be required until the Final Exam. We will read from the other texts together, as a class, during the classroom week: Calvin every day; Luther: Monday and Tuesday; Brooks Wednesday and Thursday; Machen: Friday)

**Before July 29**

Have read and written a digest on Martin Luther's:

***Bondage of the Will***

**Before August 12**

Have read and written a digest on Thomas Brook's:

***Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices***

**Before August 27**

Have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested:

**Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2***

**J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism***

The contents of both these books will be on the exam.