

ST5200 – SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
CHRISTOLOGY, SOTERIOLOGY, ESCHATOLOGY

Fall 2023
Tuesday 6-9PM
Dr. Mark I. McDowell
mmcdowell@rts.edu

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*: Due by **October 10th**. Students are required to hand in a brief description 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 (40%)* 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. A final section will test the students understanding and recall of Westminster Shorter Catechisms 20-38. To be taken the week of **December 4-8th**.

4. *Theological Research Paper (40%): Due December 8th*. 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.
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. Final exam	40%
c. Theological Research Paper	40%

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)

Michael Allen, *Grounded in Heaven: Recentering Christian Hope and Life on God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018)

* Additional Readings will be made available to students

SCHEDULE

Class 1

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

Christology

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

Class 3

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

Atonement

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

Class 5

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

Enthronement

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

Class 7

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)

Class 8

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

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)

Class 10

Sanctification

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

Class 11

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

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)

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

Course: ST 5200
 Professor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell
 Campus: Dallas
 Date: Fall 2023

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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.	Strong	Exams, theological reflections and theological research paper
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.)	Strong	Each theological locus finds its explanation and authority in the canonical teaching of Holy Scripture
Reformed Theology	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
Sanctification	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
Desire for Worldview	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
Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic	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
Preach	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
Worship	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
Shepherd	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
Church/World	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

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