

09PT5375 (RE)

Personal Sanctification

Reformed Theological Seminary in New York City

Fall 2023

Dr. Jay Harvey

Course Description

The course covers the classic Reformed understanding of Sanctification with an emphasis on praxis. The course aims to see students grow in the fruit of the Spirit and their experience of the presence of God through reflection and practice. We will reflect on Scripture, classic writings on sanctification, and other contemporary works.

This course will meet in person from Thursday 9/7/2023 to December 7, 2023 from 6:30-7:20PM.

Course Philosophy

Each class will have a combination of lecture and discussion. Attendance and participation are vital for your personal growth in the course and your academic success. We will discuss the authors, themes, and works with a view to our own relationship with Christ and the strengthening of discipleship in our churches.

Assignments (all due by 12/14)

1. (30%) 6 Scripture Meditation Reports
2. (30%) 6 Journal Entries Describing Your Experience of Luther's *A Simple Way to Pray* (use each of the 3 methods twice for a total of six entries)
3. (20%) 1500-word personal essay drawing upon readings and lectures that describes the factors that have influenced who you have become and your present experience of God's grace in Christ
4. (15%) Take Home Final Exam
5. (5%) Reading Question

Readings

Chen, Rebecca. "[Spiritual Formation in the House Church Seminary](#)" published by Center for House Church Theology. (20 pages)

Ellis, Carl. [Free At Last: The Gospel and the African American Experience](#). Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2020. Part III (48 pages)

["Global Voices: A Forgotten Missions Legacy"](#) lecture by Dr. Carl Ellis at Beeson Divinity School, March 31, 2023.

Gonzales, Justo. [The Mestizo Augustine: A Theologian Between Two Cultures](#). Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2016. Introduction and Chapter 8 (11 pages)

Keller, Timothy. "Puritan Resources for Biblical Counseling," in *The Journal of Pastoral Practice*, Vol. 9, No. 3, 1988. (31 pages) [uploaded to Canvas]

Luther, Martin. "A Simple Way to Pray" [uploaded to Canvas] (11 pages)

Milne, Bruce. [*Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief*](#), 3rd Edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2009. Chapters 21-22 (17 pages)

[PCA Report from the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality](#), May 2020. [uploaded to Canvas] (62 pages)

Owen, John. *On The Mortification of Sin in Believers*. [uploaded to Canvas] (85 pages)

Owen, John. Prefatory Note, Preface, and Chapter 13 in *Meditations and Discourses on the Glory of Christ*. [uploaded to Canvas] (9 pages)

[The Westminster Standards](#) (required portions uploaded to Canvas)

Yi, Wang. *Faithful Disobedience: Writings on Church and State from a Chinese House Church Movement*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2022. Chapters 5-7, 10 (60 pages)

Lectures

1. The Trials of Theology and Seminary Life
2. Overview of Sanctification
3. The Westminster Standards on Justification, Adoption, Sanctification
4. Meditation
5. Mortification
6. Prayer
7. Uses of the Law of God from Calvin and Westminster
8. Augustine
9. John Calvin
10. John Owen
11. Carl Ellis
12. Justo Gonzales
13. Wang Yi

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Personal Sanctification

Professor: Dr. Jay Harvey

Campus: NYC

Date: Fall 2023

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <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>		Rubric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 will be able to articulate the doctrine and practice of sanctification with an emphasis on the ordinary means of grace in an urban context. Students will write a 4-6 page 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.)	Minimal	Course emphasis is on practical application.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The directly engages significant portions of the Westminster Standards and the syllabus includes classic Reformed texts.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	The class presents a Reformed doctrine and practice of sanctification.
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	This course aims to cultivate the spiritual practice, rather than theory, of growing in love for God and neighbor. Assumptions of modernity and postmodernity that create challenges to personal sanctification are addressed.
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	The course design intentionally engages non-Reformed perspectives on and challenges to spiritual growth with a winsome tone.
Pastoral Ministry	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	Course aims and objectives have significant implications for Biblical shepherding.