

General Information

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Tuesdays 7-10 p.m.

Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to deepen our experience and understanding of God's Word found in the Bible and its communication through the theological traditions of the Christian church. We will do this by gaining a familiarity with the Scriptures and their meaning both for the ancient audience and for the believing community acquainted with the prophetic ministry of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. This study will consider the historical witness of the Christian church, the unique contributions of the Reformed tradition, and the current state of theological study and pastoral vocation.

Students will be required to demonstrate:

1. a familiarity of the tri-perspectival approach to pastoral and theological studies articulated by Dr. John Frame,
2. a grasp of the theological issues and patterns that commonly arise in the contemporary evangelical and Reformed church, and
3. an ability to interpret the Scriptures in the light of Christian tradition and personal knowledge.

Course Materials

<i>TTP</i>	Frame, John. <i>Theology in Three Perspectives: A Guide to Triperspectivalism and Its Significance</i> . Phillipsburg: P&R, 2017.
<i>TWI</i>	Redd, Scott. <i>The Wholeness Imperative: How Christ Unifies Our Desires, Identity, and Impact in the World</i> . Fearn, Ross-shire, U.K.: Christian Focus, 2018.
<i>YAWYL</i>	Smith, James, K. A. <i>You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit</i> . Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos, 2016.
<i>TCI</i>	Trueman, Carl. <i>The Creedal Imperative</i> . Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2012.

Supplemental Readings.

Course Assignments

- Class discussion of lecture material. (10%)
- Two reviews of *YAWYL* and *TCI* based on the criteria in *DKG* (**due 11:59 p.m., Nov. 17**). 1000 words (30%)

- Student paper (**due date: 11:59 p.m., Dec. 1**) will treat a variety of issues brought up in the class. 3000 words (30%)
- Final exam (**due date: 11:59 p.m., Dec. 8**). (30%)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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Course: OT502 Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies
Course: ST5100
Professor: Redd
Campus: RTS Washington
Date: Fall 2023

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <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>		<u>Rubric</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Knowledge of the pastoral and theological study will be presented and articulated in class discussion and written assignments.
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	The course is primarily concerned with the teaching of Scripture applied to situations in life. Research will be approached as a means to interpretation and exhortation.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Reformed notions of the biblical interpretation and pastoral ministry will be thoroughly examined in this class
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Rigorous, prayerful engagement with the biblical text and theological tradition for the purpose of learning, spiritual growth and maturity is encouraged.
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	Study of the Scriptures will hone students' perspective on the world and their role in it.
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	This class focuses winsomely on the strengths of the Reformed tradition, how it adds to and differs from the broader Christian movement.
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	Capacity to work with the Scriptures and theological tradition will enhance a student's ability to interpret and preach from Scripture.