

Reformed Theological Seminary
HT6141 Reformation Liturgies

Course information

Times: 9:00am to 3:00pm
Dates: January 10, 11, & 12, 2024
Instructor: Dr Rufus T Burton
Phone: 304.839.1991
Email: pastorburtonfpc@comcast.net
Office hours: By appointment / Usually, the hour after to class in the library.

Course description:

Reformation Liturgies is a general introduction to the ways in which the theology of the Reformers shaped and informed their understandings of liturgical practice. Theology informs worship, and worship shaped by good theology helps to shape and inform the pious affections of Christian worshippers. Participants will learn how and why Reformed liturgical practice took its distinctive shape and interact with several key primary texts from the era. Students will leave able to write and structure liturgies that grow from deeply Reformed theology towards God honouring, Christ exulting, and Spirit empowered worship.

Goals:

1. The student will be *introduced* to the study of liturgics and in particular, to the Lord's Day worship liturgies of Reformed Christians with particular emphasis on liturgies arising from the Swiss Reformation.
2. Through the lectures, the student will be *exposed* to the links between theological commitments and the worshiping life of Christians and *develop* a greater critical appreciation for the Reformed liturgical tradition.
3. Through the reading and discussions, the student will be *oriented* to key figures, beliefs, practices, and liturgies of the Calvinistic tradition and will *explore* how they relate to contemporary Christian life and ministry.
4. Through the primary source readings, the student will *appreciate* Reformed liturgical commitments and the way in which Reformed theology directly shapes and informs Reformed worship.
5. Through the Digest Paper, and written liturgies, the student will *reflect* on how Reformed doctrine, and worship, as represented over the studied period, have relevance for contemporary Christian life, worship, and ministry.

Required texts:

Jonathan Gibson, Mark Earngey eds., *Reformation Worship: Liturgies from the Past for the Present*. (Greensboro: New Growth Press, 2018); ISBN: 9781948130219

Westminster Directory for Worship. Any edition.

NB: Many students will find this already bound in with their edition of the *Westminster Standards*. A lovely edition with essays from Mark Dever and Sinclair Ferguson has gone out of print, but used copies are available. Several Presbyterian denominations have the *Directory* available as a download from their websites.

Recommended texts:

Find, Bring, or be able to discuss a favourite liturgical resource for public worship. Several resources will be made available to students during the course. The point of this exercise is for the student to become aware of what is available in the libraries to which they have access.

Course Requirements

1) Reading Digest 30%

Students will be required to submit one (1) 1000–1250 word (three to five pages typed and double spaced) digest of a liturgy from the primary source material. The passing digest will give a coherent summary of the flow of the service, and spend significant time making connections between Reformed sacramental theology and way in which that theology is turned to praise in the liturgy selected.

Due Date: Digest 20 January 2024

2) Liturgies 60%

Students will be required to submit two (2) Lord's Supper liturgies that reflect a working understanding of Reformation liturgies.

- a. One liturgy will be written to fit the shape of continental Reformed liturgical practice – built primarily around a great prayer from the communion table.
- b. One liturgy will be written to fit the shape and pattern of British Reformed liturgical practice – built around two brief sermons.

Helpful information and best practice guides will be shared with students during the course lectures.

Due Date: Liturgies 3 February 2024

3) Attendance and Participation 10%

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

RTS Grading Scale

The seminary uses the following attenuated grading system:

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

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 by 9:00pm (21:00). Only serious personal issues, with excuses almost always cleared in advance of the due date, are given consideration. If you are traveling for some important reason are away when assignments are due, 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: HT6141
 Professor: Burton
 Campus: Washington, DC
 Date: January 2024

<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> • 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.	Moderate	Students will have to speak and write knowledgably about the topics at hand. Written prayers will need to be written well.
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.)	Moderate	Reformed liturgies are informed by the exegetical history of the Reformed tradition.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Reformed theology and its practical ramifications for worship are the purpose and focus of the course.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Exploration of the doctrinal and devotional importance of the Lord's Supper can only help.
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	Use biblical pre-suppositions to think clearly and piously about issues of worship
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	In lectures and discussions, model critically sympathetic engagement with other perspectives.
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.	Strong	In lectures and course work model helpful pastoral habits and attitudes, particularly with reference to worship.