

RTS

O R L A N D O



COURSE SYLLABUS

02ST6135/01 PNEUMATOLOGY

Fred Sanders

Winter 2024

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME : Fred Sanders

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COURSE DATES

IN CLASS DATES : January 2-5

COURSE COMPLETION DATE :

February 4

COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION :

A study of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit with special attention to the doctrine's trinitarian context. Class presentations and discussions focus on select literature from the history of the doctrine. 2 credit hours.

PURPOSE :

To equip you to study the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in biblical, historical, systematic, and practical perspective.

GOALS :

In this seminar on pneumatology, the student will grow in their ability to:

1. articulate the way pneumatology arises from the scriptural witness, and will be able to trace pneumatological patterns of thought in many passages of scripture.
2. identify major theologians and movements which have shaped pneumatology, and to have a broad awareness of the chronology of this doctrine's development.
3. trace theological arguments through the systems of thinkers from a select variety of cultures and traditions.
4. understand the connection between the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and Christian experience.
5. understand how doctrinal theology can function as a means of knowing and experiencing God.
6. explain how pneumatology fits into a comprehensive systematic theology, to explain the work that it does in a systematic theology, and what would be lost if the doctrine were removed from, or poorly developed in, that structure.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. READING

The student is required to read carefully the following texts. Reading is due by Jan 2.

Fred Sanders, *The Holy Spirit: An Introduction* (Crossway, 2023)
ISBN-10:1-4335-6143-3 / ISBN-13: 978-1-4335-6143-6

Athanasius, *Letters to Serapion*, in *Works on the Spirit* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011), 53-137. (The same volume contains a work by Didymus the Blind, which is not assigned.)
ISBN 13: 9780881413793

Basil the Great, *On the Holy Spirit* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011) ISBN-10: 0881418765 ISBN-13: 978-0881418767

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* (before 1274) Prima Pars, Questions 36-38. (Read any edition you like, including online. No reading brief will be due on this assignment)

Synopsis of a Purer Theology (1625), Disputations 7-9 (Davenant Press, 2023), 69-94. ISBN 1949716155, ISBN 13 9781949716153

Petrus van Mastricht (before 1706), *Theoretical-Practical Theology*, Vol 2: Faith in the Triune God (Reformation Heritage Books, 2019), 567-591

2. READING BRIEFS

Every student will prepare 5 reading briefs on the text (all texts but Aquinas). They will be submitted on Canvas.

Reading briefs summarize the reading as well as respond to it with analysis and questions. They are no more than 350 words each.

Reading briefs are due on Jan 2, before class begins.

3. FINAL PROJECT

History of Interpretation Project

Choose a passage of Scripture which is significant for the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Survey how it has been interpreted by theological readers and commentators in the course of history. Be sure to include at least one author from patristic, medieval, Reformation, and modern periods. Write up your findings in a 2000-word report.

Style and grammar matter greatly, as I will be grading not only content but also the clarity and communicative force of your argument. Papers may reference course readings, but will require some extra research as well. Details on finding commentaries from the whole history of theology will be provided in class.

Due Fri Feb 2 (4 weeks after end of class)

GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be based on the briefs (50%) and final paper (50%). Grades may be adjusted based on participation in class.

Academic Honesty (adapted from Dr. Timothy Phillips of Wheaton College)

1. The assignments are designed to extend and deepen your comprehension and appreciation of Christian theology and to increase your facility with theological method. The processes of defining a topic, researching the results of others' studies, critiquing those studies, and organizing your conclusions in a clear and cogent presentation provides valuable skills for your various leadership ministries. The use of sources is an essential step in appropriating the learning of the Church's tradition in its relationship to cultures to help us understand and faithfully practice Scripture.
2. Using information obtained from a source without indicating it (whether by footnote, parentheses, or bibliography or some other appropriate reference, depending on the type of assignment) is plagiarism (intellectual thievery and lying). This applies to **any** information that you gain from someone that is not "common knowledge." It does **not** apply **only** to exact quotations or precise verbal allusions. Altering the wording does **not** remove the obligation to acknowledge the source.
3. Cheating is the presentation of someone else's work, which the student ought to have done personally. This includes submitting answers to test questions derived by some means other than that intended by the instructor. It also includes turning in written assignments composed in whole or in part by someone else.
4. Cheating or plagiarism results in the disqualification of that unit of the course affected. A student caught

plagiarizing or cheating will forfeit that project and may result in stricter penalties if deemed necessary by the instructor. A second offense will result automatically in the forfeiture of the course.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, January 2 (9am-5pm)

Sanders, Holy Spirit: An Introduction

Wednesday, January 3 (9am-5pm)

Athanasius, Letters to Serapion

Thursday, January 4 (9am-4pm)

Nicene Creed and Pro-Nicene Theological Culture

Basil, On the Holy Spirit

Friday, January 5 (9am-4pm)

Aquinas

Synopsis of a Purer Theology

Petrus van Mastricht

Final Paper Due: Fri Feb 2



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02HT6320
 Professor: Sanders
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: Winter 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.	Strong	Final project involves analyzing a range of resources – dogmatic and exegetical – and articulating their connections in a written 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.)	Moderate	Engagement of classic biblical commentary material to be related to a systematic theological text by the same author.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Careful study of trinitarian theology and pneumatology in particular.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	None	N/A
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Careful study of the place of the Spirit in shaping a whole worldview.
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	Broad study of pneumatology, relating Reformed approaches to a wider panoply of catholic thought.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	N/A
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	N/A
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.	Minimal	N/A

Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Careful study of the ongoing impact of the Spirit for faith and practice today.
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