

# **ST6610 – Christian Cultural and Social Theory**

**RTS New York City – Winter 2024**

**Chris Watkin**

**2 credit hours**

## **Course description**

*Through an analysis of late modernity through Genesis to Revelation, we will explore the Biblical resources for developing a distinctly Christian cultural theory. Alternative social theories will be critiqued with a view to showing how the Bible supplies resources for a cultural theory at once more critical and hopeful than secular alternatives.*

## **Course learning outcomes**

- (1) To explore how the biblical narrative provides a framework for engaging with and critiquing late modern culture
- (2) To bring this framework to bear on specific aspects of late modern thinking and living
- (3) To identify how this framework informs a distinctively biblical cultural and social theory

## **Course required reading**

- Christopher Watkin, *Biblical Critical Theory: How the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense of Modern Life and Culture* 600 pp.
- \*Herman Dooyeweerd, *Roots of Western Culture: Pagan, Secular and Christian Options* 230 pp.
- \*G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy* 130 pp.
- \*D. A. Carson, *Christ and Culture Revisited* 230 pp.

## **Attendance expectations**

Attendance will be taken for each morning/afternoon session. Attendance is expected, and absences that are unexcused as per RTS guidelines will incur a penalty. For all absences, excused and unexcused, extra work will be assigned: 1 hour of extra reading with a written report for every hour or part hour of class missed.

## **Course requirements (how grade will be determined)**

1. Attendance and active participation. Attendance throughout at all six sessions (morning and afternoon) of the course, and active engagement in group and whole-class discussions.

(10% of grade).

2. Reading. Submit a reading report for each morning and afternoon session, indicating the % completed for each reading. (20% of grade)

3. Exam. Canvas-based open-book exam. Select three topics from a list of six on the exam, and write a short essay in response to each of the three topics you choose. Time allowed: three hours. (30% of grade).

4. Research paper with ministry application. In light of what you learned in this course, bring one or more specific ideas from the required reading to bear on one question, issue or problem in contemporary culture, explaining how the Bible brings a distinctive perspective to bear on that issue or problem. In the final section of your paper, reflect upon how your thoughts about the question, issue or problem might be packaged in a way that would help train lay Christians to think biblically about the whole of life. 3000-4000 words. (40% of grade)

All submitted assessment items are due three weeks after the end of the course: Monday 12 February 2024, 9am.

### **Research paper guidelines**

- Your paper should take the form of an argument. I.e. you should aim to explain and defend a particular interpretation of culture through a biblical lens. Do not simply present different options. You may wish to deal with alternative interpretations as you make the case for your own, but your aim is to persuade your reader of the helpfulness and insight of your approach.
- Your first paragraph should clearly state for the reader 1) what aspect of culture you will discuss, 2) what biblical tool(s) and/or approach(es) you will take, and 3) what light you think your tools/approach shed on the aspect of culture you have chosen.
- You are expected to engage with relevant secondary material as you make your case, including but not restricted to items from the required reading.
- All ideas that are not your own must be adequately referenced. Please use the [“notes and bibliography” Chicago referencing system](#).
- A list of references should be added at the end of the paper, under the title “References”.
- Footnotes are included in your word count, but the list of references is not included in your word count.
- Given the broad range of the word count for this paper (3000-4000 words), there is no leniency with the upper and lower limit: penalties apply for writing too little or writing too much.

## Topics of sessions

DAY 1: MORNING (*Have watched the 2-hour pre-class recorded material, and read Biblical Critical Theory chapters 1-3*)

- 1 Creation

DAY 1: AFTERNOON (*Have read Biblical Critical Theory chapters 4-8*)

- 2 Fall

DAY 2: MORNING (*Have read Biblical Critical Theory chapters 9-14*)

- 3 Abraham, Moses, and the prophets

DAY 2: AFTERNOON (*Have read Biblical Critical Theory chapters 15-20*)

- 4 The incarnation and the ministry, cross and resurrection of Jesus

DAY 3: MORNING (*Have read Biblical Critical Theory chapters 21-24*)

- 5 The last days

DAY 3: AFTERNOON (*Have read Biblical Critical Theory chapters 25-28*)

- 6 Eschatology

## Christian Cultural and Social Theory: RESOURCES

### Foundational modern texts

Descartes, René. *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, ed. Donald A. Cress. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998.

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*, ed. Richard Tuck. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Kant, Immanuel. "What is Enlightenment?". In Isaac Kramnick [ed.], *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1995 1-6.

Locke, John. *An Essay concerning Human Understanding*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1996.

Locke, John. "The Second Treatise of Government" in Peter Laslett [ed.], *Locke: Two Treatises of Government*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Available at <https://web.archive.org/web/20210607160451/https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm>

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, ed. Adrian Del Caro and Robert Pippin, Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Pico della Mirandola, Giovanni. *Oration on the Dignity of Man: A New Translation and Commentary*, ed. Francesco Borghesi, Michael Papio, and Massimo Riva. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992.

**Discussing and unfolding a distinctively Christian view of, and way of living in, the modern world**

Bavinck, Herman. *Christian Worldview*, trans. Nathaniel Gray Sutanto, James Eglington, and Cory C. Brock. Wheaton: Crossway, 2019.

Bavinck, Herman. *The Philosophy of Revelation*, ed. Nathaniel Gray Sutanto and Cory Brock. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2018.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Ethics*, ed. Ilse Tödt et al., trans. Reinhard Krauss, Charles C. West, and Douglas W. Stott, vol. 6, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2005.

Bretherton, Luke. *Christianity and Contemporary Politics: The Conditions and Possibilities of Faithful Witness*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Chatraw, Joshua D., and Karen Swallow Prior [eds.]. *Cultural Engagement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2019.

Clowney, Edmund, and Timothy Keller. "Preaching Christ in a Postmodern World". Available at <https://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=378879885&ls=1>

Ferretter, Luke. *Towards a Christian Literary Theory*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Ford, David. "Paul Ricoeur: A Biblical Philosopher on Jesus". In Paul K. Moser [ed.], *Jesus and Philosophy: New Essays*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009 169-93.

Gregor, Brian, and Jens Zimmermann [eds.]. *Bonhoeffer and Continental Thought: Cruciform Philosophy*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2009.

Hunter, James Davidson. *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity Today*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Jacobs, Alan. *A Theology of Reading: The Hermeneutics of Love*. London: Routledge, 2001.

Kuyper, Abraham. *Lectures on Calvinism*. Grand Rapids, MI : Eerdmans, 1999.

Meek, Esther Lightcap. *Longing to Know: The Philosophy of Knowledge for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2003.

Meek, Esther Lightcap. *Loving to Know: Covenant Epistemology*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011.

Meilaender, Gilbert. *The Taste for the Other: The Social and Ethical Thought of C.S. Lewis*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 1978.

Miller, Vincent. *Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture*. London: Continuum, 2005.

Muggeridge, Malcolm. *Jesus Rediscovered*. New York: Doubleday, 1969.

O'Donovan, Oliver, and Joan Lockwood O'Donovan. *Bonds of Imperfection: Christian Politics, Past and Present*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

O'Donovan, Oliver. *Common Objects of Love: Moral Reflection and the Shaping of Community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.

O'Donovan, Oliver. *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the Roots of Political Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

O'Donovan, Oliver. *The Ways of Judgment: The Bampton Lectures, 2003*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.

Volf, Miroslav. *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Wyatt, John. *Matters of Life and Death*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1998.

### **The theory and importance of narrative**

Booker, Christopher. *The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories*. London: Continuum, 2005.

Gottschall, Jonathan. *The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human*. Boston, MA: Mariner Books, 2013.

Kling, David W. *The Bible in History: How the Texts Have Shaped the Times*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson. *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Midgley, Mary. *The Myths We Live By*. London: Routledge, 2011.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Figuring the Sacred: Religion, Narrative, and Imagination*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1995.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Time and Narrative*, vol. 1, trans. Kathleen Blamey and David Pellauer. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1988.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Time and Narrative*, vol. 2, trans. Kathleen Blamey and David Pellauer. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1988.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Time and Narrative*, vol. 3 trans. Kathleen Blamey and David Pellauer. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1990.

Sachs, Jonah. *Winning the Story Wars: Why Those Who Tell. and Live the Best Stories Will Rule the Future*. Boston, MA: Harvard Business Review Press, 2012.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical-Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Vanhoozer, Kevin. *Biblical Narrative in the Philosophy of Paul Ricoeur: A Study in Hermeneutics and Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

### **A biblical theological approach to culture**

Augustine. *The City of God Against the Pagans*, ed. R. W. Dyson, Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998

Dooyeweerd, Herman. *The Roots of Western Culture: Pagan, Secular and Christian Options*, ed. Mark Vander Vennen and Bernard Zylstra, trans. John Kraay,. Toronto: Wedge Publishing Foundation, 1979.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*. Leicester: IVP Academic, 2002.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel and Kingdom*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2012.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2003.

Guthrie, Nancy. *Even Better Than Eden: Nine Ways the Bible's Story Changes Everything about Your Story*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.

Guthrie, Nancy. *The Promised One*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

Hegeman, David Bruce. *Plowing in Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture*. Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2007.

Roberts, Vaughan. *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Wolters, Albert. *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.

### **Creation**

Blocher, Henri. *In the Beginning: The Opening Chapters of Genesis*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1984.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.

Gunton, Colin E. *The One, the Three and the Many: God, Creation and the Culture of Modernity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Middleton, Richard J. *The Liberating Image: The Imago Dei in Genesis 1*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2005.

Tinker, Melvyn. *Reclaiming Genesis: The Theatre of God's Glory - Or a Scientific Story?*. London: Monarch Books, 2010.

### **Fall**

Jacobs, Alan. *Original Sin: A Cultural History*. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

Plantinga Jr., Cornelius. *Not the Way it's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

### **Redemption**

Coffey, John. *Exodus and Liberation: Deliverance Politics from John Calvin to Martin Luther King Jr.*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Gregor, Brian. *A Philosophical Anthropology of the Cross: The Cruciform Self*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013.

Langston, Scott M. *Exodus Through the Centuries*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.

Lindvall, Terry. *God Mocks: A History of Religious Satire from the Hebrew Prophets to Stephen Colbert*. New York, NY: NYU Press, 2015.

O'Donovan, Oliver. *Resurrection and Moral Order: An Outline for Evangelical Ethics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn.,. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

Roberts, Alisdair, and Andrew Wilson. *Echoes of Exodus: Tracing Themes of Redemption Through Scripture*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.

Ruge-Jones, Philip. *Cross in Tensions: Luther's Theology of the Cross as Theologico-social Critique*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2008.

Walzer, Michael. *Exodus and Revolution*. New York: Basic Books, 1985

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Old Testament Ethics and the People of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

### **Consummation**

Bauckham, Richard. *The Climax of Prophecy: Studies on the Book of Revelation*. London: T&T Clark, 1993.

Bauckham, Richard. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1993.

Blount, Brian K. "Reading Revelation Today: Witness as Active Resistance", *Interpretation* 54:4. 2000 398-409.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Creation and Fall: A Theological Exposition of Genesis 1–3*, ed. Martin Rüter, Ilse Tödt, and John W. de Gruchy, trans. Douglas Stephen Bax, vol. 3, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

O'Donovan, Oliver. "The Political Thought of the Book of Revelation", *Tyndale Bulletin* 37. 1986 61-94.

**Broadly Christian analyses and critiques of modernity**

Bauckham, Richard. *God and the Crisis of Freedom: Biblical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Louisville, KN: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Bauckham, Richard. *The Bible in the Contemporary World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015.

Bauckham, Richard. *The Bible in Politics: How to Read the Bible Politically*, Second edition. Louisville, KY: SPCK, 2011.

Carson, D. A. *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.

Cavanaugh, William. *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.

Cavanaugh, William. *Migrations of the Holy: God, State, and the Political Meaning of the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011.

Chatraw, Joshua D. *Telling a Better Story: How to Talk About God in a Skeptical Age*. New York: HarperCollins 2021.

Chesterton, G. K. *The Collected Works of G.K. Chesterton, Volume 1: Heretics, Orthodoxy, the Blatchford Controversies*, ed. David Dooley. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press 1986.

Chesterton, G. K. *The Collected Works of G.K. Chesterton, Volume 2: St. Francis of Assisi, The Everlasting Man, St. Thomas Aquinas*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986.

Clavier, Mark. *On Consumer Culture, Identity, the Church and the Rhetorics of Delight*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

Dooyeweerd, Herman. *A New Critique of Theoretical Thought, 3 vols.* Trans. David H Freeman, William S. Young, and Henry de Jongste. Philadelphia, PA: The Reformed and Presbyterian Publishing Company, 1953-7.

Dooyeweerd, Herman. *The Roots of Western Culture: Pagan, Secular and Christian Options*, ed. Mark Vander Vennen and Bernard Zylstra, trans. John Kraay,. Toronto: Wedge Publishing Foundation, 1979.

Dooyeweerd, Herman. *The Twilight of Western Thought*, ed. D. F. M. Strauss. Grand Rapids, MI: Paideia Press, 2012.

Eliot, T. S. *Christianity and Culture*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1976.

Ellul Jacques. *The Humiliation of the Word*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985. Available at <https://web.archive.org/web/20210116183556/https://www.religion-online.org/book/the-humiliation-of-the-word/>

Ellul, Jacques. *Jesus and Marx: From Gospel to Ideology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.

Ellul, Jacques. *Money and Power*. New York: Wipf & Stock: 2009.

Ellul, Jacques. *Presence in the Modern World*, trans. Lisa Richmond. Cambridge: James Clarke & Co, 2017.

Ellul, Jacques. *Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes*. New York: Vintage Books, 1973.

Ellul, Jacques. *The Ethics of Freedom*, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1976.



Ellul, Jacques. *The Meaning of the City*, trans. Dennis Pardee. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1970.

Ellul, Jacques. *The Technological Society*, trans. John Wilkinson. New York: Vintage Books, 1964.

Gunton, Colin E. *The One, the Three and the Many: God, Creation and the Culture of Modernity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Hanby, Michael. *Augustine and Modernity*. London: Routledge, 2003.

Hart, David Bentley. *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

Ingraffia, Brian D. *Postmodern Theory and Biblical Theology: Vanquishing God's Shadow*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Keller, Timothy. *Counterfeit Gods*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2011.

Keller, Timothy. *Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical*. New York: Viking, 2016.

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Penguin, 2009.

Koyzis, David. *Political Visions & Illusions: A Survey & Christian Critique*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2019.

Lewis, C. S. *Present Concerns: Journalistic Essays*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2017.

Lewis, C. S. *The Abolition of Man: or Reflections on Education With Special Reference to the Teaching of English in The Upper Forms Of Schools*. London: Geoffrey Bles, 1947.

Lewis, C. S. *The Weight of Glory: And Other Addresses*. New York: HarperOne, 2001.

Milbank, John. *Beyond Secular Order: The Representation of Being and the Representation of the People*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.

Milbank, John. *The Word Made Strange: Theology, Language, Culture*. New York: Wiley Blackwell, 1997.

Milbank, John. *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason*. New York: Wiley Blackwell, 2008.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Taylor, Charles. *A Secular Age*. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007.

Taylor, Charles. *Modern Social Imaginaries*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

Taylor, Charles. *The Ethics of Authenticity*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991.

Pascal, Blaise. *Pensées and other Writings*, trans. Honor Levi. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Penner, B. [ed.]. *Christianity and the Postmodern Turn: Six Views*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2005.

Pratt, Richard L. *Every Thought Captive: A Study Manual for the Defense of Christian Truth*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1979.

Schaeffer, Francis A. *Art and the Bible*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

- Schaeffer, Francis A. *The God Who Is There*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2020.
- Schuld, J. Joyce. *Foucault and Augustine: Reconsidering Power and Love*. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2003.
- Simpson, Gary. *Critical Social Theory: Prophetic Reason, Civil Society, and Christian Imagination*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002.
- Smith, James K. A. *Awaiting the King: Reforming Public Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.
- Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2009.
- Smith, James K. A. *Imagining the Kingdom. Cultural Liturgies: How Worship Works*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Spufford, Francis. *Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense*. London: Faber & Faber, 2012.
- Stott, John. *Balanced Christianity*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2014.
- Stott, John. *Issues Facing Christians Today*, 4<sup>th</sup> edn.,. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Stott, John. *The Contemporary Christian*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1992.
- Strange, Daniel. *Plugged In*. Epsom: The Good Book Company, 2019.
- Tomlin, Graham. *Looking Beyond Brexit: Bringing the Country Back Together*. London: SPCK, 2019.
- Trueman, Carl. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.
- Turnau, Ted. *Popologetics: Popular Culture in Christian Perspective*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Press, 2012.
- Van Til, Cornelius. *Common Grace and the Gospel*. Nutley, NJ: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1977.
- Van Til, Cornelius. *The Defense of the Faith*, 4<sup>th</sup> edn., ed. K. Scott Oliphant,. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2008.
- Watkin, Christopher. *Gilles Deleuze*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Press, 2020.
- Watkin, Christopher. *Jacques Derrida*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Press, 2016.
- Watkin, Christopher. *Michel Foucault*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Press, 2018.
- Westphal, Merold. *Suspicion and Faith: The Religious Uses of Modern Atheism*. New York: Fordham University Press, 1998.
- Wolterstorff, Nicholas. *Justice: Rights and Wrongs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008.

**Other assessments of, and engagements with, modernity**

Berger, Peter. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. New York: Anchor Books, 1967.

Bauman, Zygmunt. *Modernity and Ambivalence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Bauman, Zygmunt. *Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000.

Critchley, Simon. *The Faith of the Faithless: Experiments in Political Theology*. New York: Verso, 2012.

Eagleton, Terry. *Culture and the Death of God*. New Haven, CO: Yale University Press, 2014.

Eagleton, Terry. *Ideology: An Introduction*. New York: Verso, 1991.

Eagleton, Terry. *Radical Sacrifice*. New Haven, CO: Yale University Press, 2018.

Frei, Hans. *The Eclipse of Biblical Narrative: A Study in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Hermeneutics*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1974.

Gauchet, Marcel. *The Disenchantment of the World*, trans. Oscar Burge. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.

Gaukroger, Stephen. *The Emergence of a Modern Scientific Culture: Science and the Shaping of Modernity 1210-1685*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Gillespie, Michael Allan. *The Theological Origins of Modernity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Gray, John. *Seven Types of Atheism*. London: Penguin, 2019.

Gray, John. *The Soul of the Marionette: A Short Enquiry into Human Freedom*. London: Penguin, 2014.

Latour, Bruno. *We Have Never Been Modern*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993.

Macpherson, Crawford Brough. *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism: Hobbes to Locke*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1964.

Moyn, Samuel. *Christian Human Rights*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.

Sandel, Michael. *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?*. New York: Penguin, 2020.

Sandel, Michael. *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*,. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2012.

Siedentop, Larry. *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of the Western Liberalism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004.

Watkin, Christopher. *Difficult Atheism: Post-Theological Thinking in Alain Badiou, Quentin Meillassoux and Jean-Luc Nancy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2011.

Watkin, Christopher. *Thinking Through Creation: Genesis 1 and 2 as Tools of Cultural Critique*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Press, 2017.

Zuboff, Shoshana. *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2019.

### *Christian influences within modernity*

Holland, Tom. *Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 2019.

Rosenstock-Huessy, Eugen. *The Driving Power of Western Civilization: The Christian Revolution of the Middle Age*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1950.

Scrivener, Glen. *The Air We Breathe: How We All Came to Believe in Freedom, Kindness, Progress, and Equality*. Epsom, UK: The Good Book Company, 2022.

Spencer, Nick. *The Evolution of the West: How Christianity Has Shaped Our Values*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

Stark, Rodney. *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*. New York: Random House, 2005.

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course:  
 Professor:  
 Campus:  
 Date:

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b> <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>		<b>Rubric</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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	The course trains students in how to understand and articulate biblical and cultural knowledge.
<b>Scripture</b>	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	The course takes a biblical theological approach, and spends some time unpacking particular passages. No work in the original languages.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	The course engages regularly, though not exclusively, with theologians in the Reformed tradition.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Biblical formation is a subsidiary theme throughout the course, but not addressed in its own right
<b>Worldview</b>	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.	Strong	The course consistently addresses both biblical and modern worldviews.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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 keeps a centre of gravity in Reformed thought but embraces a wide range of Christian thinkers. It engages constructively and critically with secular modernity.
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	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	Strong	The course equips students with important

	shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.		tools to meet these goals.
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