

HT6155: The Twentieth Century Calvinist Resurgence: From Where to Where?

Monday July 15 through Thurs. July 18, 2024

Objective: The student completing this course will be well-positioned to guide others in an understanding of how the evangelical Reformed tradition has been transmitted to us across the twentieth century. We will learn that there are today, just as a century ago, varieties of Calvinism, each wishing to be recognized as authentic. Some are characterized by doctrinal laxity and others by narrowness. Students enrolling in the course will be asked to address the question of the “origins” of our current resurgence both at the start and at the conclusion of the course so as to gauge how, if at all, their perspective has been refined.

Credit hours: 2

Class meetings: 6.5 blocks Mon-Thurs. (50 minutes per block);

Basic Text: John J. Murray, *Catch the Vision: Roots of the Reformed Recovery* (Darlington, UK/Webster, NY, Evangelical Press, 2007). This book is available (new) at Reformation Heritage Books, Grand Rapids and (used) at both abebooks.com and ebay.com. The instructor also recommends (but does not require) the advance reading of an overview he has published in *Presbyterion* 48.1(2022), 163-177: “Fresh Light on the 1930’s Era Reformed Resurgence”. See this in the Canvas course files.

Assignments:

- 1. Each student will **review** the book, *Catch the Vision*, in advance of the class start-up. 1,000 words maximum. Describe the book and then evaluate it. This will give everyone a common (though as we will see, limited) starting point. Be ready to hand in (or submit electronically) this review not later than 9am on our first day. The review will be graded. You should be ready to share insights from your review at suitable points in the class proceedings. (20% of the grade)
- Supplementary reading. The syllabus will draw to your attention readings for each of four class days in pdf format. All readings are available to you in the Canvas course folder, with one sub-folder of digitized readings for each of four class days. The class lectures will assume your broad familiarity with these materials.
- 2. There will be two exams; a mid-way quiz (20%) and a final exam on the last day of the class (30%).
- 3. Within 3 weeks of the last day of the class, (i.e. by Aug 8) a 3,000-word essay is to be submitted. The essay will investigate the role of an important individual, organization, question or controversy in the twentieth century Calvinist recovery; the essay will go beyond mere narration. Not less than six bibliographical sources must be used. (See the

bibliography in this syllabus). You are invited to incorporate your book review insights into the essay and use the review book as one of your six sources. (30% of the grade)

Lecture Themes and Readings

We can agree from the outset that there is more material listed here than can be digested in four days. Why not begin early? Since everything listed is downloadable from the course folders in Canvas, you have the opportunity to read at a later date what cannot be read in advance of our sessions together.

Mon. July 15	Decline and Recovery 1900-1930?	Find these readings in the Canvas Course Folder
9:00 a.m.	1. How did the Reformed Faith Enter the Twentieth Century? Signs of retreat and yet.....	"Earliest Known Reference to TULIP" Chilvers, "A Future for Calvinism?"
10:00 a.m.	2. The Difference a World War Made (1914-1918): Three Opinions	Victor, "The Revival of Calvinism" Hamilton, "The Reformed Faith and the Modern World"
11:00 a.m.	3. Notable Deaths, And Yet the Rise of a New Generation	Calhoun, "Doctor Robbie: W.C. Robinson"
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 p.m.	4. A Fading of Light at Princeton; A Light Still Burns in Decatur, GA at Columbia Seminary.	C.W. Hodge, "What is the Reformed Faith?" (1929)
2:00 p.m.	5. A New Initiative in Post-War Holland: Valentine Hepp and International Calvinism	V. Hepp, "The Distinctive Doctrines of Calvinism." Hepp, "International Calvinism"
3:00 p.m.	6. Two New Beginnings: Edinburgh (Free Church College 1906) and Philadelphia (Westminster Seminary, 1929)	Hart & Muether, <i>Fighting the Good Fight</i> pp. 23-25
4:00-4:30 p.m.	7. New Journals on Two Sides of the Atlantic: <i>Evangelical Quarterly</i> (1929) and <i>Christianity Today</i> (1930)	F.F. Bruce "The Evangelical Quarterly" C. G. Dennison, "Samuel G. Craig"
Tues. July 16	New Initiatives Beginning 1930	
9:00 a.m.	8. Reformed-Evangelical Scholarship Between the Wars: More Happening than We Suppose. Reformed Anglicanism in the UK and beyond.	Stewart. "Forgotten Voices in Early 20 th Century Evangelical Theology"
10:00 a.m.	9. The Rise of the European Calvinist Congresses (1932, 1934, 1936, 1938): their attraction and their flaw.	Hyde, The Sovereign Grace Union Hunt, "The Fourth International Calvinistic Congress,"
11:00 a.m.	10. In Search of a 'Truly' Presbyterian Church: the Birth of the OPC (1936). Did Calvinism's future recovery <i>require</i> church separation?	Hart & Muether, <i>Fighting the Good Fight</i> 27-39
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 p.m.	11. The launch of the <i>Calvin Forum</i> (1935), <i>Presbyterian Guardian</i> (1936), <i>Westminster Theological Journal</i> (1938), <i>Reformed Theological Review</i> (1942, Australia), <i>Presbyterian Journal</i> (1943)	Stewart. "Rehabilitating Clarence Bouma: First ETS President"
2:00 p.m.	12. The Calvinist Congresses Come to the USA: 1939, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1956. The Post-War Emergence of the International Association for Reformed Faith and Action.	<i>Calvin Forum</i> : "1939 Calvinistic Congress" & "Review of <i>Sovereignty of God</i> "

3:00 p.m.	13. The Dutch-American Contribution to the Calvinist Resurgence: Kuyperianism, Neo-Calvinism, Common Grace, Christian Schools.	
4:00-4:30 p.m.	14. The Post-war Push to Republish John Calvin.: Will Calvin himself or developed Calvinism get center stage?	Hesselink, "Calvin Studies in North America"
Wed. July 17	Speed Bumps on the Road After 1945	
9:00 a.m.	Mid-Point Quiz	
10:00 a.m.	15. The difficult questions posed by ecumenism, both evangelical and trans-denominational after-WWII.	Lloyd-Jones, "Maintaining the Evangelical Faith Today"
11:00 a.m.	16. The Rise of Mass Evangelism: Diverse trans-Atlantic Calvinist Responses to the Billy Graham Era	John Murray, "Cooperation in Evangelism" Lloyd Jones, "Maintaining the Evangelical Faith."
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 p.m.	17. The Profusion of Reformed Publishing in the 1950's: Presbyterian & Reformed, BOT, Sovereign Grace. The hidden danger of this publication program.	
2:00 p.m.	18. The challenge posed by revived 1950's schemes aiming to unite Protestant denominations inside the USA. The PCUSA - UPC merger of 1958 an imperfect union.	Gerstner CT Article (1959) P.E. Hughes CT Article (1959)
3:00 p.m.	19. Markedly differing Appraisals of Karl Barth and Barthianism	Voskuil, "America Encounters Karl Barth". Harinck, "The Early Reception of Karl Barth in the Netherlands". Morgan, "Reception of Barth in Britain"
4:00-4:30 p.m.	20. Reformed Support for new Bible translation: a thorny issue.	O.T. Allis, "The Revised Standard Version" (1952)
Thurs. July 18	Post-1960 Challenges	
9:00 a.m.	21. The Civil Rights Era Opens Up Awkward Discussions for the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. Some efforts to ordain women to all offices.	
10:00 a.m.	22. The Implications of the founding of RTS (1966) and the birth of the PCA (1973)	Muether, <i>A Mind for Truth: A Heart for God</i>
11:00 a.m.	23. Two 1970's initiatives from mainline Calvinists: PCRT (Philadelphia) and Ligonier Ministries	Boice, "Is the Reformed Faith Being Rediscovered?" (1975)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 p.m.	24. Calvinist Resurgences Beyond Presbyterian Circles (Dispensationalists, Southern Baptists, Bible Churches)	Brookes, Chafer, West: Dispensational Calvinists. C. Allyn Russell, "Donald Grey Barnhouse"
2:00 p.m.	24. The Rise of New Calvinism and the Gospel Coalition	Hansen, "Young, Restless, Reformed" (CT magazine). Hansen, "Young, Restless Reformed at Ten"pdf.
3:00 p.m.	25. Notable Dropouts from the evangelical Reformed resurgence. Who Gets to Define the Reformed Movement in Future?	Chris Moody, "Mark Driscoll" <i>Christianity Today</i> "Tullian Tchividjian" <i>First Things</i> "Josh Harris"
4:00 p.m.	Exam	

Bibliography

Collective Biographies/Collective Movements

- Boice, James M. ed. *Our Sovereign God: Addresses Presented to the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology, 1974-1976* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1976) [Downloadable version available in RTS Library]
- Carter, Anthony. *Black and Reformed: Seeing God's Sovereignty in the African-American Experience* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2016).
- Cotherman, Charles E. *To Think Christianly: A History of L'Abri, Regent College and the Christian Study Center Movement* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2020)
- Fischer, Austin. *Young, Restless and No Longer Reformed* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2014) [left the movement]
- Joustra, Jessica and Robert Joustra, eds. *Calvinism for a Secular Age* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2022).
- Hansen, Collin. *Young, Restless and Reformed: Journeys with the New Calvinists* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2006)
- Murray, John J. *Catch the Vision: Roots of the Reformed Recovery* (Darlington: Evangelical Press, 1997), **Required Reading.**
- Schaeffer, Edith. *L'Abri* (Wheaton: Crossway, 1992)
- Steele, David N. and Curtis Thomas, *The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, Documented* (Nutley, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1967)
- Vermurlen, Brad. *Reformed Resurgence: The New Calvinist Movement and the Battle over American Evangelicalism.* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020)
- Walker, Jeremy. *The New Calvinism Considered* (Doncaster, UK: Evangelical Press, 2014) [Very British; a Reformed Baptist critique]
- Wells, David F. ed. *Reformed Theology in America* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985) [Pre-Gospel Coalition}

Denominational & Institutional Perspectives

- Bavinck, Herman. *The Philosophy of Revelation* (New York: Longmans Green, 1909) [Princeton Stone Lectures 1908-09]
- Bowman, Matthew. *The Urban Pulpit: New York City and the Fate of Liberal Evangelicalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014)
- Bratt, James. *Dutch Calvinism in Modern America* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984)
- Cameron, Nigel M. de S. ed. *Dictionary of Scottish Church History & Theology* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993).
- Calhoun, David B. *Princeton Seminary: The Majestic Testimony* 2 vols (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1996)
- Hart, D.G. *The Dictionary of the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition in America* (1999: reprinted Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2005)
- Hart, D.G. and John Muether, *Fighting the Good Fight: A Brief History of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church* (Philadelphia: OPC, 1995)
- Hart, D.G. *Between the Times: The OPC in Transition, 1945-1990* (Philadelphia: OPC, 2011)

- Hepp, Valentine. *Calvinism and the Philosophy of Nature* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1930)
[Princeton Stone Lectures, 1930]
- Hutcheson, Mark and John Wolffe, *A Short History of Global Evangelicalism* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012)
- Hutchinson, George. *The History Behind the Reformed Presbyterian Church Evangelical Synod*. (Cherry Hill, Mack Publishing, 1974)
- Kuyper, Abraham. *Lectures on Calvinism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1898 and ff.) [1898 Stone Lectures at Princeton Seminary]
- Loetscher, Lefferts. *The Broadening Church: A Study of Theological Issues in the Presbyterian Church Since 1869* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1957).
- Longfield, Bradley. *Presbyterians and American Culture* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2013)
- Longfield, Bradley. *The Presbyterian Controversy: Fundamentalists, Modernists and Moderates* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991).
- Lucas, Sean Michael. *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2015)
- Marsden, George. *Reforming Fundamentalism: Fuller Seminary and the New Evangelicalism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987)
- Muether, John. *A Mind for Truth: A Heart for God: R.T.S. The First Fifty Years* (Jackson: RTS, 2016)
- Noble, T. A. *Tyndale House: The First Sixty Years* (Leicester: IVP, 2006)
- Rian, Edwin. *The Presbyterian Conflict* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1942; reprinted Philadelphia, 1992)

Chiefly individual biographies

Barnhouse, Donald Grey

Barnhouse, Margaret. *That Man Barnhouse* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1983)

Bavinck, Herman

Eglinton, James. *Herman Bavinck: A Critical Biography* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2020)

Hepp, Valentine. *Herman Bavinck* (Amsterdam, 1921)

Barth, Karl

Parker, T.H.L. *Karl Barth* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970)

Boice, James M.

Ryken, Philip ed. *Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia: 175 years of Thinking and Acting Biblically* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2004). See Boice chapter by W.S.Barker.

Clark, Gordon H.

Douma, Douglas. *The Presbyterian Philosopher: the Authorized Biography of Gordon H. Clark* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2016)

Gerstner, John

MacDonald, Jeffrey. *John Gerstner and the Renewal of Presbyterian and Reformed Evangelicalism in Modern America* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2017)

Kuyper, Abraham

Bratt, James. *Abraham Kuyper: Modern Calvinist, Christian Democrat* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013)

McGoldrick, James. *God's Renaissance Man: Abraham Kuyper* (Doncaster: Evangelical Press, 2000)

Mouw, Richard. *Abraham Kuyper: A Short and Personal Introduction* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013)

Lecerf, Auguste

Reid, Thomas. "Auguste Lecerfe: A Study of the First of the Modern French Calvinists", Aix-En-Provence M.Th. dissertation, 1979. (RTS has 2 copies)

Lloyd-Jones, D. M.

Catherwood, Christopher. *Martyn Lloyd-Jones: Chosen by God* (Wheaton: Crossway, 1986)

Catherwood, Christopher. *Martyn Lloyd-Jones: His life and Relevance for the Twenty-first Century* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2015)

Murray, Iain H. *D. M. Lloyd Jones: The First Forty Years; D.M. Lloyd-Jones: The Fight of Faith* (2 vols)

Jones, David Ceri and Andrew Atherstone, eds. *Engaging with David Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

Machen, J. Gresham

Hart, D.G. *Defending the Faith: J. Gresham Machen and the Crisis of Conservative Protestantism in Modern America* (1994: reprinted Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995)

Rian, Edwin. *The Presbyterian Controversy* (1940: reprint Willow Grove, PA: OPC, 1992)

Stonehouse, Ned B. *J. Gresham Machen: A Biographical Memoir* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1954)

Woolley, Paul, *The Significance of J. Gresham Machen for Today* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1977)

Maclean, Donald (Scottish)

Collins, G. N. M. *Rev. Principal Donald Maclean, D.D.* (Edinburgh: Lindsay and Co. 1944)

Macleod, John (Scottish)

Collins, G.N.M. *John Macleod, D.D.* (Edinburgh: Free Church of Scotland, 1951)

John Macleod, *Scottish Theology in Relation to Church History* (Edinburgh: Banner, 1974)

Murray, John

Murray, Iain H. *The Life of John Murray* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1984)

Pink, Arthur W.

Belcher, Richard P. *Arthur W. Pink: Born to Write* (Columbia, S.C.: Richbarry Press, 1982)

Murray, Iain H. *Arthur W. Pink: His Life and Thought* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth: 1981) revised as *The Life of Arthur W. Pink* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth: 2004)

Robinson, William Childs

Calhoun, David B. *Pleading for a Reformation Vision: Life and Selected Writings of W.C. Robinson* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2013)

Pipa, Joseph. ed. *Confessing our hope: essays in honor of Morton Howison Smith on his eightieth birthday* (Taylors, S.C, Southern Presbyterian Press, 2004), see chap. by David B. Calhoun, "Doctor Robbie": William Childs Robinson (1897-1982) of Columbia Theological Seminary."

Schaeffer, Francis

Duriez, Collin. *Francis Schaeffer: An Authentic Life* (Wheaton: Crossway: 2015).

Hankins, Barry. *Francis Schaeffer and the Shaping of Evangelical America* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008)

Schaeffer, Edith. *The Tapestry: The Life and Times of Francis and Edith Schaeffer* (W. Pub. Group, 1985)

Smartt, Kennedy (a PCA founder)

Smartt, Kennedy. *I Am Reminded* (Chestnut Mountain, GA. 1994)

Smith, Morton H.

Pipa, Joseph. ed. *Confessing our Hope: essays in honor of Morton Howison Smith on his eightieth birthday* (Taylors, S.C, Southern Presbyterian Press, 2004), see chap. by Pipa "A Brief Sketch of his Life"

Sproul, R.C.

Nichols, Stephen. *R.C. Sproul: A Life* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2021)

Van Til, Cornelius

Muether, John R. *Cornelius Van Til: Reformed Apologist and Churchman* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2007)

Robbins, John W. *Van Til: The Man and the Myth* (Jefferson, MD.: Trinity Foundation, 1996)

White, William. *Van Til: Defender of the Faith* (Nashville, TN. Thomas Nelson, 1979)

Vos, Geerhardus

Olinger, Danny E. *Geerhardus Vos: Reformed Biblical Theologian, Confessional Presbyterian*, (Reformed Forum: 2018)

Young, E.J.

Young, Davis A. *For to Me to Live is Christ: The Life of Edward J. Young* (Willow Grove, PA: OPC, 2017)

Zoom Policy

Your professor *may* allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. (Please understand the difficulty of arranging this on short-term in a four-day course). Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class. Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49).