



Course: Advanced Readings in Neo-Calvinism: Kuyper and Public Theology

Professor: Vincent Bacote

Campus: Washington, D.C.

Date: July 30- August 1, 2024

Time: Tuesday, July 30, 7:00-8:00pm; Wednesday and Thursday, July 31-August 1, 9:00-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm each day

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Description: This course is an encounter with the public theology of Abraham Kuyper, with a strong emphasis on close reading of some of Kuyper's texts. Students will develop skills in reading Kuyper critically and sympathetically. The course is an opportunity to learn more about Abraham Kuyper and to consider principles for public theology in his work.

Class format: The class will be held in the style of a postgraduate seminar, with some lecture content but mostly seminar discussion of set texts. Students are expected to have read the assigned texts prior to the course, and to come with questions and points of discussion.

Assessment: Each student is required to submit a 3,000 word essay that engages a selected text from Kuyper's public theology. Students are required to consult the professor as they choose this text. The submission date for essays is Friday, August 30, 2024.

Course Schedule

Tuesday Evening

Public Lecture: Introducing Abraham Kuyper, Public Theologian

Wednesday

Morning Discussion: Abraham Kuyper and Public Theology, Why Does Kuyper Still Matter?, Engaging the Stone Lectures

Afternoon: The Stone Lectures for Today

Thursday

Morning Discussion: Sphere Sovereignty, Church and State, The South African Challenge

Afternoon: The Holy Spirit and Kuyper's Public Theology, Contemporary Challenges

Bibliography

1. Required reading

Vincent Bacote, *The Spirit in Public Theology: Appropriating the Legacy of Abraham Kuyper* (2005/2010)*

Abraham Kuyper, *The Holy Spirit* (selected pages on Canvas)

Abraham Kuyper, "Calvinism: Source and Stronghold of Our Constitutional Liberties," and "Sphere Sovereignty," in James D. Bratt (ed.), *Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader* (1998) (on Canvas)

Abraham Kuyper, *Lectures on Calvinism* (1931)*

Jessica R. Joustra and Robert J. Joustra (eds.), *Calvinism for a Secular Age: A Twenty-first Century Reading of Abraham Kuyper's Stone Lectures* (2022)*

100 pages from one of the volumes of the *Abraham Kuyper Collected Works in Public Theology* (50 pages selected by professor on Canvas and the other 50 selected by students) Note: Students are to inform the professor of their selected 50 pages.

Additional brief excerpts from Kuyper (on Canvas)

**Note: Books with an asterisk should be purchased by students.*

2. Suggested reading

For broader exposure to the domain of public theology: *The International Journal of Public Theology* (it may be good to at least peruse some of the range of topics and titles to see the different types of approaches).

John Bolt, *A Free Church, A Holy Nation: Abraham Kuyper's American Public Theology* (2001)

Cory C. Brock and N. Gray Sutanto, *Neo-Calvinism: A Theological Introduction* (2022)

Craig G. Bartholomew, *Contours of the Kuyperian Tradition: A Systematic Introduction* (2017)

Matthew Kaemingk (ed.), *Reformed Public Theology: A Global Vision for Life in the World* (2021)