

ST517 Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology (v.092025)

J. V. Fesko

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Day: Tuesdays

Time: 9am-12pm (except Mar 24, 9am-11am)

Room: TBD

TA: Ray Shores

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Catalog Description

This course systematically presents biblical teaching on the topics of Christology, soteriology, and eschatology as understood and taught within the Reformed tradition, demonstrating that these formulations (1) represent the proper understanding of Scripture, (2) inherit and carry forward the best of the ancient teachings of the Church, and (3) provide the people of God the doctrine needed in order to thrive as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in the twenty-first century.

Course Objectives

The students will grow in their ability to

- Base all our theology of the covered loci in Scripture
- Enable the student better to grasp doctrines through familiarity with their exegetical and theological foundations, while also being acquainted with both relevant historical and contemporary discussions, so that they can clearly and confidently communicate them in preaching, teaching, and counseling.
- Explore and appreciate confessional expressions concerning these doctrines within the Reformed tradition, especially in the Westminster Standards.

Course Requirements

Participation (10%): Each student is required to attend course, answer questions when asked, and participate in class discussions. For every unexcused absence, the student loses five points from their participation grade. Students may obtain an excused absence for legitimate reasons (illness, presbytery attendance, extenuating circumstances). Students must request an excused absence in writing prior to the day of absence. Students will lose three points from their participation grade for tardiness to class. The following rubric explains how students will be evaluated:

A (100-94)	B (93-86)	C (85-78)	D (77-70)	F (69 – 0)
Provided good ideas for class consideration; inspired others; clearly communicated desires, ideas,	Participated in discussions; shared questions and comments. Was respectful of others.	Listened mainly; occasionally asked a question or offered a comment. Was respectful of others.	Seemed bored with discussions; rarely spoke up, and questions or comments were off topic. Was disrespectful of	Failed to attend class—missed more than three lecture periods total.

questions, and comments. Was respectful of others.			others. Or, dominated class time by not permitting others to ask their questions.	
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Course Readings (10%): completion of all assigned reading. Please report your reading by the last day of class through Canvas. **Late reports will not be accepted and will result in an assignment failure.** Course readings include all assigned textbook reading and PDFs available through Canvas.

Research Paper (40%): you must write a 12-15 page research paper written in a 12 point Times New Roman font, with 10 point Times New Roman footnotes, double-spaced, footnotes single-spaced. Place your name at the top of the first page (no title page required) and no bibliography needed. Please use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Turabian's Manual for Writers of Term Papers* for a style guide. You must also include the following in your paper to avoid the following automatic point deductions:

- Abstract (5 pts) – state the argument of your paper in approximately 100 words
- Thesis (5 pts) – ensure your paper has a clear thesis statement
- Three steps (5 pts) – ensure your paper states the three steps of your argument, i.e., how you will prove your thesis
- Ten sources (10 pts) – you must have ten academic sources (Bibles, confessions, web sites, blogs, newspaper articles, music are not academic sources but may be used)
- **Three journal articles (10 pts) – you must use three academic journal articles from reputable academic journals**
- Length (10 pts) – ensure your paper is 12-15 pages. Do not space-out your paper to stretch it to make it longer. This will result in a ten-point deduction as well.
- Style guide check (5 pts) – ensure your footnotes are in proper form.
- Biblical languages (5 pts) – make sure you appeal to the biblical languages in your paper (Greek and Hebrew fonts are not required but encouraged)
- Late submission (10 pts per calendar day) – submit your paper on time by the deadline to avoid this penalty
- Papers will not be accepted after they are five days late. The professor will not contact you to remind you to submit your paper.

Note the following grading rubric:

A (100-94)	B (93-86)	C (85-78)	D (77-70)	F (69 – 0)
Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages primary sources; provides analysis, not	Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages minimal primary sources and is more reliant	Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; does not engage primary sources; relies upon secondary	Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; relies upon secondary sources	Fails to submit paper or significantly fails to meet assignment rules.

simply rehearses information.	upon secondary sources; has more repetition of information than analysis	sources exclusively; has minimal analysis.	exclusively, and has no analysis.	
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The paper is due April 7, 2025.

Final Exam (40%): Students will sit for a two-hour exam on CANVAS that covers questions drawn from lectures and assigned readings. A failure to take the exam during the exam window (May 5-7) will result in a failure on the assignment.

Textbooks

Holy Bible (any version)

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, vol. 3, *Sin and Salvation in Christ*, trans. John Vriend, ed. John Bolt (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006).

_____. *Reformed Dogmatics*, vol. 4, *Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation*, trans. John Vriend, ed. John Bolt (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008).

Duby, Steven, *Jesus and the God of Classical Theism: Biblical Christology in the Light of the Doctrine of God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2022).

Required Readings

Vos, Geerhardus. “The Alleged Legalism in Paul’s Doctrine of Justification,” in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos*, ed. Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 1980), 383-99 (ON CANVAS).

_____. “The Eschatological Aspect of the Pauline Conception of the Spirit,” in *Biblical and Theological Studies* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1912), 211-59 (ON CANVAS).

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
01	Jan 27	Covenant of Redemption	Bavinck, III:196-216; Vos, “Eschatological Aspect of the Spirit”; WCF 7.1-3; WLC 31; Duby, 97-141, 193-242
02	Feb 3	Covenant of Grace	Bavinck, III:216-32; WCF 7.3-6; WLC 32-33; WSC 20
03	Feb 10	Deity of Christ	Bavinck, III:233-322; Duby, 1-96
04	Feb 17	Humanity of Christ	Bavinck, III:323-417; Duby, 141-92
05	Feb 24	Incarnation of Christ	WCF 8.1-2, 7; WLC 36-40; WSC 21-22
06	Mar 3	Offices of Christ	WCF 8:3; WLC 41-45; WSC 23-26; Duby, 243-314

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	Mar 10	SPRING BREAK	
07	Mar 17	The Atonement	Bavinck, III:418-84; WCF 8:4-7; WLC 46-50; WSC 27; Duby, 315-74
08	Mar 24** 9am- 11am	Union with Christ and the Ordo Salutis	Bavinck, III:485-596; WLC 69
09	Mar 31	Effectual Calling and Faith	Bavinck, IV:29-175; WCF 10, 14-15, 18; WLC 59-61, 67-68, 72, 76, 80-81; WSC 30-32, 85-87, 36
10	Apr 7	Justification	Bavinck, IV:176-229; Vos, "The Alleged Legalism in Paul's Doctrine of Justification"; WCF 11; WLC 70-71, 73; WSC 33; RESEARCH PAPER DUE
11	Apr 14	Adoption and Sanctification	Bavinck, IV:230-72; WCF 12-13; WLC 74-75; WSC 34-35, 82
12	Apr 21	Perseverance and Glorification	WCF 17; WLC 79; WSC 36
13	Apr 28	Eschatology	Bavinck, IV:589-730
14	May 5-7	Final Exams	

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST517 Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology

Professor: J. V. Fesko

Campus: Jackson, MS

Date: Spring 2025

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
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.	STRONG	Students are required to participate in discussions as well as research papers.
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.)	STRONG	This course focuses on the exegetical foundations for doctrines.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	STRONG	This course examines the Reformed doctrine and has assigned readings from the Westminster Standards.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	STRONG	A key point of this course is to learn humility and charity by studying Christ's saving work applied to us.
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.	STRONG	This course teaches material that represents the core of what a minister should teach and preach to his church.
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	If we learn how challenging it was to develop orthodox doctrine, then the aim is to be humble as we propagate it.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	MODERATE	This course examines the doctrines that are foundational to practice, but does not focus on the practice.