

ST6146 Theology of the Body (v. 100125-W2026)

Josh Malone

jmalone@rts.edu

Day: Wednesday-Saturday; Jan 7-10

Time: 9am-4:30pm

Room: TBD

TA: TBD

Catalog Description

The biblical foundations and historical formulations of theological anthropology with special reference to the body in redemptive-historical perspective. Consideration will be given to the following topics: male/female differentiation, the meaning of marriage, distortions in human sexuality, singleness/celibacy.

Course Requirements

Participation (20%): Each student is required to attend course, answer questions when asked, and participate in class discussions. The following rubric explains how students will be evaluated:

| A to A- (100-94) | B+ to B- (93-86) | C+ to C- (85-78) | D+ to D- (77-70) | F (69 – 0) |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Provided many good ideas for class consideration; inspired others; clearly communicated desires, ideas, questions, and comments. Was respectful of others. | 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 others. Or, dominated class time by not permitting others to ask their questions. | Failed to attend class—missed more than three lecture periods total. |

Reading Briefs (20%): For each day we meet there are 2 Reading Briefs (**RB1-RB8**) due (morning-1; afternoon-1). Students are required to upload to Canvas a reading brief for the *bold RB1-RB8 readings on the Lecture Schedule*. The purpose of the brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument, as well as to state one's own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the text (so long as page numbers are referenced). Briefs should be no less than 200 words and no more than 350 words. Reading briefs should be written in complete sentences and edited carefully, and uploaded to Canvas before that class section begins on Wednesday-Saturday.

Favale *Genesis of Gender* Review (10%): Students will write a 3-4 page single-spaced (~1500-2000 words) review of Favale's *Genesis of Gender*. Review must include 2 pages of summary (max) and 2 pages analysis (compare to Smith, Chps 4-6). **Due Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 11:59pm.**

Body-talk in the News (10%) (Two Due: prior to class week, two due: Friday two weeks after final class): Two preceding weeks before class (one per week), and two weeks after class week (one per week) you will look for Body-talk in the news (e.g. – sexuality, gender, male/female, marriage, technological questions about the sexed-body...). You will find an article and post a link to it on Canvas (four total). In 100-150 words share your observations about the article. What was the article about? What stood out to you? What did you learn about this report on the body? After you post, you will be able to see the stories your classmates posted.

Research Paper (40%): you must write a 10-12 page research paper written in a 12 point Times New Roman font, with 10 point Times New Roman footnotes, double-spaced, footnotes single-spaced. **You must use at least ten sources, three of which should be journal articles.**

1. Topics: Students will write on a particular doctrinal issue covered in or related to the class (e.g. male/female differentiation, the meaning of marriage, distortions in human sexuality, singleness/celibacy).
2. Approvals: Topics must first be approved by the professor beforehand.

Please use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Turabian's Manual for Writers of Term Papers* for a style guide. A bibliography is required. Please also note the following grading rubric:

| A to A- (100-94) | B+ to B- (93-86) | C+ to C- (85-78) | D+ to D- (77-70) | F (69 – 0) |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages primary sources; provides analysis, not simply rehearses information. | Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages minimal primary sources and is more reliant upon secondary sources; has more repetition of information than analysis | Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; does not engage primary sources; relies upon secondary sources exclusively; has minimal analysis. | Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; relies upon secondary sources exclusively, and has no analysis. | Fails to submit paper or significantly fails to meet assignment rules. |

Note, failure to reach (1) the required minimum pages (12), (2) the required number of sources (10, with 3 journal articles) will result in the loss of one to two letter grades on your paper. Due one month after the last day of class, Due: Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 11:59pm.

Textbooks & Required Reading

Holy Bible (any version)

Abigail Favale, *The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2022). ISBN-13: 978-1621644088

Robert S. Smith, *The Body God Gives: A Biblical Response to Transgender Theory* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2025). ISBN-13: 978-1683598121

Christopher West, *Theology of the Body for Beginners: Rediscovering the Meaning of Life, Love, Sex, and Gender* (Erlanger, KY: Dynamic Catholic, 2018). ISBN-13: 978-1635820072

*Supplementary PDF readings will be provided on Canvas.

Helpful Resources

Summary of Christian Belief: Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say about Gender Identity*, 2nd ed (Charlotte, NC: Good Book Co., 2022).

Historical Theology Analysis: Christopher C. Roberts, *Creation & Covenant: The Significance of Sexual Difference in the Moral Theology of Marriage* (London: T&T Clark, 2007).

Natural Law Analysis: J. Budziszewski, *On the Meaning of Sex* (Intercollegiate Studies, 2014).

Cultural Analysis (how we got here): Carl R. Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020).

Philosophical Analysis (how we got here): Michele M. Schumacher, *Metaphysics and Gender: The Normative Art of Nature and Its Human Imitations* (Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Academic, 2023).

Course structure:

1. Introduction: Body Matters & Theology of the Body (RCC)
2. Male and Female in the Beginning
3. The Making of Man and Woman
4. The Meaning and Mystery of Marriage
5. Sex and Gender Outside of Eden (Polygamy?)
6. Sex and Gender in the End
7. Topic1: Counseling-Care; Intersex (DSDs)
8. Genesis of Gender
9. Topic2: Male-Female Roles
10. Topic3: Homosexuality
11. Topic4: Celibacy-Chastity
12. Topic5: Contraception-Reproductive Tech
13. Topic6: AI-Bodies
14. Topic7: Disease
15. Topic8: Dying

Lecture Schedule

Before the week of class, see Body-talk in the News postings. Read through West (entirety), aiming to complete the text by our start date. Then you will need to have Smith (assigned pages) completed by class day 2. Favale (entirety) by class day 3. Then, PDFs as assigned.

After the week of class, complete Favale review (1 week) and research paper (1 month).

| Week | Date | Topic | Readings |
|-------|--------|--|---|
| 1 | Jan 7 | Body Matters | <i>TBGG</i> , Smith, 1-23; Kleinig |
| | | Theology of the Body (RCC) | Reading Brief 1(RB1): Christopher West, entirety |
| 2-3 | Jan 7 | Male and Female in the Beginning | RB2 : Smith, 173-210 |
| | | The Making of Man and Woman | Smith, 211-243 |
| 4-5 | Jan 8 | The Meaning and Mystery of Marriage | RB3 : Smith, 244-288 |
| | | Sex and Gender Outside of Eden (Polygamy?) | Smith, 289-322 (PDF – Bavinck/Alter) |
| 6-7 | Jan 8 | Sex and Gender in the End | Smith, 323-372 |
| | | Topic1: Counseling-Care Intersex (DSDs) | RB4 : PDF – Yarhouse, Gagnon Defranza; Roberts |
| 8-9 | Jan 9 | Genesis of Gender | RB5 : Favale, entirety |
| | | Topic2: Male-Female Roles | PDF – Swain; Clark |
| 10-11 | Jan 9 | Topic3: Homosexuality | PDF – PCA Report |
| | | Topic4: Celibacy-Chastity | RB6 : PDF – TBD |
| 12-13 | Jan 10 | Topic5: Contraception-Reproductive Tech | PDF – Van Drunen |
| | | Topic6: AI-Bodies | RB7 : PDF – Hanby |
| 14-15 | Jan 10 | Topic7: Disease | |
| | | Topic8: Dying | RB8 : PDF – Perry |

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST6xyz Theology of the Body

Campus: Jackson, MS

Professor: Josh Malone

Date: WINTER 2026

| <u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> | | <u>Rubric</u> | <u>Mini-Justification</u> |
|---|---|---|--|
| <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 | Reading, lectures, and class discussion show understanding. Research paper shows grasp of content and application. |
| 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 biblical foundations for doctrine of humanity and a moral theology of marriage. |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | MINIMAL | Lectures and reading will touch where Reformed theology impacts our understanding of the body in redemptive history (+PCA report). |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification. | MODERATE | A key point of this course is to learn to discern the meaning of our bodies and apply that pastorally. |
| 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 Christians understand about the body in creation/new-creation and culture. |
| 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.) | MODERATE | Some comparison with Catholic and Orthodox traditions, both appreciative and humbly differing. |
| 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 it does not focus directly on practice. |