

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY –DALLAS CAMPUS
THE HOLY SPIRIT—THEMES IN HIS PERSON AND WORK
March 30-April 08 2026

This modular elective class supplements ST5200 *Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology* (although that course is not a prerequisite). Its focus will be on the Person and ministry of the Spirit viewed through both biblical-theological and systematic-theological lenses. Against a background of the role of this *locus* in the history of the church, the lectures will consider the inner-trinitarian relationship of the Spirit to the Father and Son, trace his trans-dispensational ministry from Creation to the Eschaton and then discuss a number of aspects of his ministry on which the New Testament focusses, including his relationship to Christ and the church.

Course Requirements:

1: Class Meetings:

- Tuesday 31 March: 9.00am-1.00pm
- Wednesday 01 April: 8.30am-4.30pm
- Thursday 02 April: 1.00pm-5.00pm
- ***No Class Friday 03 April***
- Saturday 04 April 8.30am-2.30pm
- ***No Class Monday 06 April***
- Tuesday 07 April 8.30am-2.30pm

2: Class Lectures

Class time will be devoted to the following *schema*:

1: Introduction: The Holy Spirit in the history of the church

- i. The deity of the Spirit—the early church
- ii. The relationship of the Spirit to the Father and Son—the Great Schism
- iii. The role of the Spirit in salvation—the break with the medieval church tradition
- iv. The “Third Wave”

2: Biblical Theology: The unfolding of the Spirit’s Ministry

- i. From Creation to Christ
- ii. In the Life and Ministry of Christ
- iii. In the Teaching of Christ
- iv. In the Gift of Christ (Pentecost)

3: Systematic Themes: The Spirit’s work in the Believer—selected aspects

- i. Union and Inauguration
- ii. Growth towards Christlikeness
- iii. Progress to the End

3: Reading

Required Reading:

Herman Bavinck: *Reformed Dogmatics*, IV: pp. 29-270

Richard B Gaffin: *Perspectives on Pentecost*

Acknowledgment that this reading has been completed should be included on the term paper.

Twenty-first century works on the Holy Spirit include:

Gordon Fee: *God's Empowering Presence* (Baker, 2003 –an extensive treatment of passages in the Pauline corpus)

Graham Cole: *He Who Gives Life* (Crossway, 2007)

Trevor Burke: *A Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit* (SPCK, 2014)

Christopher Holmes: *The Holy Spirit* (Zondervan, New Studies in Dogmatics Series, 2015)

Michael Horton: *Rediscovering the Holy Spirit* (Zondervan, 2017)

Greg Allison: *The Holy Spirit* (B & H, 2020)

Robert Letham: *The Holy Spirit* (P&R Publishing, 2023)

Fred Sanders: *The Holy Spirit* (Crossway, 2023)

Older works on the Holy Spirit

John Owen: *Works volumes 3 and 4* (Good edition)

Abraham Kuyper: *The Holy Spirit*

James Buchanan: *The Office and Work of the Holy Spirit*

George Smeaton: *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

4: Written Work

Given the fact that the class concludes approximately three weeks from the end of the semester, members of the class may choose to submit:

Either:

(i): A summary and discussion of R.B. Gaffin, *Perspectives on Pentecost*

Or:

(ii): A research paper on a subject of your choice related to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

In either case, the paper should be between 4,000-5,000 in length and be submitted by **May 01 2026** (the last day of classes at the Dallas Campus).

Work should be (a) clearly identified, (b) and submitted as an email attachment, preferably in Word, and (c) emailed to Sinclairbferguson@yahoo.co.uk

NB. If you are planning to graduate at the end of the semester, please indicate that on your work so that it can be given priority in the grading process.

Grading System

Grade point averages on RTS transcripts will be determined on the basis of work done only at Reformed Theological Seminary.

A (97-100)	4.00
A- (94-96)	3.66
B+ (91-93)	3.33
B (88-90)	3.00
B- (86-87)	2.66
C+ (83-85)	2.33
C (80-82)	2.00
C- (78-79)	1.66
D+ (75-77)	1.33
D (72-74)	1.00
D- (70-71)	0.66
F (below 70)	0.00
I (incomplete)	–
W (withdraw)	–
S (satisfactory)	–
P (passing)	–

The grade “I” indicates that the work required for the course was not completed. It is given only when special, extenuating circumstances (such as illness) prevent the student from completing the work or taking the examination. A written request for an extension must be submitted prior to the due date of the work concerned. If the request is granted, it remains the responsibility of the student to complete all work for the course as soon as possible. In any case, an “I” grade must be removed within the extension time granted; otherwise it will be changed to “F.”

The grade “W” indicates that a student has withdrawn from a course after the drop deadline. This grade is granted by the academic dean only in extenuating circumstances.

The grade “P” is only used as a Pass/Fail option and is limited to the Field Education course.

A grade of C or better is required to continue in the sequence of language courses (does not apply to RTS Charlotte).

If a course is retaken, the original grade remains on the transcript and is included in the GPA.

For all RTS courses that have exceeded standard degree time limits and are now ineligible to be applied to a degree, these courses will be shown on a separate transcript and will not be applied to the student’s GPA.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: The Holy Spirit—His Person and Ministry

Professor: Ferguson

Campus: Dallas

Date: 30 March-07 April 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.	Strong	Course engages biblical theology of the Spirit and his ministry in addition to ancillary historical theological material.
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	Course is dominantly systematic but rooted in biblical exegesis.

Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Course taught against background of the perspective of Reformed theological traditions
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Sanctification and Doxology are the ultimate goals of the material covered
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	The course is an ST course but has significant bearings on Christian life.
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	Course aims to foster an understanding of the work of the Spirit—who is not to be grieved.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	While not a course on preaching a considerable proportion of the work of the course feeds into preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Course covers aspects of
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	The theology explored serves as an important framework for pastoral ministry