

**Reformed Theological Seminary  
Spring 2014**

**ST 518            Systematic Theology III        3 Hrs.  
Wednesday 8:00 – 10:55 A.M.**

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**Description (as per RTS Catalogue)**

“A continuation of 1ST512 Systematic Theology II. The course topics include soteriology, ecclesiology, sacraments and eschatology” (p.72).

**Prerequisites**

Ideally, students will have completed the following courses prior to this course: ST601 “Covenant Theology”; ST 506 “Doctrine of Scripture”; ST 508 “Systematic Theology I”; ST 512 “Systematic Theology II.”

Students who have not completed these courses or who desire a theological refresher should consult J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs* (Tyndale, 1988) and Louis Berkhof, *Manual of Christian Doctrine* (Eerdmans 2002 [1933]).

**Course Objectives**

- (1) To survey the Scripture’s teaching falling under the topical headings of soteriology (the application of redemption), ecclesiology (the doctrine of the church), the sacraments (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper), and eschatology (death, the intermediate state, the return of Christ, the eternal state).
- (2) To enable the student better to grasp the doctrines comprehended under these *loci*, to understand these doctrines’ exegetical and biblical-theological foundations, to acquaint students with both historical and contemporary discussions concerning these *loci*, to assist students in communicating these doctrines in preaching, teaching, and counseling.
- (3) to help the student better to grasp and appreciate the confessional and catechetical expressions of these loci in the Westminster Standards.
- (4) To introduce the student to non-Reformed and non-evangelical systems of theology, and assist the student in bringing Reformed theology to bear on these particular systems.
- (5) To help prepare students for licensure and ordination trials in the church

**Theological Standpoint**

This course will be taught from a full and *ex animo* commitment to the Westminster Standards as containing the system of doctrine contained in the Scripture; as adopted by the PCA. The instructor regards the following theologians as among the ablest exponents of biblical doctrine in the church since the Reformation, and as most influential upon his own theological formation and perspective – the sixteenth century Reformer, **John Calvin**; the late seventeenth century Genevan, **Francis Turretin**; the English Puritans generally, but especially **John Owen** and

**Jonathan Edwards** (yes, he saw himself as an *Englishman*); the Free Church of Scotland theologians, especially **William Cunningham** and **James Bannerman**; the Old Princetonians, especially **A.A. Hodge** and **B.B. Warfield**; the Southern Presbyterians, especially **Robert L. Dabney** and **Thomas E. Peck**.

**Required Texts (Primary)** (see below for page assts.; note the abbreviations; please note that this is not a comprehensive list)

- (1) The Holy Bible, preferably in a recent translation such as the New American Standard or the English Standard Version. Students who are competent in Hellenistic Greek are strongly encouraged to bring their Greek New Testaments to each class session.
- (2) Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (pp. 459-738) [B]
- (3) John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (pp.79-181) [M]
- (4) Sinclair Ferguson, *Children of the Living God*
- (5) Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit* [F]
- (6) A.A. Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future* (all) [Hoek]
- (7) Richard B. Gaffin, *Resurrection and Redemption*
- (8) J. Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book III, Chapters 6-10
- (9) John Owen, *On the Mortification of Sin in Works*, Volume VI.
- (10) *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* (WCF 9-33). Recommended but not required is a harmony of the Standards (e.g. M. Smith, B. Green). [WCF]

**Assignments & Requirements**

- (1) A mid-term exam, worth **25%** of your final grade. The mid-term exam will be a take home exam. It will be due at **8:00 A.M., Wed March 19. No Late Mid-Term Exams Will Be Accepted.**
- (2) A final exam will be taken during final exam week and will be cumulative. The final exam must be taken on the date posted by the seminary. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. The final exam is worth **30%** of your final grade.
- (3) Weekly quizzes on the assigned reading. Each quiz will cover all the assigned reading for that particular week. You may **not** access quizzes previously administered in this course. On each quiz you will be asked to report the extent of your reading for that week. The quizzes are worth **30%** of your final grade. **Please note that the first reading quiz will be Feb 06.**
- (4) Read each of the following books – Calvin, Owen, and Gaffin (see readings above). Each book ‘presents three fundamental dimensions of central aspects of the application of redemption. Each stands in the Reformed tradition’ and each ‘introduces [one] to three distinct periods of theological exposition: the Reformation, the Puritan, and the Modern’ (SBF). For each book, prepare a **3-5 page paper** in which you do each of the following – 1) summarize the contents of the book 2) articulate and respond to the thesis of the book 3) raise areas where you would like further clarity or explanation, or raise areas of particular agreement or disagreement. 4) Report (in percentage) the extent of your reading. **5% each (15% of your final grade).**

**Course Format**

The primary format of this course will be lecture. Because of the breadth of material the Seminary has asked us to survey in this course, the lectures will be necessarily selective. They will cover all the topics but they will not cover them in uniform depth. The readings, however, do survey the topics thoroughly, so the students are especially encouraged to be faithful in and attentive to the assigned readings.

## Attendance

Class attendance is required for ST 518. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student to a reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade. Students missing more than one session (for any reason) may **either** submit an additional, compensatory assignment [determined by the instructor] **or** choose to receive a full letter grade reduction in their final grade.

## Grading Scale

The grading scale for this course is the seminary's grading scale. You may find it listed at the *RTS Catalog*, p.44.

## Plagiarism

Please review the seminary's policy on plagiarism. Plagiarized work will subject the student to failure in the course and possible disciplinary action.

## In-Class Computer Use

Computers and tablets are not permitted in this course. Cell phones must be set to silent and stowed. If for some extraordinary reason you need to take a call, you may either wait until the break or leave the classroom.

## Approximate Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is approximate and subject to change at any time.

The instructor's announced changes in class will be the final word on the nature and date of assignments. They are the student's sole responsibility to note and to implement.

<b>29 Jan</b>	Course Introductions A Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit's Ministry	Week 01
	<b>Required</b> – F. 15-78; Warfield, <i>Plan of Salvation</i> , Part One; WCF 9-18 [=73 pp.] <b>Recommended</b> – John Owen, <i>Works</i> , Vols. III, IV; G. Smeaton, <i>The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit</i> ; J. I. Packer, <i>Keeping In Step With the Spirit</i>	
<b>05 Feb</b>	Union with Christ The <i>Ordo Salutis</i>	Week 02
	<b>Required</b> – F. 93-113; B. 415-453; M. 161-173 [=70pp.] <b>Recommended</b> – John Calvin, <i>Institutes</i> , III.i; John Owen, <i>Works</i> , Vol. 2; Ridderbos, <i>Paul</i> , pp. 205-252.	
<b>12 Feb</b>	Effectual Calling Regeneration	Week 03
	<b>Required</b> – F. 115-138; B. 454-479; M. 88-105 [=68 pp.] <b>Recommended</b> – Murray, <i>Collected Writings</i> , 2.167-201 [=extended form of M. 95-105]; Stephen Charnock, <i>Works</i> , Vol. 3; Jonathan Edwards, "A Divine and Supernatural Light..." in <i>Works</i> (Yale), Vol. 17; Warfield, "Renewal," in <i>Biblical Doctrines</i> , pp.439-63.	
<b>19 Feb</b>	Faith Repentance	Week 04
	<b>Required</b> – CALVIN DUE. B. 480-509; M. 106-116; WCF 19-22; Warfield, <i>Biblical and Theological Studies</i> , pp. 375-444 [=Biblical Doctrines, pp. 467-507] [=70 pp.]	

**Recommended** – J. Gerstner, *Jonathan Edwards, Evangelist*; William Young, “Conversion” (in *Reformed Thought*, pp.104-139; William Guthrie, *The Christian’s Great Interest*; E.F., *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*; John Norton, *The Orthodox Evangelist*; John Colquhoun, *Repentance*; John Colquhoun, *Treatise on the Law and the Gospel*.

**26 Feb** Justification Week 05

**Required** – B. 510-526; M. 117-131; [=40pp.]

**Extra Credit** – Turretin, *Institutes*, Vol. 2, pp.633-688. [=L.16]

**Recommended** – John Owen, *Works*, Vol. V; James Buchanan, *Justification*, esp. pp.221-412; J. V. Fesko, *Justification: Understanding the Classic Reformed Doctrine*; R. C. Sproul, *By Faith Alone: the Evangelical Doctrine of Justification*.

**05 Mar** Justification Adoption Week 06

**Required** – M. 132-140; Ferguson, *Children of the Living God* [=152 pp.]

**Recommended** – J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*; R. A. Webb, *The Reformed Doctrine of Adoption*; John L. Girardeau, “The Doctrine of Adoption” in *Discussions of Theological Questions*.

**12 Mar** **Spring Break – Classes Will Not Meet**

**19 Mar** Sanctification Week 07

**Required** – F. 139-189; B. 527-544; M. 141-150; WCF 23-26 [=76 pp.]

**Recommended** – Donald L. Alexander, *Christian Spirituality: Five Views*; Berkouwer, *Faith and Sanctification*; Henry Scudder, *The Christian’s Daily Walk*; Henry Bayly, *The Practice of Piety*; Richard Baxter, *A Christian Directory* [=Practical Works, Vol. 1]; William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armour*.

**26 Mar** Perseverance Assurance Week 08

**Required** – OWEN DUE. B. 545-549; M. 151-181; R. L. Dabney, *Lectures*, pp. 687-698; J. Edwards, “True Grace Distinguished from the Experience of Devils” [= approx.. 70 pp.]

**Recommended** – Edwards, *The Religious Affections*; Thomas Brooks, *Heaven on Earth*

**02 Apr** The Church The Sacraments Week 09

**Required** – B. 553-603; B. 604-621; F. 191-239; WCF 25-29 [= 118 pp.]

**Recommended** – Bannerman, *The Church of Christ* (2 vols); Thomas E. Peck, *Notes on Ecclesiology*; Stuart Robinson, *The Church of God As An Essential Element of the Gospel*. Berkouwer, *The Sacraments*.

**09 Apr** Baptism Week 10

**Required** – B. 622-643; David Wright, ed., *Baptism: Three Views*, pp. 77-137; [=81 pp.]

**Recommended** – R. Ward, *Baptism in Scripture and History*; D. Kingdon, *Children of Abraham*. Warfield, “How Shall We Baptize?” SSW 2.329-50; “Christian Baptism,” SSW 1.325-331; “The Polemics of Infant Baptism,” *Studies in Theology* (=Works, Vol. 9), pp. 389-408.

**16 Apr** The Lord’s Supper Week 11

**Required** – B.644-658; Hoek 3-108 [= 119 pp.]

**Recommended** – J. A. Alexander, *God Is Love*; John Brown, *Discourses Suited to the Administration of the Lord’s Supper*. Waters and Duncan, *Children and the Lord’s Supper*.

**23 Apr** The Last Things Week 12  
**Required** – GAFFIN DUE. F. 241-255; Hoek 109-193; WCF 30-33 [= 98 pp.]  
**Recommended** – C. Venema, *The Promise of the Future*; Berkouwer, *The Return of Christ*;  
Gaffin, “Theonomy and Eschatology” in *Theonomy: A Reformed Critique*, pp. 197-224.

**30 Apr** Conclusions Week 13  
**Required** – Hoek 194-316; B. 661-738 [=198 pp.]

**TOTAL PAGES OF ASSIGNED READING – 1,249**

## **Select Bibliography – Leading or Representative Systematic Theologies**

### **Reformed**

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics* (4 vols.)  
Herman Bavinck, *Our Reasonable Faith*  
Wilhelmus à Brakel, *The Christian’s Reasonable Service* (4 vols.)  
James P. Boyce, *Abstract of Systematic Theology*  
John Brown, *Natural and Revealed Theology*  
John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (2 vols.)  
Robert L. Dabney, *Lectures on Systematic Theology*  
John Dick, *Lectures on Theology* (2 vols.)  
Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology* (3 vols.)  
A. A. Hodge, *Outlines of Theology*  
Michael S. Horton, *Christian Faith*  
John Murray, *Collected Writings*, Volume 2 [=Classroom Lectures on Theology]  
Robert L. Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology*  
W. G. T. Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology* (3 vols.; repr. in 1 vol.)  
Augustus H. Strong, *Outlines of Systematic Theology* (3 vols.)  
Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology* (3 vols.)

### **Lutheran**

Francis Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics* (4 vols.)  
John Theodore Mueller, *Christian Dogmatics*

### **Arminian**

Richard Watson, *Theological Institutes* (2 vols.)  
Norman Geisler, *Systematic Theology* (4 vols.)

### **Dispensational**

Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*  
Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology* (8 vols.; repr. in 4 vols.)

### **Roman Catholic**

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* (5 vols.)  
Ludwig Ott, *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*  
*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2d ed.)  
Denzinger and Hunermann, *Enchiridion Symbolorum: A Compendium of Creeds, Confessions, and Declarations of the Catholic Church*

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Systematic Theology 3  
 Professor: Waters  
 Campus: Jackson  
 Date: Spring 2014

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<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"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Students will demonstrate knowledge of the material by writing a theological paper; a cumulative final exam will measure student mastery of the concepts.
<b>Scripture</b>	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	The students will argue from and prove doctrines using Scripture; the student will integrate the application of Scripture to modern circumstances throughout the course.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	By the completion of the Systematic Theology courses, the student will have a solid foundation and introduction to Reformed Theology as articulated in the Westminster Confession and Catechisms.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	In addition to a discussion of the interplay between Grace and Obedience in the Christian life, the student will be exhorted to persevere in the grace that saved him.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	We engage in the "science of living blessedly forever;" through the study of God's word, the student will know how better to apply the Word of God to the world of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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	The Gospel of Jesus Christ, rightly understood, leads those who have been transformed by it, to proclaim it; the Systematic Theology courses are designed so that the student attains a right understanding of that gospel.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	This course aims to help the man or woman of God rightly apply and divide the word of truth by studying the God who gave us His Scripture.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	This course will aid the worshiper to better know the God who commands us to worship Him according to His word.
<b>Shepherd</b>	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	By studying the theology taught in God's Word, the man of God is equipped to better use his "gifts and callings," to encourage, reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete

<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	<b>Moderate</b>	<p>patience and teaching.</p> <p>While ecclesiology is covered a different course, proper theology is essential for good and right doxology, both to understand how to love one's neighbor as well as love one's brethren.</p>
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