I. Details
   A. Times: Tuesdays, 8:00–12:00 AM (including one-hour break for chapel)
   B. Instructor: Dr. James N. Anderson
   C. Contact: janderson@rts.edu
   D. Availability: If you wish to discuss some aspect of the course, please either arrange (via email) an appointment or knock on the door of my office (in E building) if it’s open.

II. Goals
   A. To familiarize the student with the basics of Reformed theology (specifically, the Reformation Solas and the Doctrines of Grace) in their historical context.
   B. To familiarize the student with the core biblical arguments for Reformed theology.
   C. To encourage the student to reflect on some of the hermeneutical and practical implications of Reformed theology.
   D. To help the student appreciate the significance of a Reformed worldview for pastoral and theological studies.

III. Course Overview
   A. Introduction: What is Theology?
   B. Foundations: The Doctrine of Scripture
   C. Background: The Reformation
   D. The Reformation Solas
   E. The Reformed Doctrines of Providence and Predestination
   F. The Doctrines of Grace (“Five Points of Calvinism: TULIP”)

IV. Course Requirements
   A. Class attendance and thoughtful participation.
      1. As per seminary policy, you are required to attend all the lectures. If you know that you will be unable to attend class on a particular date, please inform me in advance, otherwise you may be penalized for your absence.
      2. There will be opportunity for class participation and questions during the lectures.
      3. You will also be expected to attend chapel from 10:00–10:30 as part of class. The preaching of God’s Word is central to Reformed ministry, and weekly chapel is an integral part of seminary training. It is a valuable opportunity to worship God in communion with fellow students, faculty, and staff, and to hear the Word preached in the context of preparation for ministry. You are encouraged to actively reflect on the connection between chapel worship and the doctrines discussed in this class.
      4. A proportion of your final grade (see below) will depend on your attendance record and your participation in the classes (thoughtful interaction with the professor and other students).
B. **Reading assignments.**
   1. A proportion of your final exam mark (and thus your final grade) will depend on your acknowledgment that you have completed the required reading (see below).
   2. You will be penalized for each *uncompleted* reading assignment.
   3. A reading schedule will be provided at the start of class (available on the Course Home Page).

C. **Writing assignment.**
   1. You should write a paper (3500–4500 words, excluding footnotes) that discusses either one of the five Reformation *Solas* or one of the five Doctrines of Grace. You are free to choose which one of these ten articles of doctrine to discuss. Your paper should try to either *defend* or *refute* your chosen article of doctrine.
   2. Your paper should include all of the following:
      i. A clear statement and explanation of the article of doctrine under discussion, with supporting references.
      ii. An argument either for or against your chosen article, based primarily on a responsible exegesis of relevant biblical texts. You may also use arguments based on other doctrines (e.g., doctrine X is implied by doctrines Y and Z).
      iii. A treatment of at least two prominent objections to the position you have taken (i.e., explain the objections and then try to rebut them). You should cite sources (either popular or scholarly) for these objections.
      iv. A discussion of some of the practical applications of the position you have taken (i.e., answer the question: what real difference does it or should it make in the life of a Christian believer?).
      v. A standard bibliography (see below on sources and citations).
   3. Your paper will be graded according to the following criteria, in no particular order: responsible use of Scripture, responsible use of sources, extent of research, creativity, clarity, structure and coherence, cogency of argument, evidence of critical thinking, practical relevance, and good writing style (inc. grammar, spelling, and punctuation).
   4. The paper should cite at least 6 scholarly sources.
      i. For the purposes of this paper, a scholarly source is a book or article by a recognized expert in the field (and not aimed at a popular level for a general audience)—ideally one that has been peer-reviewed.
      ii. Wikipedia is clearly *not* a scholarly source.
      iii. That said, with sufficient discernment, Wikipedia can be a *useful pointer* to scholarly sources and is generally reliable for fact-checking on uncontroversial issues.
      iv. Please consult me if you have any doubts about whether a source is scholarly.
      v. You should not rely heavily on internet sources. Use the library!
   5. The paper should be word-processed, not hand-written.
      i. Use a 12-point font and double line-spacing for the main text.
      ii. Use section headings where appropriate to improve readability.
      iii. Use footnotes (10-point font) rather than endnotes.
      iv. Use a recognized scholarly style for citations (e.g., Chicago, Turabian, SBL).
   6. The paper should be submitted with a title page containing all of the following: the name and year of the course; your name; the professor’s name; the title of the
paper; and the exact word count for the main text of the paper (obtained from your word processor’s word-count feature).

7. You will be penalized if you do not observe the requirements and guidelines above.

8. For good examples of scholarly papers using scholarly sources, take a look at the online papers from the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* (here) and the *Westminster Theological Journal* (here).

9. Your paper is due on December 4. It should be submitted to the assistant at the main front desk on or prior to this date. Ensure that the assistant stamps the paper with the date of submission. Late submissions will be penalized.

10. Your paper will be returned to you after grading with limited feedback. Consult the document “Guide to Annotations on Graded Papers” to crack the code. If you wish to receive more detailed feedback, please email me to arrange an appointment.

D. *Midterm exam.*

1. The midterm exam will be taken during the week beginning October 13.

2. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions based on the class material covered to date.

3. At your convenience you should pick up the exam paper from the assistant at the front desk and take the exam in the library.

E. *Final exam.*

1. The final exam will be taken during the exam period: December 4–9.

2. The format of the exam will be a series of short-answer questions plus two longer essay questions. You will have 3 hours to complete it.

3. You may refer to an English translation of the Bible (but not one with study notes, etc.). You may not refer to any class notes or other study resources.

4. You will be asked to sign a declaration that you have not discussed the content of the exam with any other students before taking it.

5. You will also be asked to indicate which of the required reading assignments you have completed and to sign a declaration to that effect.

V. *Course Documents*

A. *Instructions for accessing course documents on Course Home Page.*

1. Login to the Self-Service website (https://selfservice.rts.edu).

2. Select Classes > Schedule > Student Schedule.

3. Select the period (“2014/Fall”) from the drop-down menu.

4. Click on the link “Go to Course Home Page” for the relevant class.

5. Select Course Documents.

6. All the course documents can be found in the “Section Media” folder.

B. *Course outline.*

1. Other than the syllabus, the course outline is the most important document. You will need a copy (either electronic or printed) in front of you throughout the class.

2. You are strongly encouraged to supplement the outline with your own notes.

3. The outline will be uploaded to the Course Home Page the week before class.

C. *Supplementary documents.*

1. Some of the required and recommended readings (see below) will be available on the Course Home Page.

2. You should also consult the document “Guide to Annotations on Graded Papers”.
VI. Grading

A. Class attendance and participation — 10%
B. Midterm exam — 20%
C. Final exam (including credit for reading assignments) — 30%
D. Writing assignment — 40%

VII. Required Reading

You should obtain copies of all of the items below. You should also bring an English translation of the Bible to class. ESV is preferred, since that is what I’ll be using. NIV, NASB, and HCSB are acceptable; KJV and The Message are not!

   [A copy of this will be made available on the Course Home Page.]
C. Michael Lawrence, Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church (Crossway, 2010).
D. J. I. Packer, “‘Saved By His Precious Blood’: An Introduction to John Owen’s The Death of Death in the Death of Christ,” in A Quest for Godliness (Crossway, 1994).
   [A copy of this will be made available on the Course Home Page.]
E. Michael Reeves, The Unquenchable Flame (B&H, 2010).
   [A copy of this will be made available on Course Home Page.]

VIII. Recommended Supplementary Reading

You are not required to read any of the items below, but you may find them useful to consolidate the course material and for further study as your interests dictate. For many of these, the table of contents can be viewed on Amazon.com or Google Books.

A. Theological Foundations
      [An overview of Christian doctrine from the original Calvinist; a classic of Reformed theology. Battles’ translation is widely considered to be the best. Henry Beveridge’s earlier translation is available online in various places (e.g., here).]
      [An accessible introduction to systematic theology from a Reformed perspective.]
      [In six lectures delivered at Princeton in 1898, Kuyper argues that Calvinism is not merely a set of doctrines but an entire “life system” (i.e., worldview) with implications for all areas of human life.]
      [A classic defense of the orthodox doctrine of Scripture against its liberal critics.]
Packer argues that the evangelical view of God’s Word is not a modern innovation but just the view of Christ and his apostles. The book is as relevant today as ever.

   [A classic treatment of Jesus’ high view of Scripture.]

B. Reformational Theology

   [An excellent historical, exegetical, and theological treatment of the doctrine.]

2. Steve Jeffrey, Mike Ovey, and Andrew Sach, *Pierced For Our Trangressions* (IVP, 2007).
   [A comprehensive biblical defense of a penal substitutionary understanding of the atonement in the face of recent attacks on the doctrine. Highly recommended.]

   [A classic exposition of the Reformed view of the atonement and the *ordo salutis*.]

   [A thorough exegetical defense of the doctrine of justification by faith alone.]

   [An insightful defense of the sufficiency of Scripture; responds to RC objections.]

C. Providence and Predestination

   [A classic exposition of the doctrine of providence by a Reformed philosophical theologian.]

   [A four-way debate over the doctrines of providence and foreknowledge between a classical Calvinist (Helm), a fuzzy Calvinist (Ware), a classical Arminian (Olson), and an Open Theist (Sanders). Unlikely to change anyone’s mind, but still useful for understanding the basic differences between the positions and the typical rationales for holding them. Not as exegetical as one might wish.]

   [A four-way debate over the doctrine of providence between a Calvinist (Paul Kjoss Helseth), a Molinist (William Lane Craig), a quasi-Calvinist (Ron Highfield), and an Open Theist (Gregory A. Boyd). Useful for understanding the key differences between the positions represented. Helpful introductory and concluding essays by Jowers.]

   [A practical and encouraging (and deceptively profound) introduction to the theology of prayer by a Reformed scholar, powerfully illustrated from personal experience.]

   [A classic treatment by a Reformed Anglican theologian.]

   [A collection of essays from a broadly Reformed perspective based on talks given at the 2005 Desiring God National Conference. Not sophisticated treatments, but
for the most part theologically sound and pastorally sensitive. The book can be read online at the Desiring God website.

D. The Doctrines of Grace (Calvinism)

   [Various essays targeting “Five-Point Calvinism”—yes, even Total Depravity.]

   [A thorough biblical defense of the doctrine of efficacious grace.]

   [A helpful little study on the love of God and its relation to God’s sovereignty and wrath, from a broadly Calvinist perspective. PDF available online here.]

   [An impressive multi-author defense of the doctrine of definite/limited atonement.]

   [A winsome and articulate defense of Calvinism, pitched at the popular level. Note also the companion volume, Against Calvinism, by Roger Olson.]

6. Roger E. Olson, Arminian Theology: Myths and Realities (IVP, 2006).
   [Not so much a defense of Arminianism against Calvinism as an attempt to correct common misconceptions and misrepresentations of classical Arminian theology and to clearly present its disagreements with Calvinism. Probably the best book of its kind.]

   [Olson is one of the most prominent Arminian critics of Calvinism writing today, although I find many of his criticisms to be quite superficial. Note the companion volume, For Calvinism, authored by Michael Horton.]

   [A solid and workmanlike defense of unconditional election; rather dry in style.]

   [An influential collection of essays in defense of (versions of) Arminianism.]

    [A defense of Arminianism from historical, systematic, and exegetical perspectives.]

    [A lucid and thorough case for the doctrine of unconditional election.]

    [A responsible case for classical (Wesleyan) Arminianism; stronger philosophically than exegetically.]
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies  
**Professor:** James N. Anderson  
**Campus:** Charlotte  
**Date:** 01/21/11

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

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<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| **Articulation (oral & written)** | Strong | 1. Pastoral application paper  
2. Final exam tests knowledge and articulation of course topics  
3. Class discussion questions testing understanding and application |
| **Scripture** | Strong | 1. Detailed discussion of biblical basis for doctrines of grace  
2. Covers basic principles of biblical interpretation  
3. Discussion of Reformed doctrine of Scripture |
| **Reformed Theology** | Strong | 1. Introduction to Reformed theology |
| **Sanctification** | Minimal | 1. Personal application of doctrines of grace  
2. Emphasis on cross-centered living |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Minimal | 1. Relevance of Christian doctrines to all of life |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Minimal | 1. Distinction between Christian orthodoxy and Reformed distinctives  
2. Respectful engagement with non-Reformed views |
| **Preach** | Minimal | 1. Importance of doctrines as foundation/framework for preaching |
| **Worship** | Minimal | 1. Introduces Reformed views on worship (application of Sola Scriptura) |
| **Shepherd** | Moderate | 1. Emphasis on pastoral application of doctrines of grace  
2. Discusses implications of Reformed theology for evangelism/discipleship |
| **Church/World** | Minimal | 1. Understanding and appreciation for Reformed distinctives  
2. Reformed theology placed in context of broader Evangelical tradition |