Course Description

A study of Christology (the person and work of Jesus Christ), soteriology (the application of Christ's work of redemption, the ordo salutis, and its benefits for the redeemed), and eschatology (the doctrine of last things, both general and personal) are the topics of this course. Our survey of doctrine will be based on the exegesis of Scripture, with continual reference to dogmatic and historical theology. All along we will remember the crucial nexus between faith and life, doctrine and practice, and thus endeavor to stress the importance of this doctrine for Christian thought, life, and ministry.

Prerequisites

Students in this class are expected already to have studied theological prolegomena, the doctrine of Scripture, the doctrine of God, and the doctrine of man. Those who have not mastered these subjects are expected to have read Louis Berkhof's Manual of Christian Doctrine [Eerdmans] and Donald Macleod’s Faith to Live By [Mentor] before the start of class. These works will introduce the student to theological concepts and terminology.

Course Objectives

To introduce the student to the main Biblical themes concerning the person and work of Christ, salvation, and last things is the main objective of this course. We also will endeavor to increase the student’s understanding of these doctrines (and the historical/contemporary debates surrounding them) and ability to communicate them (in both academic and popular settings). To strengthen the student’s commitment to historic Christian theology and to assist in preparing the student to deal with unbiblical systems of theology in their various contemporary manifestations are also important course goals. Finally, we will seek to move the student to obedience and worship of the God who redeemed him.

Course Requirements

Required Texts:

Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology [Eerdmans] (305-549, 661-739)
Robert Letham, The Work of Christ [IVP] (all)
Donald Macleod, *Jesus is Lord: Christology Yesterday and Today* [Mentor] (all)
Donald Macleod, *The Person of Christ* [IVP] (all)
John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* [Eerdmans] (all)
*Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* [Free Presbyterian] (*WCF and WLC only*)

**Class Attendance:**

Given the concentrated nature of the instruction hours, full class attendance will be imperative for successful completion of this course. In case of sickness or hardship, the student should clear the absence with the instructor by calling (706) 691-3702 or by e-mail (wduncanrankin@gmail.com).

During lecture hours, students are asked to hold their questions until asked for by the instructor. Get in the habit of writing your questions down in the margin of your notes, so that you can come back to them later. Often, your questions will be answered in the next breath the instructor takes. If your question is not answered by the end of the lecture hour, please write it down and give it to the instructor. He will try to deal with it in the next hour or at the appropriate time in the series of lectures. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Students are expected to bring their copies of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the Bible to class every day. Classes will begin with a hymn and a prayer. Students are also expected to bring their marked copy of the text being considered in seminar group each day, as it may be inspected by the professor for evidence of assignment completion.

**Evaluation:**

Because of its central and essential importance to the Gospel ministry, please expect to spend a serious quantity and quality of work on this course. If you are called to the Gospel ministry in any shape, form, or fashion, then the content of this course is absolutely essential for the well being of your own soul, as well as that of those who sit under you. Pour your heart, mind, and strength into the learning: if not for yourself and your own family, then at least for your future congregation and people. It will glorify God!

1. **Reading Seminar** (20%)

The class will be broken down into small groups of four for daily reading seminars, giving more opportunity for interaction and discussion. These periods will be times for students to interact and discuss the assigned readings for that day. They will also serve as a check to make sure that the assigned readings are being completed and that their content is being assimilated into the lecture materials. Reading Seminars are a time to rethink and answer any remaining questions students may have on a particular aspect of a doctrine before moving on to the next.

Students will fill out a Reading Report Form (see Course Notes) on each assigned reading and bring it to class. A schedule of seminar readings follows in the Course Assignment Schedule.
2. **Berkhof Study Guide Questions (20%)**

A list of Berkhof Study Guide Questions is given in the Course Notes. Each Reading Seminar small group of four will be expected to submit written answers to these questions together. Answers should draw upon lecture material, textbooks, and Berkhof's *Systematic Theology*. Additional material from other standard systematic theologies (such as R. L. Dabney's *Systematic Theology*) or Protestant confessions (such as the Second Helvetic Confession and the Belgic Confession) will receive extra consideration.

3. **Term Paper (30%)**

A 8 page paper on an assigned topic will be required (see Course Notes for topics to be distributed among the students). The student will be given a particular passage in a heterodox christology to engage and critique. Papers should include the following sections: introduction (of the topic, including a clear one sentence thesis statement), background (biographical and/or dogmatic), descriptive summary (of the author's christological claims), internal critique (granting the author his key assumptions), external critique (denying the author his key assumptions), and bibliography (primary and secondary). This term paper should be neatly typed and follow the specifications in Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (6th edition). It should have one inch margins, use footnotes rather than end or text notes, and have a common type font. The font size should be 10. Papers not meeting these requirements or with excessive grammatical errors will be returned to the student for re-submission or downgraded.

4. **Final Exam (30%)**

The Final Examination will test the student's knowledge (and mastery) of material covered in the course lectures and reading, and allow the student to apply principles learned in the course to a theological test case. It will be a 3 hour comprehensive exam, testing detailed knowledge.

5. **Extra Credit (up to 10%)**

Students wishing extra credit for the course may submit pieces of no more than two pages each on any of the following theological topics covered by the course:

- The Person of Christ
- The Work of Christ
- Effectual Calling and Regeneration
- Saving Faith and Evangelical Repentance
- Justification
- Adoption and Sanctification
- Perseverance of the Saints
- Glorification
- Death and Resurrection
- Heaven and Hell
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Monday 15 September 2014 | Syllabus and course introduction  
                        | Background lecture on Covenant Theology                               |
| Monday 22 September 2014 | Reading Seminar #1: Macleod's *Person of Christ*, chs 1-3  
                        | Reading Seminar #2: Macleod's *Jesus is Lord*, chs 1-3  
                        | Lectures on the Person of Christ  
                        | Reading Seminar #3: Macleod's *Person of Christ*, chs 4-5  
                        | Reading Seminar #4: Macleod's *Jesus is Lord*, ch 4  
                        | Lectures on the Person of Christ  
                        | Review of Outline of Heppe's *Reformed Dogmatics*, ch. 17 |
| Monday 29 September 2014 | Reading Seminar #5: Calvin's *Institutes* II.12-17  
                        | Lectures on the Person of Christ  
                        | Reading Seminar #6: Macleod's *Person of Christ*, chs 6-10  
                        | Review of Outline of Heppe's *Reformed Dogmatics*, ch. 18  
                        | Lectures on the Work of Christ  
                        | Reading Seminar #7: Macleod's *Jesus is Lord*, chs 5-7  
                        | Lectures on the Work of Christ  
                        | Reading Seminar #8: Letham's *Work of Christ*, chs 1-4  
                        | Lectures on Soteriology  
                        | Reading Seminar #9: Letham's *Work of Christ*, chs 5-9  
                        | Reading Seminar #10: Murray's *Redemption*, pt 1, chs 1-5  
                        | Lectures on Soteriology  
                        | Reading Seminar #11: Letham's *Work of Christ*, chs 10-11  
                        | Lectures on Soteriology  
                        | Reading Seminar #12: Murray's *Redemption*, pt 2, chs 1-3  
                        | Lectures on Soteriology  
                        | Reading Seminar #13: Murray's *Redemption*, pt 2, chs 4-5  
                        | Lectures on Eschatology  
                        | Reading Seminar #14: Murray's *Redemption*, pt 2, chs 6-10  
                        | Reading Seminar #15: Berkhof's *Systematic*, Part 6  
                        | Lectures on Eschatology  
                        | Exam Week               | Final Exam  
                        | Term Paper due          | Berkhof Study Guide Questions due  
                        | All Reading Reports due |