Course Description

This course introduces the student to exegetical, theological, historical, and practical aspects of ministry. Students are equipped to use the practice of ministry as the integrating concept for all of their theological studies and apply Reformed Theology in all areas of pastoral labors.

Course Objectives

To familiarize students with the basics of Reformed Theology in historical context and encourage students to reflect on the basic hermeneutical and practical implications of Reformed Theology. The course will study the significance of a Reformed worldview for pastoral and theological studies.

Course Requirements: Reading, Listening, and Viewing


DA Carson, Albert Mohler, Tom Schreiner, and Peter Williams, “BibleMesh Panel: Rediscovering the Importance of Biblical Languages for Faithful Ministry” ([http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/entry/biblemesh_panel_rediscovering_the_importance_of_biblical_languages_for_fait](http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/entry/biblemesh_panel_rediscovering_the_importance_of_biblical_languages_for_fait))


Ligon Duncan, “Covenant Theology” ([http://thirdmill.org/magazine/article.asp/link/http%3F%5E5Ethirdmill.org%5EArticles%5Ejl_duncan%5Ejl_duncan.CT004.html/at/Covenant%20Theology](http://thirdmill.org/magazine/article.asp/link/http%3F%5E5Ethirdmill.org%5EArticles%5Ejl_duncan%5Ejl_duncan.CT004.html/at/Covenant%20Theology))


Michael Kruger, “Why You Can Rely on the Canon” (http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/entry/why_you_can_rely_on_the_canon)

Donald Macleod, Faith to Live By (2010; Kindle or paperback; see http://www.amazon.com/Faith-Live-PB-Understanding-Christian/dp/1845505859/ref=tmm_pap_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1375588652&sr=1-1)

Al Mohler and Ligon Duncan, “Together in the Scripture: Is the Bible Totally True?” (http://t4g.org/media/2012/04/together-in-the-scriptures-is-the-bible-totally-true/)

Al Mohler, John Piper, Ligon Duncan, Mark Dever, Peter Williams, and Simon Gathercole, “Inerrancy: Did God Really Say...?” (http://t4g.org/media/2012/05/inerrancy-did-god-really-say/)

RC Sproul, Chosen by God (2011; Kindle or paperback; see http://www.amazon.com/Chosen-God-R-C-Sproul/dp/B004Z4QJUG/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1375588708&sr=8-1&keywords=chosen+by+god)

RC Sproul, Scripture Alone: the Evangelical Doctrine (2005; hardback: may need to order from Ligonier Ministries direct; see http://www.amazon.com/Scripture-Alone-Evangelical-Doctrinal-Library/dp/1596380101/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1375588749&sr=8-1&keywords=scripture+alone)

John Piper, Voddie Baucham, and Miguel Nunez, “Is Preaching Still Relevant?” (http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/entry/is_preaching_still_relevant)

Course Schedule: Lectures Topics, Required Reading, Listening, and Viewing

Read, listen, and/or view in the order as listed in advance of the class meetings listed. As noted in the Course Evaluation section below, a one page reaction paper is due for each separate Assignment listed below.

September 6/7—Introduction to Theology and Sola Scriptura

Assignment 1: Holcomb
Assignment 2: Mohler & Duncan
Assignment 3: Mohler et al
Assignment 4: Downes
Assignment 5: Carson et al
Assignment 6: Kruger
Assignment 7: Macleod, chapters 1 & 2
Assignment 8: Sproul, Scripture Alone

September 27/28—The Doctrines of Grace
Assignment 9: Sproul, Chosen by God
Assignment 10: Macleod, chapters 3-13

October 25/26—The Reformed Faith
Assignment 11: Calvin
Assignment 12: Duncan
Assignment 13: Macleod, chapters 14-26

November 22/23—The Christian Life
Assignment 14: Piper et al
Assignment 15: Os Guinness
Assignment 16: Butterfield

Course Evaluation

1. Reaction Papers (20%)—Each student must prepare a one page reaction paper for each listed Assignment above, totaling 16 in all.
2. Take Home Midterm Exam (20%)—Each student must complete a Take Home Midterm Exam by midnight on Reformation Day, October 31st.
3. Term Paper (30%)—Each student must prepare an 8 to 10 page research paper on an agreed theological topic mentioned in the first half of Macleod's Faith to Live By, to be turned in with the Final Exam. These must be submitted in MS Word format, containing footnotes and a bibliography. At least ten systematic theological works like those from the Monergism website (http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Systematic-Theology/) must be included in the paper footnotes. The paper must trace the practical ministry implications of the theological concept in question. A one page written proposal of the topic for this Term Paper must be submitted to the professor by Thanksgiving Day, before the paper is written.
4. **Take Home Final Exam (30%)**—Each student must complete a Take Home Final Exam by midnight on the last day of exams, December 10th.

5. **Optional Extra Credit (+10%)**—Each student may, if he or she so chooses, prepare a 10 page personal ministry paper on why Sola Scriptura is vital to Christian ministry, for up to 10% extra credit. This paper should be in the first person and include personal convictions and insights into the role of Scripture in Christian ministry. These must be submitted in MS Word format, containing footnotes and a bibliography. At least ten systematic theological works like those from the Monergism website ([http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Systematic-Theology/](http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Systematic-Theology/)) must be included in the paper footnotes. The paper must trace the practical ministry implications of the theological concept in question. **A one page written proposal of the topic for this Term Paper must be submitted to the professor by Thanksgiving Day, before the paper is written.**

**Late Work**

Students should make every effort to turn in work on time or early. In the rare case of medical or other providential emergency, extensions and/or alternative arrangements may be granted. Students should particularly note the RTS-Houston Course Extension Policy, circulated to every student by the seminary office.

**Class Attendance**

Given the huge amount of material we have to cover and the relative scarcity of classroom hours, attendance will be at a premium and, of course, to the benefit of the student. If you need to miss a class or to leave early or to arrive late, you should seek permission. Failure to attend class, or to engage while in the class, will be noted. No unexplained absences.

**Academic Integrity**

All work submitted must be the student’s own. Group-produced work is not permitted. Plagiarism and copying of old assignments are all considered cheating.
Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes with Mini-Justification

Course: Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies
Professor: Dr. W. Duncan Rankin
Campus: Houston
Date: Fall 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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