Medieval Theology
OST604, 2 Hours

Lectures by
Douglas F. Kelly, Ph.D.
This course notebook is for the coordination of your course materials, including reading assignments and lecture recordings. Each course notebook for RTS Distance Education is arranged by the GUIDE acronym. The five components of GUIDE are organized in each lesson by the following steps in the notebook:

**GUIDE**

- **Getting Started**: To do the lessons, reading and listening assignments are listed.
- **Understanding**: To maximize learning, the purposes are given.
- **Investigating**: To explore the content, outlines are provided for note taking.
- **Developing**: To expand content, readings are suggested.
- **Evaluating**: To help review, lesson questions are based on purposes.
Lecturing Professor
Dr. Douglas F. Kelly is the J. Richard Jordan Professor of Theology at the Charlotte campus of Reformed Theological Seminary. Dr. Kelly received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Diploma from the University of Lyon, his B.D. from the Union Theological Seminary, and his Ph. D. from the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of many written works including: If God Already Knows, Why Pray?; Preachers with Power: Four Stalwarts of the South; New Life in the Wasteland; Creation and Change; and The Emergence of Liberty in the Modern World. His firm grasp of multiple languages and his theological competence are capably demonstrated in translating such works as Sermons by John Calvin on II Samuel. He is serving with David Wright of the University of Edinburgh as a general editor for a revision of Calvin’s Old Testament Commentaries. Before joining the faculty at RTS, Dr. Kelly travelled extensively throughout the world preaching and teaching. He was also enlisted to serve on the Jurisprudence project of The Christian Legal Society and serves on the Credentials Committee of the Central Carolina Presbytery.

Professor of Record
David Filson, is a teaching pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Nashville, and a Ph.D. student in Historical and Theological Studies at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Mr. Filson also serves both the Nashville Presbytery and the PCA General Assembly on the committee for theological examination.

Course Description
This course will survey major Christian thinkers during the Middle Ages with attention given to issues raised by the interaction of theology with the developing culture and philosophy of the times. In the lectures there is given a general survey of the theological development of this period with special reference to various questions that are still of great importance to the life and thought of church and culture. The required readings focus detailed attention on themes or theologians of major importance to the understanding of the development of Christian doctrine.

Course Objectives
• To survey the academic and ecclesiological culture of the Medieval age
• To explore key theological movements of the Medieval period that had far reaching influences on the church, education, and politics through the Reformation and modern day
• To explore the individual theology of Medieval theologians with a particular emphasis on: Dionysius, Boethius, Anselm, Aquinas, and John Duns Scotus
• To examine Thomas Aquinas’s theology with a focus on his five fold proofs for God’s existence

**Required Textbooks**


Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS Distance Education website (www.rts.edu/distance) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Requirements

- Listen to all recorded lectures
- Complete all required Readings
- Participate in Professor and Student Forum Discussions
- Answer the Five Topical Discussion Questions
- Take the Midterm Exam
- Take the Final Exam
- Write the Course Paper
- Complete Mentor Report / Course Application Paper

Forum Discussions (15%) 

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
   
   A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
   
   B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student’s answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question therefore requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts =10 total posts).
   
   C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.

2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
   
   • A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.
Examinations (Midterm: 25%, Final: 25%)

The midterm Exam will cover lessons 1-4. The final Exam will cover lessons 5-8. The format of each exam will be 25 multiple-choice questions and 2 essay question based on the lectures and readings of the first half of the course. The student should use the Lesson Questions at the end of each lesson in preparation and study for the exam. The student will have two hours to complete each exam.

The midterm and final exams for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

Research Paper (30%)

The student will write a 10-12 page paper (12 pt. font and double spaced) with appropriate footnoting and bibliography according to Turabian style.

The paper must:
- Consider and investigate the relevant information competently and fairly to all sides
- Interact with both primary and secondary material
- Demonstrate that the student has synthesized the materials coming to their own conclusion, and has clearly thought about it ‘theologically’ and practically
- Have a proper and clear thesis, introduction, conclusion, and structure
- Use good grammar, write clearly, and does not include strings of long or excessive quotations

Please choose from one of the topics below:
1. The debate on universals from the time of Boethius to the Nominalists.
2. Modern Protestant interpretation of Thomas Aquinas, both negative and positive. (See writings by: Francis Schaeffer, Arvin Vos, E.L. Mascall, Norman Geisler)
3. The Catholic Thomist interpretation of Anselm’s Ontological Proof as compared to Karl Barth’s interpretation (e.g. see Karl Barth, Anselm: Fides Quaerens Intellectum, etc.)
4. The views of Scotus Eriugena on the relationship between God and nature
5. Thomas Aquinas on Justification
6. William of Ockham on the relationship between faith and reason
7. The doctrine of God in the theology of Peter Lombard
8. The hermeneutical principles of speculative mysticism in Hugh and Richard of St. Victor
10. Thomas Aquinas on the Trinity

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each Global/Non-Residential student is required to have a mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student’s grade. For students who are not Global/Non-Residential, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.
Assignments

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education
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Charlotte, NC 28226
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1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/distance
Lesson One:
Introduction to the Medieval Era

Lesson Two:
Dionysius and Boethius

Lesson Three:
Theological Movements in Medieval Theology

Lesson Four:
Anselm

Lesson Five:
Medieval Scholastics

Lesson Six:
Thomas Aquinas: Life and Theology

Lesson Seven:
Thomas Aquinas: Five Proofs for God

Lesson Eight:
John Duns Scotus
### Course Objectives Related to MAR Student Learning Outcomes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAR Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></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><strong>Scripture</strong></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>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</strong></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>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAR Specific SLO</strong></td>
<td>An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one's own calling in society</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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1. In-depth analysis of important theology and doctrines in the medieval age
2. Biographical studies of key theologians and philosophers in the medieval age
3. Integrative research paper based on primary sources
4. Short essay exams tests knowledge and articulation of important course topics

1. Discusses the use and misuse of Scripture by medieval theologians and philosophers

1. Medieval theologians contrasted with confessional reformed view of God, the atonement, the fall, man, etc.

1. Evaluation and consequences of anti-biblical presuppositions in medieval theology movements

1. Notes doctrinal points and theological areas where the Reformed Christian can learn from non-reformed and Catholic perspectives

1. Interaction with many prominent non-Evangelical and non-Reformed theologians, philosophers, and movements
2. Discussion of Christianity on a global scale
3. Examination of the Church and its importance in the medieval age

1. Awareness of theological and philosophical ideas that can influence personal beliefs and church doctrines