Course Information
Prof.: Bruce Baugus Office Phone: 601-923-1696 (x696)
Office: DC Email: bbaugus@rts.edu
Hours: TBA

Catalog Course Description
An exegetical, historical, and dogmatic survey of the Christian doctrine of Scripture, including such topics as revelation, inspiration, authority, infallibility, inerrancy, canonicity, hermeneutics, and self-attestation. Consideration of representative contemporary formulations of these loci are included along with recent attacks on the historical Christian doctrine of Scripture.

Textbooks (Required)

*You will very likely be required to purchase other volumes of this set for other classes (ST 1, for example) and would no doubt benefit from adding the entire set to your library. The bookstore and I have arranged for the complete set (all four volumes) to be offered at a deep discount. I encourage you to take advantage of the offer.

(Recommended)
Richard A. Muller, *Dictionary and Latin and Greek Theological Terms* (Baker Books)
B. B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* (P&R Publishing)
William Whitaker, *Disputations on Holy Scripture* (Soli Deo Gloria Publications)

Assignments
Reading Reports
Two, three-page (twelve point, Times New Roman, single spaced) book reports are due by the last day of class: one on Kruger, *Canon Revisited* and the other on Nichols and Brandt, *Ancient Word, Changing Worlds*. A good book report for this class will demonstrate you have thoughtfully read the assigned texts by summarizing the content (in a roughly chapter by chapter order) of the book and offering brief critical interaction to the book in the conclusion.

Exams
Two exams will cover course content including assigned Bavinck readings and class lectures and discussions. Questions will mostly be objective or short answer in type, though a few essay questions are possible.

Term Paper
Students will write a 10-12 page term paper on an approved aspect of the doctrine of Scripture (use the theses that follow to guide your thinking) that integrates exegetical, systematic, and historical perspectives and sound argumentation (demonstrating a clear thesis). Proper style and formatting (according to Turabian’s *Manual*, current edition) are expected.

Course Grade
Written work 50% (Reading Reports, 20%; Paper, 30%)
Exams 50% (Midterm, 20%; Final, 30%)
Total 100%
Course Theses

Each of the following propositions forms a distinct topic in this course that will be (1) defined by and argued for from Scripture, (2) shown to be the true or best understanding of the church as reflected in her confessions and creeds and taught by her best interpreters and teachers, (3) isolated from and defended against various errors and accusations of contemporary interest, (4) practically applied, and (5) related to the other topics as we work our way through the course.

1. The Reformed doctrine of Scripture is descriptive and explanatory (nature of theological prolegomena)

2. Scripture is special (verbal) divine revelation (revelation, theological knowledge, and accommodation)

3. Scripture is the word of God (identity thesis)

4. Scripture was written by human authors (organic inspiration)

5. Scripture, in its entirety and down to every word, is God’s word (verbal, plenary inspiration)

6. Scripture is supremely authoritative

7. We are convinced of the authenticity of Scripture through the internal testimony of the Holy Spirit (ITHS)

8. Scripture is infallible and inerrant

9. The scope of Scripture is the glory of God in Jesus Christ achieved through the covenant of grace

10. Scripture is a covenant document

11. Scripture consists of just sixty-six books in two testaments (canon)

12. Scripture is our sole source on the knowledge of God

13. Scripture is necessary for us

14. Scripture is sufficient for salvation and as a rule of faith and life

15. Scripture is clear on all things necessary to understand and believe to be saved and live rightly before God

16. Scripture is the only infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture (analogy of Scripture, analogy of faith)

17. Scripture has just one sense or meaning

18. Scripture is argumentative (by good and necessary consequence)

19. The text of Scripture in its original languages is authentic and therefore has priority over translations

20. The authentic text of Scripture has been kept pure by God in all ages (text criticism)

21. Scripture is to be translated into the vernacular languages of God’s people in every place

22. Scripture is powerful, able to accomplish all God intends (efficacy)

23. Scripture, as God’s word, is the primary means of grace

24. Scripture is worthy of all our trust and obedience
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

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<tr>
<th>MDiv 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>Strong</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>Strong</td>
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<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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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</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>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></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>Minimal</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>Minimal</td>
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