Description
A survey and exploration of theological and ecclesiological issues facing the contemporary Reformed and Presbyterian church.

Course Objectives
(1) to become better acquainted with and appreciative of the Westminster Standards and the Book of Church Order (PCA)
(2) to gain historical perspective on theological issues and concerns facing the church today
(3) to gain facility in applying Reformed theology and ecclesiology to the theological issues and concerns facing the church today
(4) to gain facility in constructive theological interaction with one’s peers

Required Texts – see the course schedule below.
Note: most required texts and readings are available online or are on reserve at the library.

Assignments & Requirements
(1) Course Readings: Students are expected to read all assigned readings. A statement is due on November 28 indicating the extent of the student’s reading. 10% of final grade
(2) Personal Position Papers: Beginning October 24, students will submit a 1-2 page personal position paper. The paper will address the assigned topic for the day. The purpose of the paper is to allow the student to draft an informed statement of his views on the topic in question. References to the Westminster Standards or the BCO are required. References to other sources (e.g. other creeds & confessions; theologians) are encouraged but not required. The paper is due at the beginning of the class at which the topic is being discussed. 10% each (60% of final grade)
(3) Westminster Standards Interaction: Students will read the Westminster Standards in their entirety this semester. Students will draft a statement documenting each of their differences, concerns, interactions, or questions concerning the propositions and wording of the Westminster Standards. Each student will meet individually with the professor to discuss his statement. Students’ agreement or disagreement with the Instructor’s views of the Westminster Standards will not be a factor in the assessment of this assignment. This assignment is due on November 28. The instructor will schedule brief meetings with each student at the end of the semester. 30% of final grade.

Attendance
Class attendance is required for ST 627. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade.

Grading Scale
The grading scale for this course is the seminary’s grading scale. You may find it listed at the RTS Catalog, p.44.

Plagiarism
Please review the seminary’s policy on plagiarism. Plagiarized work will subject the student to failure in the course and possible disciplinary action.

**In-Class Computer Use**

Computers and tablets are not permitted in this course. Cell phones must be set to silent and stowed. If for some extraordinary reason you need to take a call, you may either wait until the break or leave the classroom.

**Approximate Course Schedule**

Please note that this schedule is approximate and subject to change at any time. The instructor’s announced changes in class will be the final word on the nature and date of assignments. They are the student’s sole responsibility to note and to implement.

**Week 01 (10/17) – What Does It Mean To Be Presbyterian?**

**Week 02 (10/24) – Confessional Subscription**

**Week 03 (10/31) – The Spirituality of the Church – the Church and Politics**

**Week 04 (11/07) – The Sabbath**

**Week 05 (11/14) – Paedocommunion**


**Week 06 (11/21) – The Regulative Principle of Worship**

**Week 07 – The Days of Creation: The Woodrow Controversy … and Today**
3. New Horizons (March 2012), Articles by Gaffin, Poythress, and Estelle.
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
### With Mini-Justification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> <em>(oral &amp; written)</em></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>Moderate</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>Minimal</td>
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<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>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>Moderate</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>Moderate</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>Moderate</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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