ST503: Doctrine of Scripture, 2 hours

Meeting Time: Mondays, 8:00 – 9:55 AM; Aug 25 – Dec 1
Meeting Place: BS 2

Fall, 2014

Contact Information
Prof.: Ligon Duncan Office Phone: 601-923-1656
Office: Hull Administration Building Email: lduncan@rts.edu

TA: John Rakshitth Prabhaker
jrprabhakar@rts.edu

Academic Integrity
All work submitted must be the student’s own. Group study is encouraged, but work submitted must be the student’s own (and not group-produced). Plagiarism is specifically addressed in the Student Handbook. Students who do not fulfill assignments with requisite academic integrity will be referred to the Academic Dean (the student should also consult pp. 33-34 in the Handbook for further details).

Technology Use
In the interests of learning, students should take notes by hand in this course. Laptop computers may not be used. Phones and other handheld devices should remain in the off position and stowed.

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.

Expanded Description
This course will begin by considering the priority of Scripture in Christian theology and then, working largely from Scripture, paying special attention to historic Reformed confessional statements (especially the Westminster Standards) and current debates, the biblical teaching on the knowledge of God and how this knowledge is acquired by us via divine revelation, especially through the word of God in written form (sacred scripture). We will consider at length the necessary formulations of various biblical teachings about the word of God and Scripture and the implications for how we approach, receive, and use the Bible today.

Textbooks (Required)
- D.A. Carson, Collected Writings on Scripture (Crossway: ISBN 978-1433514418)

Assignments

Exams
A written midterm and cumulative final oral exam will cover course content including assigned readings and class lectures and discussions. Exams will include a variety of question types, not excluding some short answer and essay questions.

Term Paper
Students will write a 10-12 page term paper on an approved aspect of the doctrine of Scripture that integrates exegetical, systematic, and historical perspectives and sound argumentation (demonstrating a clear thesis). Proper style and formatting are expected.

Course Grade
Two Exams 60% total; 30% each
Term Paper 40%
Total 100%
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>