HYBRID COURSE SYLLABUS

02ST517 ST: Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology
Dr. R. Michael Allen
Winter 2016
PROFESSOR’S CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMAIL: mallen@rts.edu
PHONE: 407.278.4445

COURSE DATES

Course Dates: November 9 – January 15
Online Dates: November 9 – January 10
In Class Dates: January 11- January 15
Course Completion Date: January 29, 2016

COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:
This course explores the doctrines of Scripture from a systematic perspective. Topics include Christology, Soteriology, and Eschatology.

GOALS:

- Comprehension
  - To increase your knowledge of Christology, the doctrine of Christ’s person
  - To increase your knowledge of Soteriology, the doctrine of Christ’s work for us
  - To increase your knowledge of Eschatology, the doctrine of our hope in the gospel
- Competence
  - To sharpen your ability to read, think, and write about systematic theology with clarity and perception
  - To sharpen your ability to think synthetically about how various theological topics relate to one another
- Character
  - To grow in your faith, better appreciating the glory of the gospel
  - To grow in your hope, more perceptively longing for the return of Christ
  - To grow in your love, reflecting the generosity of God back to others

SUPPORT:

Canvas offers several ways of interacting with Dr. Allen or his TA. One is Ask the Professor. This is the primary place for posting questions and has the benefit of allowing classmates to profit from the dialog. Two is Inbox. Inbox functions like email and can be used if you have a personal question, for
example, a question about a grade. Three is Conferences. Conferences allows for video conferencing, screen sharing, etc., and can be used in place of traditional office hours.

Canvas also allows for interaction with classmates. You can interact with classmates via the Student to Student forum or Conferences.

See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Course Resources for instructions on various Canvas features.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading

Theology is an activity done largely through the process of good reading. Read carefully. Read charitably. Read with others. Read with the expectation that you will learn from others, even when you disagree with their main point. Read even when a text is dense and difficult, for you will learn perseverance and fortitude here. Read that which seems trite and obvious, asking how others might object or criticize. Most importantly, read because God was willing to reveal himself in written words, and because we can best witness to God’s grace with corresponding words. Read because words matter in God’s economy of grace.

You will read two books during the online portion of the class:


You will also read several short PDFs provided on Canvas in preparation for classroom discussion during our week together on campus.

This class is a reading course. The bulk of your work circles around careful reading. Focus your time and efforts on reading.

Reading Briefs

Students will brief each chapter that they read (the 14 chapters from Bavinck and the 5 PDFs provided on Campus; hence, 19 briefs total). Each brief should be no more than 350 words and should offer a brief summary of the chapter (not attempting to be exhaustive) as well as a log of your analysis (relevant thoughts and questions pertaining to your reading of the chapter). Briefs should be in paragraph form rather than as a list of bullet points. They will be submitted on the first day of our week in class together on campus.

Reflection Papers

Students will write a research paper on one topic discussed in class readings or lectures. The student will demonstrate familiarity with major literature and will show competence in dealing fairly with that material. The paper should be 2000-2500 words long. It will be submitted by January 29.

Discussion Posts and Replies
During the online portion of the class, students will submit their reading briefs to the public discussion board every other week. They will be assigned at the beginning of the course to “Group 1” or “Group 2” and will submit their paper on the appropriate weeks for that group (2x each). On off-weeks, they will comment on at least two classmates’s reading briefs.

In responding to one another, students will practice critical charity, engaging the work of others critically, that is, analytically and thoughtfully, and charitably, that is, with a loving tone and goal of not merely encouraging but also helping others further explore the truth. Part of growing in pastoral ability involves developing the ability to exhort with gentleness, to offer critique with a smile or hug, and to have a backbone without being a jerk. Engaging one another provides opportunity for practicing your commitment to pursue the truth in love with one another.

**Grading Policy**

- Late work will be penalized 1 letter grade per day, unless prior permission for late submission was granted.
- The published RTS grading scale is used in this course. See the Catalog, page 47.

**Course Schedule**

**Online Schedule**

Week of November 9
- Topic: The Covenant of Grace
- To be read: Bavinck, vol. 3, ch. 5
- Discussion Post: Personal Introductions

Week of November 16
- Topic: The Person of Christ
- To be read: Bavinck, vol. 3, ch. 6
- Discussion Post (Group 1)

Week of November 23
- Topic: Christ’s Humiliation
- To be read: Bavinck, vol. 3, ch. 7
- Discussion Board Reply

Week of November 30
- Topic: Christ’s Exaltation
- To be read: Bavinck, vol. 3, ch. 8
- Discussion Board Post (Group 2)

Week of December 7
- Topic: The Order of Salvation
- To be read: Bavinck, vol. 3, ch. 9
- Discussion Board Reply

Week of December 14
• Topic: Calling and Regeneration
• To be read: Bavinck, vol. 4, ch. 1
• Discussion Board Post (Group 1)

Week of December 21
• Topic: Faith and Conversion
• To be read: Bavinck, vol. 4, ch. 2
• Discussion Board Reply

Week of December 28
• Topic: Justification
• To be read: Bavinck, vol. 4. Ch. 3
• Discussion Board Post (Group 2)

Week of January 4
• Topic: Sanctification and Perseverance
• To be read: Bavinck, vol. 4, ch. 4
• Discussion Board Reply

In Class Schedule

January 11
• Topic: Christ and the Covenant of Grace
• Read: D. A. Carson, “Mystery and Fulfillment”

January 12
• Topic: Christ and the Atonement
• Read: J. I. Packer, “What Did the Cross Achieve? The Logic of Penal Substitution”

January 13
• Topic: Union with Christ and Justification
• Read: John Webster, “The Holiness of the Christian”

January 14
• Topic: Union with Christ and Sanctification
• Read: John Webster, “Communion with Christ: Mortification and Vivification”

January 15
• Topic: Union with Christ and Our Glorious Hope
• Read: Michael Allen, series “Introducing Theological Eschatology” (from Reformation21); also you must have completed Bavinck, vol. 4, chs. 12-18 (pages 589-730) by this date.

Further Reading
Explore the relevant sections on the person and work of Christ, the application of salvation, and the last things in classical systematic theologies (e.g. Bonaventure, Thomas, Melanchthon, Calvin, Turretin, a Brakel, Watson, Hodge, Berkouwer).

Explore the relevant exegetical or homiletical discussions of key texts for each of these doctrinal topics as they have been explored through the Christian tradition (e.g. commentary or homilies developed on John 1 or Philippians 2 [person of Christ], Romans 3:21-26 [atonement of Christ], Galatians 5 [the spirit/flesh contrast and the fruit of the Spirit], Revelation 21-22 [the new Jerusalem]).
**Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

**Course:** 02ST517  
**Professor:** M Allen  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** Winter 2016

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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</em></td>
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<td>As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</td>
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<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong> 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>
<td>Weekly writing requirements develop ability to gather appropriate content and communicate it in a clear and compelling manner.</td>
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<td><strong>Scripture</strong> 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>
<td>Focuses on broad, canonical teaching of Holy Scripture upon certain fundamental doctrinal topics, as they develop exegetically.</td>
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<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong> Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Topics of Christology, Soteriology, and Eschatology introduced as taught in Reformed tradition. Analysis of relevant WCF chapters.</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong> Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Direct study of sanctification in residential week, focusing on Christ’s agency in maturing Christians in the present tense.</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong> Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Develops systematic and coherent framework for interpreting all of life in a biblical, Reformed manner.</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong> 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>
<td>Introduces many classical precursors to Reformed theology, noting the way in which the Reformation was a modification or renewal movement within classical Christianity rather than its repudiation or replacement, as well as contributions made by later traditions other than the Reformed.</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong> Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Macro-understanding of whole counsel of God developed so exposition of any text can be done with a greater sense of breadth, emphasis, and proportion.</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong> Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Macro-understanding of whole counsel of God developed so development of liturgy (whether fixed or free) can be done with a greater sense of breadth, emphasis, and proportion.</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong> Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Focus upon application of salvation enables student to consider regular means of grace and normal course of Christian</td>
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<td>Church/World</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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