HT606 The Life and Theology of Charles Hodge
FALL Semester 2013
October 4-5, 2013
Reformed Theological Seminary
Washington, DC
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PURPOSE OF THE COURSE: This course examines the life and writings of Charles Hodge, Professor of Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. Hodge and his work will be viewed against the backdrop of eighteenth and nineteenth century American Presbyterianism. It will focus on several elements: key events in Hodge’s life, the controversies in which he engaged his considerable abilities within American Presbyterianism and his writings which shaped the outcome of those events. Hodge emerges as arguably the primary intellectual and spiritual force within his denomination during his decades-tenure. His contributions spanned biblical, theological, historical and scientific academic fields. Students will gain an appreciation of Hodge’s, Princeton’s and his denomination’s roles in relation to other denominations and American culture as a whole.

II. Course Requirements
1. Texts: The following texts are required for the course:
   Hoffecker, W. Andrew, Piety and the Princeton Theologians ISBN #978-0875522807
   Chapter on Charles Hodge
2. Class Format: We will adopt a seminar format for this course. Although not absolutely required, students should read the assigned texts prior to the weekend of class. Students will be expected to contribute to discussion.
3. Writing Assignment: Students will select a topic related to Charles Hodge – an aspect of his thought, a controversy in which he was engaged, his participation in denominational affairs or theological journalism, his preaching, etc. Select a topic in consultation with your instructor. Your paper should not duplicate material discussed in class. Your paper should utilize primary source material and not simply rehash secondary sources. If possible utilize journal articles. Your paper should be about 20pp, double spaced.
4. Due Dates: Exam and paper due dates will be agreed upon at first class meeting.
5. Grades: Grades for the course will be based upon the following elements:
   Paper 40%
   Exam 40%
   Reading report 10%
   Class participation 10%
6. Topics to be Examined
   Roots of American Presbyterianism
Hodge’s early life: Piety and Confessionalism; New Side / Old Side Presbyterianism
Princeton Theological Seminary: Founding and early history
Hodge’s intellectual development: Princeton and Europe; Athens vs Berlin in theological education
Biblical Repertory and Theological Review
Old School / New School Presbyterianism: Schism of 1837
Hodge on revivals; Second Great Awakening
Hodge’s theological method: Reformed theology and Scottish Philosophy
Hodge on Slavery and Abolitionism
Theology and science; Hodge on Darwin
Hodge’s controversies with Southern Presbyterianism
Hodge the patriot: America’s Civil War; Spirituality of the Church
Post Civil War era
Rise of Liberalism; Heresy trials old and new; roots of fundamentalism

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes**

| Course: HT606 The Life and Theology of Charles Hodge |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Professor: Dr. Hoffecker       | Campus: Washington |
| **MDiv Student Learning Outcomes** | **Rubric** | **Mini-Justification** |
| Articulation (oral & written) | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong | Analysis of American Presbyterian history and theological development Essay exam and paper. |
| Scripture | 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.) | Moderate | Comparison / contrast drawn between biblical views and those of Hodge and his contemporaries. |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | Traditional reformed categories used for analyzing and critiquing figures, events and movements. |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | Personal application made to figures and ideas presented in class. |
| Desire for Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Strong | Detailed analysis of when and how Charles Hodge shaped American culture according to Scripture and... |
when he failed to do so.

Winsomely Reformed  
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.)  
Strong  
Fair yet appropriate evaluation of positions differing from classical reformed theology.

Preach  
Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.  
N/A

Worship  
Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.  
Minimal  
Evaluation of various worship forms as they developed.

Shepherd  
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.  
Moderate  
Discussion of effective ministries as they surfaced.

Church/World  
Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.  
Strong  
Detailed attention to historical backgrounds that shape American denominations in the nineteenth century.

Select Bibliography

Treatments of Charles Hodge and the theology of Old Princeton have spawned a massive literature. No compilation includes all that Hodge wrote, let alone the vast number of books, articles, and other treatments of his life and thought. What follows are either cited works or titles that might lead those interested in Hodge to works worthy of their attention.


———. Discourses on Church Polity. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1878.


———. “History of Theology in the Eighteenth Century by Dr. August Tholuck, Professor of Theology in the University of Halle; Translated from the German by the Editor.” Biblical Repertory 4 (1828): 9–57.


Tice, Terrence N. “Schleiermacher on the Scientific Study of Religion.” In *Friedrich Schleiermacher and the Founding of the University of Berlin: The Study of Religion as


