the 2013-2014 Elective Course Offerings at RTS Washington
Welcome to Reformed Theological Seminary Washington DC.

This brochure is designed to provide you with information about the elective courses that are being offered through RTS Washington in the 2013/2014 academic year. To learn more about the elective courses and to see a complete course listing we encourage you to visit our website at rts.edu/washington.

We pray our Lord will bless your endeavors to know and serve Him more fully with “A mind for truth. A heart for God.”
“The book of Numbers is of tremendous significance for God’s people today as we, like Israel, are on a pilgrim journey through the wilderness to the promised land.”

Rev. Stephen Coleman
The Book of Numbers
Rev. Stephen Coleman
Wednesdays, 7:30 PM-9:30 PM
September 4 – November 6

This one credit course is an exegetical study of the book of Numbers in its canonical and redemptive-historical context. Attention will be given to preaching and teaching the book of Numbers in the context of the church. The purpose of this course is to learn the content, themes, and theology of the book of Numbers with a view toward communicating its message. The students will gain an understanding of the various literary genres that comprise Numbers and a knowledge of how these parts relate to the whole.

Rev. Stephen Coleman is the son of a PCA pastor and a Maryland native. Stephen graduated from Grove City College (B.A., 2002), Westminster Seminary California (M. Div., 2005), and the Catholic University of America (M.A., 2010). Stephen lectures at RTS Washington in Old Testament and Biblical Languages. In addition to teaching at RTS Washington, Stephen serves as the Associate Pastor at Wallace Presbyterian Church in College Park, MD and is a Teaching Fellow for the Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages at The Catholic University of America where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Semitic Languages.
“Discipleship is so much more than a 10 week training program; it requires a complete reordering of one’s life around living in the kingdom with Jesus as the King. Come take a fresh look at how to be and make faithful, kingdom disciples.”

Dr. Gary Yagel
Making Kingdom Disciples
Dr. Gary Yagel & Mr. Hugh Whelchel
Friday 7:00 PM-10:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
September 13-14, 27-28 & October 11-12

In the twenty-first century, how do we practice discipleship in a way that captures the hearts of believers, gives them a biblical understanding of their vocational calling, and keeps them motivated towards spiritual growth? By helping believers see that following Christ means joining him in the establishment of wholeness and righteousness over every sphere of life. This course examines discipleship from what scripture teaches about the kingdom of God and provides students with the tools to inspire their congregation about the significance of their “secular” work.

Dr. Gary Yagel received his BA from the Penn State University, his MDiv from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, and his DMin from Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando. He worked several years for the US Department of Labor while serving as a volunteer Young Life Leader, and has served as a youth pastor, a church planter, and a senior pastor. In 2002 he became the Executive Director of Forging Bonds of Brotherhood, a ministry he founded to focus on helping churches better disciple men. He has taught his discipleship course, “Called to Be Men”, at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia and serves as the men’s ministry coach of his denomination.

Hugh Whelchel is Executive Director of the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics. Prior to assuming this post, Hugh worked in senior executive leadership in the business world and as director of Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington. Hugh is a graduate of the University of Florida and Reformed Theological Seminary. As an ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America, he serves in leadership at McLean Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia and also serves on the boards of several Christian non-profit organizations.
“Please join me as we study the life and theology of the most prominent 19th century theologian, Charles Hodge. We will learn why he was known as the ‘Pope of Presbyterianism.’ His contributions to his denomination, the cultural life of America and a wide swath of academic disciplines clearly justify why he was one the most widely recognized theologians of his era.”

Dr. Andrew Hoffecker
This one credit 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.

Dr. W. Andrew Hoffecker, Professor of Church History Emeritus, brings extensive teaching experience to Reformed Theological Seminary. As a Professor of Religion at Grove City College for 25 years, he taught a wide variety of classes: Church History, Apologetics, Systematic Theology, Missions, Medieval Philosophy, C. S. Lewis’ Apologetics, and Christianity and Culture, to name a few. He received his B.A. from Dickinson College, his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell and his Ph.D. from Brown University. He also served as a Captain in the United States Army. Dr. Hoffecker has contributed numerous historical articles in the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology and the Dictionary of Christianity in America as well as longer pieces on Benjamin B. Warfield in Makers of Christian Theology in America and C. S. Lewis in The Cresset.
“Though his theology often suffers at the hands of religion’s ‘cultured despisers,’ a recent Library of Congress exhibition spoke of Jonathan Edwards as ‘a world-class theologian, writing some of the most original and important treatises ever produced by an American.’”

Dr. David Coffin
The Theology of Jonathan Edwards
The Rev. Dr. David Coffin
Friday - Saturday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
January 3 - January 4

It is in part Edwards’ sheer genius that draws one to his thought. As one writer put it: Edwards was “the most perfect specimen of the intellectual athlete the world has ever seen.” Far more than genius, however, draws one to Edwards, for he lived his life as a spiritual athlete, heeding the Apostle’s call in Christ to train yourself for godliness. Edwards was a faithful Christian, minister of the Word, missionary, religious psychologist, controversialist, theologian, and philosopher. With respect to the last, Paul Ramsey of Princeton held that Edwards is “the greatest philosopher-theologian yet to grace the American scene.” This course will expose the student to Edwards’ genius in all its wonderfully rich forms of expression: his private notebooks, letters, sermons, and treatises.

Dr. David F. Coffin, Jr. is pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Fairfax, Virginia, a congregation he helped to plant in 1990. Dave and his wife Jennifer have been married for 40 years and they have three children and six grandchildren. Before becoming a pastor, Dave was the founder and served for nearly a decade as director of Berea Center for Biblical and Theological Studies, Mitchellville, Maryland—Dave and Jennie providing hospitality for the resident student program in their home. A graduate of St. Vincent College (Labrobe, PA) with a B.A. in Philosophy, Dave pursued studies at L’Abri Fellowship, Ligonier Valley Study Center, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, before receiving his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia, PA) in 2003.
“Effective and honest witness by the church to the world requires us to be theological maximalists. As I see it, a dozen doctrinal points on a website is inadequate for our task. We need to find creeds that are rich in theology. We also need to find historic statements of faith that have proved their usefulness over time and remind us that Christianity was not invented last Tuesday.”

Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn
In this two credit historical and theological survey of the Westminster Assembly and its work, the major documents produced by the Assembly are studied in detail, with attention also given to the historical, political and theological context of the Assembly. As a creed, the Westminster Confession of Faith is not flawless, but it is very good. It offers a wealth of doctrinal reflection, and all the raw materials for doxology. Personally, I enjoy discussing this particular confession because I can identify very closely with its teaching, and because I know something of the historical and theological ecosystem in which it developed. In commending this creed and commenting on it, I am not oblivious or unsympathetic to modern conversations in theology. But as a historian and as a Christian, I appreciate the power and majesty of classic statements of theology. I invite you to join me in January, and to grow in your own appreciation of the last great creed of the Reformation.

A Canadian by birth, Chad Van Dixhoorn is a graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary (MDiv, ThM) and the University of Cambridge (PhD). He has taught theology at the University of Nottingham, and has held three fellowships at the University of Cambridge, where he has researched the history and theology of the Westminster assembly and taught on the subject of Puritanism. He retains a visiting fellowship at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and has served as associate minister of Cambridge Presbyterian Church and Grace Presbyterian Church in Vienna, VA (current). Chad has lectured at RTS DC since 2008 where he teaches church history and practical theology.
“Protestant ministers in modern America receive many urgent and contradictory messages about the nature of their office and the scope of their duties. Biblical and historical reflection is crucial for pastors who desire to express faithfully their identity as ministers of Christ’s Church in today’s world.”

Dr. Scott Manetsch
Pastoral Care in Calvin’s Geneva
Dr. Scott Manetsch
Monday, 5:30 PM-10:00 PM
Tuesday-Wednesday, 8:30 AM-1:00 PM
March 24 - March 26

This one credit course will examine the pastoral theology of the Protestant reformer John Calvin (1509-1564), and explore ways in which he attempted to translate this vision into actual pastoral practice in sixteenth-century Geneva. Our study of preaching, church discipline, prayer and worship, and pastoral care in Calvin’s Geneva will offer rich insights into the nature of the office of Christian pastor, and provide helpful points of comparison with contemporary models of pastoral life and ministry.

Dr. Scott Manetsch is Professor of Church History and the History of Christian Thought at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, where he has taught for the last thirteen years. He holds academic degrees from Michigan State University (BA, political philosophy), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (M.Div.; M.A. Christian Thought), and the University of Arizona (Ph.D., Early Modern European History). Ordained in the Reformed Church of America, Scott served as an associate pastor of an RCA congregation in Illinois for three years before pursuing graduate work in history. In 1994-1995, he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct doctoral research in Geneva, Switzerland; his dissertation was subsequently published under the title Theodore Beza and the Quest for Peace in France, 1572-1598 (Brill, 2000). More recently, Scott’s research and writing has focused on Geneva’s religious history, the history of the pastoral office, and biblical interpretation during the age of the Reformation. His book Calvin’s Company of Pastors: Pastoral Care and the Emerging Reformed Church, 1536-1609 (Oxford) was released earlier this year. He also serves as the Associate General Editor of the Reformation Commentary on Scripture series (Inter-Varsity).
In a very real sense, Reformed Theology IS Covenant Theology, and Johannes Cocceius represents the high water mark of the Reformed church’s development of this topic. This course will thus provide great insight into both how and why Covenant Theology developed unique prominence in the Reformed tradition, and help you apply it in your teaching and preaching today.”

Dr. Brian Lee
This one credit course will explore the contribution of Johannes Cocceius (1603 – 1669) to the development of the Reformed tradition in the seventeenth century, with particular attention to federal theology. Cocceius’s approach to relating the two testaments will be put in the context of the Cocceian-Voetian debates in the Dutch Reformed Church, as well as his apologetical and polemical labors with Roman Catholics, Socinians (unitarians), and Jews.

Dr. Brian J. Lee is the founding pastor of Christ Reformed Church in Washington, DC, and is ordained as minister of Word and Sacrament in the United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA). He holds degrees from Stanford University (B.A.), Westminster Seminary California (M.A.R.) and Calvin Theological Seminary (Ph.D.), and has studied abroad in Oxford, Rome, Geneva, and Utrecht, his studies at Utrecht being supported by a Fulbright Fellowship. Dr. Lee has worked as an editor and writer for Modern Reformation Magazine and the White Horse Inn, and has authored numerous popular and scholarly articles, as well as a volume on Cocceius and the biblical origins of the Reformed doctrine of the covenant (Johannes Cocceius and the Exegetical Roots of Federal Theology). Prior to serving as Pastor at Christ Reformed he held a number of positions in government, including working as personal staff for a Member of the U.S. Congress, Communications Director at the National Endowment of the Humanities, and also at the Departments of Justice and Defense.
“Preparing for ordination is more than just ‘getting the right answers’ (although that is not a bad thing). It is also concerned with thinking through – oftentimes quickly and on your feet – biblical and theological answers to questions of enduring importance. To help students get off on the right foot in their preparations, our resident faculty are teaming up to provide room for thoughtful reflection, gentle prodding, and stimulating discussion on the Westminster Standards and a host of issues pertinent to present-day Presbyterianism.”

Dr. Howard Griffith
Preparing for Ordination
Dr. Howard Griffith, Dr. Peter Lee and Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn
Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
May 16 - May 17

This one credit course will help students prepare for examinations by presbyteries. Students will take practice exams in Bible, theology (including the Westminster Standards), polity, church history, and personal religion, in a seminar format. Discussion of current issues will be included (e.g., “Open Theism,” “New Perspective on Paul,” “Federal Vision,” women’s ordination, contemporary Roman Catholic theology, theistic evolution, inerrancy, “theonomy,” etc.).

Dr. Howard Griffith served as pastor of All Saints Reformed Presbyterian Church for 23 years and has taught Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary since 2002. He is a graduate of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia (PhD).

Dr. Peter Lee is associate professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary. Dr. Lee graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary, California (MDiv) and from the Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literature from The Catholic University of America (PhD). Dr. Lee is a former church planter and pastor.

Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn is associate professor of Church History at Reformed Theological Seminary. Dr. Van Dixhoorn is a graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary (MDiv, ThM) and the University of Cambridge (PhD). He serves as associate minister at Grace Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Va.
“A mind for truth. A heart for God.”