Systematic Theology: Ecclesiology and Sacraments
0ST519, 2 Hours

Lectures by
Scott R. Swain, Ph.D.
This course notebook is for the coordination of your course materials, including reading assignments and lecture recordings. Each course notebook for RTS Distance Education is arranged by the GUIDE acronym. The five components of GUIDE are organized in each lesson by the following steps in the notebook:

**GUIDE**

**Getting Started**  To do the lessons, reading and listening assignments are listed.

**Understanding**  To maximize learning, the purposes are given.

**Investigating**  To explore the content, outlines are provided for note taking.

**Developing**  To expand content, readings are suggested.

**Evaluating**  To help review, lesson questions are based on purposes.
COURSE SYLLABUS
ST: Eccl, Sacraments; 0ST519 2 hours
Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:
Dr. Scott R. Swain
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Lecturing Professor
Dr. Scott R. Swain joined the faculty of Reformed Theological Seminary in 2006. Prior to that, he taught theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois and served on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Academic Dean on the Orlando campus.

In his teaching and research, Dr. Swain seeks to retrieve the riches of patristic, medieval, and Reformation patterns of biblical interpretation and theologizing for the sake of the contemporary church’s renewal according to the Word of God. With Michael Allen, he edits two series that endeavor to embody a theology of “renewal through retrieval”: Zondervan Academic’s New Studies in Dogmatics and T & T Clark’s International Theological Commentary. Dr. Swain’s main research interests include the doctrine of God and the theological interpretation of Scripture. At present, he is working on a book on the divine names.

Dr. Swain is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. He and his wife, Leigh, have four children.

Course Description
This course explores biblical doctrine from a systematic perspective. Topics include Ecclesiology and Sacraments.

Course Objectives
To contemplate, appreciate, and apply the doctrines of Church and Sacraments as they are revealed in Holy Scripture and summarized in the Reformed Confessions to the end that God might be glorified “in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations” (Ephesians 3:21).

The study of the doctrines of the Church will include:
• Its ontological and epistemological foundations.
• The unity and progression of the church in redemptive history in its promissory form, pattern and prophesy form, and perfect eschatological form.
• The modes, marks, and ministry of the Church.

The study of the Sacraments of the Church will include:
• Examining them as the signs and seals of the covenant of grace.
• Identification and number of sacraments in the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches.
• A careful study of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
Required Reading
Ephesians (students are required to read Ephesians slowly and prayerfully at least four times)


All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>. 
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
ST: Ecc, Sacraments; 0ST519 2 hours
Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:
Dr. Scott R. Swain
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Online Student Handbook
The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS Distance Education website (www.rts.edu/distance) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Requirements
• Listen to all recorded lectures
• Complete all readings and submit a reading report
• Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and the professors)
• Take the Midterm and Final exam
• Write the research paper
• Submit Mentor Report/Course Application Paper
• Submit Course Completion Form

Forum Discussions (15%)
The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:
1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
   A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
   B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student’s answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question therefore requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts =10 total posts).
   C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
   • A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.
Examinations (Midterm 20%, Final 20%)

There will be two examinations for this course. The midterm will cover all the lectures and assigned readings from Lessons 1-7, the final exam will cover all the lectures and assigned readings from Lessons 8-11.

Exams will test students’ critical grasp of doctrinal topics covered in class lectures, readings, and the Reformed confessions as well as their ability to communicate doctrinal topics in a clear manner.

The student should use the Lesson Review Questions and the Topical Discussion Questions to guide them in their preparation and study for the exams. The format for the midterm and final exams will be two long essay questions and four short answer questions. The student will have two hours to complete the exam.

The exams for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

Research Paper (30%)

The student will write and submit a 10-12 page research paper (12 pt. font and double spaced) with appropriate footnoting and bibliography according to Turabian style. The paper must also:

- Have a proper and clear thesis, introduction, structure, and conclusion
- Consider and investigate the relevant information competently and fairly to all sides
- Interact with both primary and secondary material
- Demonstrate that the student has synthesized the materials coming to their own conclusion, and has clearly thought about it ‘theologically’ and practically
- Cite at least five scholarly sources that are not part of the required reading of this course
- Cite at least two scholarly journal articles

Papers will be evaluated based on their ability (1) to articulate a clear thesis that rests upon sound biblical and theological argumentation and that addresses the strongest counterarguments to the thesis; (2) to engage with appropriate scholarly resources; (3) to follow the above prescribed format.

Required Readings (10%)

Reading assignments are broken down week by week within the Learning Management System (LMS). As an assignment, the student will be asked to report the percentage of reading they have completed in the LMS. The student will receive credit according to the percentage of reading completed.

Mentor Report / Course Application Paper (5%)

Each Global/Non-Residential student is required to have a mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student’s grade. For students who are not Global/Non-Residential, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.
Assignments

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education
2101 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 900-1257
1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/distance
Lesson One
Principles of Reformed Ecclesiology

Lesson Two
The Church Defined

Lesson Three
The Story of the Church, Part One

Lesson Four
The Story of the Church, Part Two

Lesson Five
The Story of the Church, Part Three

Lesson Six
The Modes and Marks of the Church

Lesson Seven
The Ministry of the Church

Lesson Eight
Signed, Sealed, and Delivered: An Introduction to the Sacraments

Lesson Nine
The Sacrament of Baptism

Lesson Ten
The Proper Subjects of Baptism

Lesson Eleven
The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper


Luther, Martin. *On the Councils of the Church*.


# Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Systematic Theology 519: Ecclesiology and Sacraments  
**Professor:** Dr. Scott Swain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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>** Desire for Worldview**</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</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>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAR Specific SLO</strong></td>
<td>An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one’s own calling in society</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>