Reformed Theological Seminary
Spring 2016

ST 518 Systematic Theology III 3 Hrs.
Wednesday 8:00 – 10:55 A.M.

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Description (as per RTS Catalogue)
“A continuation of 1ST512 Systematic Theology II. The course topics include soteriology, ecclesiology, sacraments and eschatology” (p.72).

Prerequisites
Ideally, students will have completed the following courses prior to this course: ST601 “Covenant Theology”; ST 506 “Doctrine of Scripture”; ST 508 “Systematic Theology I”; ST 512 “Systematic Theology II.”

Students who have not completed these courses or who desire a theological refresher should consult J. I. Packer, Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs (Tyndale, 1988) and Louis Berkhof, Manual of Christian Doctrine (Eerdmans 2002 [1933]).

Course Objectives
(1) To survey the Scripture’s teaching falling under the topical headings of soteriology (the application of redemption), ecclesiology (the doctrine of the church), the sacraments (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper), and eschatology (death, the intermediate state, the return of Christ, the eternal state).
(2) To enable the student better to grasp the doctrines comprehended under these loci, to understand these doctrines’ exegetical and biblical-theological foundations, to acquaint students with both historical and contemporary discussions concerning these loci, to assist students in communicating these doctrines in preaching, teaching, and counseling.
(3) to help the student better to grasp and appreciate the confessional and catechetical expressions of these loci in the Westminster Standards.
(4) To introduce the student to non-Reformed and non-evangelical systems of theology, and assist the student in bringing Reformed theology to bear on these particular systems.
(5) To help prepare students for licensure and ordination trials in the church

Theological Standpoint
This course will be taught from a full and ex animo commitment to the Westminster Standards as containing the system of doctrine contained in the Scripture; as adopted by the PCA. The instructor regards the following theologians as among the ablest exponents of biblical doctrine in the church since the Reformation, and as most influential upon his own theological formation and perspective – the sixteenth century Reformer, John Calvin; the late seventeenth century Genevan, Francis Turretin; the English Puritans generally, but especially John Owen and
Jonathan Edwards (yes, he saw himself as an Englishman); the Free Church of Scotland theologians, especially William Cunningham, James Bannerman, and George Smeaton; the Old Princetonians, especially A.A. Hodge and B.B. Warfield; the Southern Presbyterians, especially Robert L. Dabney and Thomas E. Peck.

**Required Texts (Primary)** (see below for page assts.; note the abbreviations; please note that this is not a comprehensive list)
(1) The Holy Bible, preferably in a recent translation such as the New American Standard or the English Standard Version. Students who are competent in Hellenistic Greek are strongly encouraged to bring their Greek New Testaments to each class session.
(2) Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (pp. 459-738) [B]
(3) John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (pp.79-181) [M]
(4) Sinclair Ferguson, *Children of the Living God*
(5) Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit* [F]
(6) A.A. Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future* (all) [Hoek]
(7) Richard B. Gaffin, *Resurrection and Redemption*
(8) J. Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book III, Chapters 6-10
(10) Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms (WCF 9-33). Recommended but not required is a harmony of the Standards (e.g. M. Smith, B. Green). [WCF]

**Assignments & Requirements**
(1) A mid-term exam, worth 25% of your final grade. The mid-term exam will be a take home exam. It will be due at 8:00 A.M., Wed March 16. No Late Mid-Term Exams Will Be Accepted.

(2) A final exam will be taken during final exam week and will be cumulative. The final exam must be taken on the date posted by the seminary. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. The final exam is worth 30% of your final grade.

(3) Weekly quizzes on the assigned reading. Each quiz will cover all the assigned reading for that particular week. You may not access quizzes previously administered in this course. On each quiz you will be asked to report the extent of your reading for that week. The quizzes are worth 30% of your final grade. Please note that the first reading quiz will be the week of Feb 01.

(4) Read each of the following books – Calvin, Owen, and Gaffin (see readings above). Each book ‘presents three fundamental dimensions of central aspects of the application of redemption. Each stands in the Reformed tradition’ and each ‘introduces [one] to three distinct periods of theological exposition: the Reformation, the Puritan, and the Modern’ (SBF). For each book, prepare a 3-5 page paper in which you do each of the following – 1) summarize the contents of the book 2) articulate and respond to the thesis of the book 3) raise areas where you would like further clarity or explanation, or raise areas of particular agreement or disagreement. 4) Report (in percentage) the extent of your reading. 5% each (15% of your final grade).

**Course Format**
The primary format of this course will be lecture. Because of the breadth of material the Seminary has asked us to survey in this course, the lectures will be necessarily selective. They will cover all the topics but they will not cover them in uniform depth. The readings, however, do survey the topics thoroughly, so the students are especially encouraged to be faithful in and attentive to the assigned readings.
Attendance
Class attendance is required for ST 518. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student to a reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade. Two tardies (arriving after the beginning of the hour) constitute an hour of unexcused absence. Students missing more than one session (for any reason) may either submit an additional, compensatory assignment [determined by the instructor] or choose to receive a full letter grade reduction in their final grade.

Grading Scale
The grading scale for this course is the seminary’s grading scale. You may find it listed at the RTS Catalog, p.44.

Plagiarism
Please review the seminary’s policy on plagiarism. Plagiarized work will subject the student to failure in the course and possible disciplinary action.

In-Class Computer Use
Computers and tablets are not permitted in this course. Cell phones must be set to silent and stowed. If for some extraordinary reason you need to take a call, you may either wait until the break or leave the classroom.

Approximate Course Schedule
Please note that this schedule is approximate and subject to change at any time. The instructor’s announced changes in class will be the final word on the nature and date of assignments. They are the student’s sole responsibility to note and to implement.

27 Jan  
Course Introductions  
Week 01  
A Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit’s Ministry  

03 Feb  
Union with Christ  
Week 02  
The Ordo Salutis  
**Required** – F. 93-113; B. 415-453; M. 161-173 [=70pp.]

10 Feb  
Effectual Calling  
Week 03  
Regeneration  
**Required** – F. 115-138; B. 454-479; M. 88-105 [=68 pp.]

17 Feb  
Faith  
Week 04  
Repentance  

24 Feb  Justification  Week 05
Required – B. 510-526; M. 117-131; [=40pp.]

02 Mar  Justification  Week 06
Required – M. 132-140; Ferguson, Children of the Living God  [=152 pp.]

19 Mar  Spring Break – Classes Will Not Meet

16 Mar  Sanctification  Week 07
Required – F. 139-189; B. 527-544; M. 141-150; WCF 23-26 [=76 pp.]

23 Mar  Perseverance  Week 08
Required – OWEN DUE. B. 545-549; M. 151-181; R. L. Dabney, Lectures, pp. 687-698; J. Edwards, “True Grace Distinguished from the Experience of Devils” [= approx.. 70 pp.]
Recommended – Edwards, The Religious Affections; Thomas Brooks, Heaven on Earth

30 Mar  The Church  Week 09
Required – B. 553-603; B. 604-621; F. 191-239; WCF 25-29 [=118 pp.]

06 Apr  Baptism  Week 10
Required – B. 622-643; David Wright, ed., Baptism: Three Views, pp. 77-137; [=81 pp.]

13 Apr  The Lord’s Supper  Week 11
Required – B.644-658; Hoek 3-108  [= 119 pp.]
Recommended – J. A. Alexander, God Is Love; John Brown, Discourses Suited to the Administration of the Lord’s Supper. Waters and Duncan, Children and the Lord’s Supper.
20 Apr  The Last Things  Week 12
Required – GAFFIN DUE. F. 241-255; Hoek 109-193; WCF 30-33 [= 98 pp.]
Recommended – C. Venema, The Promise of the Future; Berkouwer, The Return of Christ;

27 Apr  Conclusions  Week 13
Required – Hoek 194-316; B. 661-738 [=198 pp.]

TOTAL PAGES OF ASSIGNED READING – 1,249

Select Bibliography – Leading or Representative Systematic Theologies

Reformed
Herman Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics (4 vols.)
Herman Bavinck, Our Reasonable Faith
James P. Boyce, Abstract of Systematic Theology
John Brown, Natural and Revealed Theology
John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion (2 vols.)
Robert L. Dabney, Lectures on Systematic Theology
John Dick, Lectures on Theology (2 vols.)
Charles Hodge, Systematic Theology (3 vols.)
A. A. Hodge, Outlines of Theology
Michael S. Horton, Christian Faith
John Murray, Collected Writings, Volume 2 [=Classroom Lectures on Theology]
Robert L. Reymond, A New Systematic Theology
W. G. T. Shedd, Dogmatic Theology (3 vols.; repr. in 1 vol.)
Augustus H. Strong, Outlines of Systematic Theology (3 vols.)
Francis Turretin, Institutes of Elenctic Theology (3 vols.)

Lutheran
Francis Pieper, Christian Dogmatics (4 vols.)
John Theodore Mueller, Christian Dogmatics

Arminian
Richard Watson, Theological Institutes (2 vols.)
Norman Geisler, Systematic Theology (4 vols.)

Dispensational
Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology
Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology (8 vols.; repr. in 4 vols.)

Roman Catholic
Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica (5 vols.)
Ludwig Ott, Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma
The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2d ed.)
Denzinger and Hunermann, Enchiridion Symbolorum: A Compendium of Creeds, Confessions, and Declarations of the Catholic Church
**Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

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<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Articulation</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>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</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>
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<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
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<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
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<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed</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>
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<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
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<td>Shepherd</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>
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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
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