

WESTMINSTER STANDARDS AND REFORMATION CREEDS

MINI-SYLLABUS

Note: This syllabus is the “mini-syllabus” and is not to be confused w/ the large syllabus that contains all the class-lecture notes, biblio, various articles, etc. This large syllabus will be posted on “Canvas” and is needed for all the class lectures. For the first day of class, the student should be prepared w/ either a hard-copy of the large syllabus or have it downloaded to his laptop.

Note: No prerequisites for this course.

PROFESSOR

* Dr. Bob Cara (technically, Dr. Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.)

PURPOSE OF COURSE

* The course will concentrate about ½ on the Westminster Standards (WS) and ½ on other creeds (primarily Reformation [Lutheran and Reformed] creeds).

* The over arching purpose is to *equip* the student *to use creeds* for one’s self, for one’s ministry, and in public worship.

- * Learn well content of WS.
- * Be familiar enough w/ several other Reformation creeds to be comfortable using them.
- * Have minimal awareness of some non-Reformation creeds.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading.

- * WS and other assigned creeds.
- * Vos’ *The Larger Catechism: A Commentary*.
- * Either vol 1 or 2 or 3 of Lig Duncan’s (ed.) *Westminster Confession into the 21st Century*.
- * Trueman’s *The Creedal Imperative*

2. WS: Factoid Questions (100).

- * Located in mega-syllabus.
- * Do not hand in but some questions will be verbatim on test.
- * Cara will not answer these questions. You may/should enquire of fellow students *in this class*.

3. Lecture Review Questions (LRQ).

- * Located at the beginning of each lecture.
- * Do not hand in but some questions will be verbatim on test.
- * Cara will not answer these questions directly (except as part of lecture). You may/should enquire of fellow students *in this class*.

4. Class Participation.

- * Student must attend and sign that he has read assigned reading for that week.
- * Student must *intelligently* participate in class.
- * One “free” bad or no participation.

5. Psalter.

- * Lose points if don't bring and sing.

GRADES

- * Test—70% of grade.
 - * 1 test during Finals week.
 - * 85 % of test will be *verbatim* questions from LRQ's and Factoids. The remaining 15% of test will be miscellaneous questions from lectures and readings.
- * Class Participation—20% of grade. [Includes reading of Vos and assigned Creeds.]
- * Read either vol 1 or 2 or 3 of Lig Duncan's (ed.) *Westminster Confession into the 21st Century* and Trueman's *The Creedal Imperative*.
 - * 10% of grade.
 - * Must have read 100% to get any credit.
 - * Due for Final.

TEXTBOOKS

- * *Trinity Psalter*
- * Schaff's *The Creeds of Christendom*, vol 3, *The Evangelical Protestant Creeds* (1931).
- * *Westminster Confession of Faith*. Free Presbyterian Publications. [Need this version as we will look at additional documents in this book.]
- * Vos' *The Westminster Larger Catechism: Commentary*
- * Duncan's (ed.) *The Westminster Confession into the 21st Century*. 3 Vols. [Only need to read one of the three volumes.]
- * Trueman's *The Creedal Imperative*