

ST 517—Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology
Reformed Theological Seminary—Orlando, FL
Winter 2019

Instructor: Justin S. Holcomb
Email: jholcomb@rts.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Dates

Online Dates: December 3, 2018– January 13, 2019
In Class Dates: January 14-18, 2019
Course Completion Date: February 1, 2019

Course Description

This course explores the doctrines of Scripture from a systematic perspective. Topics include Christology, Soteriology, and Eschatology.

Course Objectives

Comprehension

- To increase your knowledge of Christology, the doctrine of Christ's person
- To increase your knowledge of Soteriology, the doctrine of Christ's work for us
- To increase your knowledge of Eschatology, the doctrine of our hope in the gospel

Competence

- To sharpen your ability to read, think, and write about systematic theology with clarity and perception
- To sharpen your ability to think synthetically about how various theological topics relate to one another

Character

- To grow in your faith, better appreciating the glory of the gospel
- To grow in your hope, more perceptively longing for the return of Christ
- To grow in your love, reflecting the generosity of God back to others

Course Reading

Michael Allen and Scott R. Swain, eds., *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016). ISBN 9780801048944.

Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Unity of Christ* (Popular Patristics Series 13; Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995), pages 49-133. ISBN 9780881411331.

Robert Sherman, *King, Priest, and Prophet: A Trinitarian Theology of Atonement* (Theology for the Twenty-First Century; London: T & T Clark, 2004). ISBN 9780567025609.

Note: while this paperback book is quite expensive new (even through Amazon), you can find lots of very inexpensive used options (in the Amazon marketplace) as well as a much more reasonable version on Logos Bible Software.

B.B. Warfield, "Emotional Life of Our Lord" (provided electronically)

John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book II.6, 9-12, 14-16 (provided electronically)

John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book II.15-17 (provided electronically)

John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book III.1-3 and 11 (provided electronically)

John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book III.25 (provided electronically)

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, pp. 695-737 (provided electronically)

G. K. Beale, "The Eschatological Conception of New Testament Theology" (provided electronically)

Herman Ridderbos, "The Structure of Paul's Theology" (provided electronically)

Michael Allen, "Place of Justification" and "Justification and Participation" (provided electronically)

John Webster, "The Holiness of the Christian" (provided electronically)

Course Assignments

Reading

You will read most of three books during the online portion of the class:

- Michael Allen and Scott R. Swain, eds., *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016).
- Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Unity of Christ* (Popular Patristics Series 13; Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995), pages 49-133.
- Robert Sherman, *King, Priest, and Prophet: A Trinitarian Theology of Atonement* (Theology for the Twenty-First Century; London: T & T Clark, 2004).

You will also read several PDFs provided on Canvas in preparation for classroom discussion during our week together on campus.

This class is a reading course. The bulk of your work circles around careful reading. Focus your time and efforts on reading.

Reading Briefs

Students are expected to prepare a brief for each of the five chapters assigned from *Christian Dogmatics*, edited by Swain and Allen. The purpose of the brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument of the assigned readings, as well as to state one's own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the readings (so long as page numbers are referenced). Briefs should be between 400-500 words.

Final Research Paper

Students will write a research paper on one topic discussed in class readings or lectures. The student will demonstrate familiarity with major literature and will show competence in dealing fairly with that material. We will discuss the paper in class. The last class before it is due will be spent in significant group discussion of your research and outlining. The paper should be 2000-2500 words.

Final papers are due on February 1, 2019, by 11:00 a.m.

Discussion Posts and Replies

During the online portion of the class, students will submit their reading briefs to the public discussion board the week that chapters from *Christian Dogmatics* are assigned. Students are also assigned to comment on at least two classmates's reading briefs.

In responding to one another, students will practice *critical charity*: engaging the work of others *critically*, that is, analytically and thoughtfully, and *charitably*, that is, with a loving tone and goal of not merely encouraging but also helping others further explore the truth. Part of growing in pastoral ability involves developing the ability to exhort with gentleness, to offer critique with a smile or hug, and to have a backbone without being a jerk. Engaging one another provides opportunity for practicing your commitment to pursue the truth in love with one another.

Grading and Academic Standards

Grades are apportioned as follows:

Reading Briefs	50%
Final Paper	50%

Grades may be adjusted based on issues regarding attendance and participation in class. Class

attendance and participation are a central part of this course. If you should miss a class, you are expected to contact another student regarding the information covered.

Late assignments will be graded down 33% for each 24 hours late.

All written assignments should be submitted in Word format. Assignments should be double-spaced with 1" margins on all sides and formatted in Times New Roman 12 point type. Assignments must be submitted electronically.

Course Schedule

Online Schedule

Week of December 3

The Covenant of Redemption

Read—*CD*, ch. 5 (“The Covenant of Redemption”)

The Covenant of Grace

Read—Calvin, *Institutes*, bk. 2, chs. 10-11 (provided electronically)

Week of December 10

The Incarnation

Read—Cyril, *On the Unity of Christ*

Week of December 17

The Incarnation

Read—*CD*, ch. 10 (“Incarnation”)

Week of December 24

Humiliation and Exaltation

Read—Sherman, chs. 2-5

Work of Christ

Read *CD*, ch. 11 (“The Work of Christ Accomplished”)

Week of December 31

Justification

Read—*CD*, ch. 12 (“The Work of Christ Applied”)

Read—Allen, “Place of Justification” and “Justification and Participation”
(provided electronically)

Week of January 7

Sanctification

Read—Sherman, chs. 6-7

The Return of Christ

Read—*CD*, ch. 16 (“Kingdom of God”)

In Class Schedule

January 14

Topic

- Titles of Jesus Christ
- Overview of Christ and salvation in theology

Reading:

- John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book II.6, 9-12, and 14 (person of Christ)

January 15

Topic:

- Person of Christ: Nicea
- Person of Christ: Chalcedon

Reading:

- B.B. Warfield, “Emotional Life of Our Lord”
- John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book II.15-17

January 16

Topic:

- Views of Atonement
- Why Atonement: Sinner and Sinned Against
- Specific Works of Christ Applied

- Effects of Atonement: Who is my Neighbor?

Reading:

- G. K. Beale, “The Eschatological Conception of New Testament Theology”
- Herman Ridderbos, “The Structure of Paul’s Theology”

January 17

Topic

- Regeneration
- Justification
- Faith and Works
- Sanctification

Reading:

- John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book III.1-3 and 11
- James 2, Romans 4, Gen 15, and Gen 22
- Read—John Webster, “The Holiness of the Christian” (provided electronically)

January 18

Topic:

- Eschatology

Reading:

- John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book III.25
- Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, pp. 695-737
- Daniel 9 and Matthew 24

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02ST517

Professor: Justin Holcomb

Campus: Orlando

Date: Winter 2019

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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	Weekly writing requirements develop ability to gather appropriate content and communicate it in a clear and compelling manner.
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.)	Strong	Focuses on broad, canonical teaching of Holy Scripture upon certain fundamental doctrinal topics, as they develop exegetically.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Topics of Christology, Soteriology, and Eschatology introduced as taught in Reformed tradition. Analysis of relevant WCF chapters.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Direct study of sanctification in residential week, focusing on Christ's agency in maturing Christians in the present tense.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Develops systematic and coherent framework for interpreting all of life in a biblical, Reformed manner.
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	Introduces many classical precursors to Reformed theology, noting the way in which the Reformation was a modification or renewal movement within classical Christianity rather than its repudiation or replacement, as well as contributions made by later traditions other than the Reformed.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	Macro-understanding of whole counsel of God developed so exposition of any text can be done with a greater sense of breadth, emphasis, and proportion.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Macro-understanding of whole counsel of God developed so development of liturgy (whether fixed or free) can be done with a greater sense of breadth, emphasis, and proportion.
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.	Minimal	Focus upon application of salvation enables student to consider regular means of grace and normal course of Christian discipleship in light of the gospel promises.

Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Macro-understanding of whole counsel of God provides a framework for viewing key cultural issues in a theological lens.
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