

Scripture, Authority & Origins of the NT Canon (03DM876)

January 7-11, 2019

I. Details

- A. Time: Jan 7-11: Mon (1PM-5PM); Tues-Thurs (9AM-5PM), Friday (9AM-12PM)
- B. Professor: Dr. Michael J. Kruger
Email: mkruger@rts.edu

II. Description

This class is designed to explore key issues related to the origins and authority of the NT canon:

1. The Self-Authenticating Nature of Scripture
2. The Development of the New Testament Canon
3. The Role of Apocryphal Writings in Early Christianity
4. Recent Attacks on the Reliability and Historicity of the Gospels

III. Purpose

- A. To gain familiarity with key scholarly issues related to biblical authority.
- B. To learn about the distinctive historical circumstances that led to the development of the New Testament canon.
- C. To be able to uphold and defend the authenticity of the canonical Gospels.
- D. To be reassured about the authority of Scripture and be able to reassure others as well.

IV. Course Requirements

- A. Class participation
 - Interact with material in class as appropriate
 - Engage material through questions and discussions
- B. Reading Report
 - Pick one of the assigned readings (see below) and write a 5-page reflection paper **to be turned in on the first day of class.**
- C. Research Paper
 - Serious paper **approximately 20 pages in length (typed and 1.5 space, not double spaced)** due on April 30, 2019. Papers must be mailed and postmarked by due date.
 - The paper should have footnotes (not endnotes) and follow the Standard *SBL* format, as outlined in, *The SBL Handbook of Style*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999).
 - Paper must have a properly formatted bibliography at the end.
 - Paper topic: Pick an issue related to biblical authority (whether covered in class or in the readings) and write a paper analysing that issue and defending the truth of Scripture. Then consider ways that issue can be addressed in a contemporary church/ministry context.

V. Grading

- A. Reading report—20%
- B. Research Paper—80%

VI. Required Reading

- A. Michael J. Kruger, *Canon Revisited* (Crossway, 2012). All.
- B. Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* (2nd ed.; Eerdmans, 2017). All.
- C. Michael Bird, *The Gospel of the Lord: How the Early Church Wrote the Story of Jesus* (Eerdmans, 2014), All.
- D. Larry W. Hurtado, *The Earliest Christian Artifacts* (Eerdmans, 2006). All.
- E. Andreas Köstenberger and Michael J. Kruger, *The Heresy of Orthodoxy* (Crossway, 2010), 1-101; 179-231.
- F. John Owen, “The Divine Original: Authority, Self-Evidencing Light, and Power of the Scriptures,” in *The Works of John Owen*, Vol. 16 (Banner of Truth, 1988), 297-421.

Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 03DM876
 Professor: Kruger
 Campus: Charlotte
 Date: January, 2019

| <u>DMin* Student Learning Outcomes</u> | | <u>Rubric</u> | <u>Mini-Justification</u> |
|---|--|---|--|
| <i>In order to measure the success of the DMin 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 DMin outcomes.</i> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None | |
| Biblical/ Theological Foundations: | Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.) | Strong | Course covers issues related to authority of Scripture and its importance for ministry |
| Historical/ Contemporary Practices: | Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry. | Moderate | Course will cover how biblical authority is being eroded both in the present and historical church |
| Integration: | Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting. | Moderate | Course will discuss how modern pastors can uphold and defend authority of Scripture in their congregations |
| Sanctification: | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student's sanctification. | Strong | In as much as the course encourages trust in God's word, then it will lead to sanctification in life of the student. |