

ST515 – Systematic Theology

Scripture, Theology Proper & Anthropology

Reformed Theological Seminary
Houston, Summer 2018

I. Details

- a. Dates: This course will meet the following weekends:

July 13-14
July 20-21
July 27-28
August 3-4

- b. Times:

Fridays – 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Saturdays – 8:00 AM to 3:00PM

- a. Instructor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell

- b. Contact: mmcdowell@rts.edu

II. Course Description

- a. To orient and familiarize the student to the biblical teaching and theological categories of the Doctrine of Scripture, the Doctrine of God, and the Doctrine of Man

III. Course Requirements

- a. *Class Participation*: includes attendance of all classes and active participation and contribution in class discussion
- b. *Readings*: Readings should be completed before they are considered in class. All readings not listed in the required reading section will be found on reserve. A reading report, detailing the percentage of work read will be included in the final exam
- c. *Midterm (TBD) and Final Exams (TBD)*: Exams will test understanding and comprehension of material covered in class, readings, and the ability to articulate and communicate theological material in a clear way

- d. Theological Research Paper: Students will write a 12-15 page paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt font). The paper must treat a doctrinal topic related to the content of the class, that is, broadly, Scripture, Theology Proper and Anthropology. To make the essay more specific in nature, please consult your instructor to discuss this, ideally no later than Thanksgiving. Standard *SBL* format ought to be followed. Footnotes to be used (not endnotes)

IV. Grading

a. Reading Report	10%
b. Midterm exam	25%
c. Final exam	25%
d. Theological Research Paper	40%

V. Textbooks

Allen & Swain, (eds.), *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Baker Academic, 2016)

D.A. Carson, 'Sin's Contemporary Significance' in *Fallen: A Theology of Sin*, (eds.) Morgan and Peterson (Wheaton: Crossway), pp. 21-37

Gilles Emery, *The Trinity: An Introduction to Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God* (Catholic University of America Press, 2011)

Hans Madueme, "'The Most Vulnerable Part of the Whole Christian Account": Original Sin and Modern Science', *Adam, the Fall, and Original Sin: Theological, Biblical and Scientific Perspectives* (Baker Academic, 2014)

John Murray, *The Imputation of Adam's Sin* (P&R Publishing, 1977)

T.F. Torrance, *The Christian Doctrine of God: One Being Three Persons* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, p. 1996)

Timothy Ward, *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God* (IVP Academic, 2009)

B.B. Warfield, *Revelation and Inspiration* (Grand Rapids, Baker, 2000)

VI. Schedule

Class 1 – July 13-14

Assignments:

- Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book*, pp. 1-22; 79-109
- B.B. Warfield, *Revelation and Inspiration*, pp. 3-50
- Timothy Ward, *Words of Life* (All)

Class 2 - July 20-21

Assignments:

- Torrance, *Christian Doctrine of God* (All)
- Swain and Allen, *Christian Dogmatics*, chapters 3-4

Class 3 – July 27-28

Assignments:

- Emery, *The Trinity* (All)
- Swain and Allen, *Christian Dogmatics*, chapters 6-8

Class 4 – August 3-4

Assignments:

- D.A. Carson, 'Sin's Contemporary Significance'
- Madueme, 'Original Sin and Modern Science'
- Murray, *The Imputation of Adam's Sin* (All)

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
With Mini-Justification**

Course: ST 515
 Professor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Summer 2018

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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	Exams, theological research paper, reading
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	Each theological locus finds its explanation, elaboration and authority in the canonical teaching of Holy Scripture
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Students are guided in this theology course by the Reformed Theology as it is articulated in the Westminster Standards
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God and God's works that aid and encourages the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Emphasized in class, readings and enabled through research for paper
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	This course enables students to see the coherence these doctrines bring to the understanding of reality
Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic	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	Approaches theological loci of other traditions in a warm, courteous, respectful and appreciative manner
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Emphasis on God in himself, God's works helps students to grasp deeper understanding of Scripture
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Studying identity and actions of God will lead the student into richer worship, both individually and corporately
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.	Moderate	Seeing God as the Great Shepherd of His people and the ways He Shepherds in creation and providence shapes our pastoral imagination
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Broad understanding of cultural issues are informed by a theological framework

