

ST502 Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary

Fall 2018—Atlanta Campus

Dr. Guy M. Richard

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 4pm – 6pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to exegetical, theological, historical, and practical aspects of ministry within the Reformed tradition.

Course Objectives

1. Help students understand and process what it means to be called to ministry and, for those who are so called, to be able to articulate their call.
2. Offer students guidance and help for their time in seminary, so that they not only survive but thrive during this unique educational experience.
3. Offer students a biblical-theological framework for thinking about the work of pastoral leadership as well as practical helps for preparing them to work within the church as leaders and pastors.
4. Prepare students so that they are not surprised by conflict and criticism and so that, when it arises, they can handle it Christianly and can use it for the advancement of the gospel in their own lives and the lives of others.
5. Familiarize students with the basics of Reformed theology, their biblical foundations, historical expressions and challenges, and practical applications to life and ministry.

Course Requirements

I. Required Reading: Students will be required to read the following texts during the course:

1. Edmund P. Clowney, *Called to the Ministry* (P&R, 1976), 90 pages.
2. David Mathis and Jonathan Parnell, *How to Stay Christian in Seminary* (Crossway, 2014), 80 pages.
3. Thabiti M. Anyabwile, *The Faithful Preacher: Recapturing the Vision of Three Pioneering African-American Pastors* (Crossway, 2007), 169 pages.
4. Kelly M. Kopic, *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology* (IVP, 2012), 126 pages.
5. BB Warfield, *The Religious Life of the Theological Student* (P&R), 15 pages.
6. William Cunningham, *An Introduction to Theological Studies* (A Press, 1992), 119 pages.
7. RC Sproul, *What is Reformed Theology?* (Baker, 2016), 272 pages.

II. Class Attendance

As per seminary policy, you are required to attend all the lectures. If you know that you will be unable to attend class on a certain date, please inform me in advance. Otherwise there may be a penalty for your absence.

III. Evaluation

1. **Reading (40%). Due date: last day of class, November 27.**

The reading assignments for this class are important. Therefore, you will be required to complete all of them. On the last day of class you will be asked to write down what percentage of the reading you have completed. That will be your grade for the reading portion of the course.

2. Reflection Papers (30%). Due date: on or before December 12.

You will write seven (7) one-page reflection papers, one paper on each of the main books assigned in the course. Please heed the following instructions:

- (1) Each reflection paper should respond to the book assigned by answering the following question: *In what way(s) does/should this book shape my approach to, preparation for, and engagement in ministry?*
- (2) Each paper should be no more than 2 pages in length and no less than 1 page.
- (3) Each paper should be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font.
- (4) Late papers will warrant a deduction of 3 percentage points, per day late, off the final grade for that paper.

3. Research Paper (30%). Due date: on or before December 12.

You will write a 10-12 page paper on one of the 5 points of Calvinism OR on one of the 5 *solae* of the Reformation. You can choose which one of these 10 “articles of the faith” you would like to write about. Your paper needs to defend or to refute the selected “article.” Please heed the following instructions:

- (1) Each paper should include a clear statement of the article being defended or refuted, as well as an argument for or against that article. That argument must be based first on careful exegesis of Scripture (please show your exegesis in the paper) and on historical and theological arguments as well. *Please use original languages if you know them.*
- (2) Each paper should be a RESEARCH paper. In other words, I am looking for you to read widely in the area of your proposed article. You should cite *at least* 10 good, scholarly sources in your bibliography and interact with those sources throughout the paper, citing them in your footnotes. Use these sources to support your critique or defense of the article. Please note: Wikipedia is NOT a scholarly source! I am interested in published articles or books primarily. On rare occasions, a website might serve in this capacity. But this is rare.
- (3) All papers should use footnotes (NOT endnotes) and be written according to the style advocated by Kate Turabian in *A Manual for Writers*. If you don’t own a copy of Turabian, you should consider buying one. You will use it throughout your seminary experience.
- (4) Each paper should show an awareness of at least 2 objections to your position. So, for example, if you are arguing *for* a certain article of faith, you will need to show that you are aware of at least 2 objections to that article and then to respond to those 2 objections biblically and theologically.
- (5) Each paper should also show how the selected article applies practically to life and ministry.
- (6) Each paper should be no less than 10 pages in length and no more than 12 and should be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font.
- (7) Late papers will warrant a deduction of 3 percentage points, per day late, off the final grade for the paper.

- (8) All papers should contain a title page with the following information: name and year of course; student name; professor's name; title of the paper; and date of submission.

Course Lecture Schedule

The following is the tentative schedule for the course:

August 28	Introductions, Syllabus, Why seminary?
September 4	How to do seminary
September 11	Calling to Ministry
September 18	What does the Bible teach us about Ministry?
September 25	Intro to Ministry Leadership
October 2	Surviving and thriving in ministry
October 9	Surviving and thriving in ministry
October 16	Intro to Reformed theology
October 23	Intro to Reformed theology
October 30	Five points of Calvinism
November 6	Five points of Calvinism
November 13	Five <i>solas</i> of the Reformation
November 20	No class, Fall break and Thanksgiving holidays
November 27	Five <i>solas</i> of the Reformation

Office Hours

The professor is available to meet with students on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment at other times. Please email Allison Knight at aknight@rts.edu to schedule an appointment or stop by during office hours before class.

Assignments

Please be sure that everything you hand in has your full name on it plus a way for me to contact you (email address, physical address, phone number...or all three).

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST502 Intro to Pastoral and Theol Studies

Professor: Guy M. Richard

Campus: Atlanta

Date: Fall 2018

<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	The course strongly engages Scripture. The students are expected to be able to articulate and defend the Bible's teaching.
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	Students will spend a significant amount of time studying and meditating upon Scripture and historical interpretations of it.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	This course examines issues raised by Reformed Theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	A deeper understanding of God's Word should help cultivate a deeper faith in and love for God.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	The Bible functions as the spectacles through which we see the world.
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	Strong	Students are urged to defend their doctrinal positions winsomely

	attitude in disagreements.)		
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Discussion of how doctrine should and can be preached will be made.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Good theology is always doxological.
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	Pastoral implications of class content will be discussed.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Doctrines will be discussed in the light of current issues in world around us.