

Meeting Time: Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:55 PM

Spring, 2019

Meeting Place: TBD

Contact Information*Professor*

Bruce Baugus

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Office: Dean Center Faculty Suite

Hours: TBD

Teaching Assistants

Wes Strebeck

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Catalog Course Description

An exegetical, historical, and dogmatic survey of the Christian doctrine of Scripture, including such topics as revelation, inspiration, authority, infallibility, inerrancy, canonicity, hermeneutics, and self-attestation. Consideration of representative contemporary formulations of these loci are included along with recent attacks on the historical Christian doctrine of Scripture.

Expanded Description

This course will begin by considering the priority of Scripture in Christian theology and then, working largely from Scripture, paying special attention to historic Reformed confessional statements (Westminster Standards and Three Forms of Unity) and current debates, the biblical teaching on the knowledge of God and how this knowledge is acquired by us via divine revelation, especially through the word of God in written form (sacred scripture). We will consider at length the necessary formulations of various biblical teachings about the word of God and Scripture and the implications for how we approach, receive, and use the Bible today.

Textbooks (Required)Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Prolegomena*, vol. 1 (Baker Academic: ISBN 978-0801026324)Michael Kruger, *Canon Revisited* (Corssway: ISBN 9781433505003)B. B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* (P&R Publishing: ISBN 978-0875525273)William Whitaker, *Disputations on Holy Scripture* (Soli Deo Gloria: ISBN 978-1573580908)

Note: several editions of the latter two works are available, including recent paperback options and older used options, and you are encouraged to purchase whatever version you prefer.

Assignments*Exam*

A final open note and open book essay exam will cover course content including assigned readings and class lectures and discussions.

Term Paper

Students will write a 10-12 page term paper on an approved aspect of the doctrine of Scripture that integrates exegetical, systematic, and historical perspectives and sound argumentation (demonstrating a clear thesis). Proper style and formatting are expected.

Course Grade

Final Exam 40%

Term Paper 60%

Total 100%

Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<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	Primary course objective is for students to become articulate in the Reformed orthodox Doctrine of Scripture, able to accurately explain and defend it.
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	One does not know what to do with Scripture if one does not know what Scripture is and therefore how it must be properly handled.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The class is presents an explicitly Reformed orthodox doctrine of Scripture as articulated in Westminster and other Reformed sources.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	The course aims at increasing students' knowledge of Scripture, the primary means of grace.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	This course argues that Scripture, as God's own word to us, is the supreme authority over faith and life and source of theology.
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.)	Moderate	The professor strives to model and encourage this ethos in the course as we consider various alternatives and challenges to the Reformed doctrine of Scripture.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	See "Articulation" above
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Though Scripture is central to worship, this course does not focus on these issues
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	See "Worship" above.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	See "Worship" above.