

**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOUSTON CAMPUS
05ST502/01 Pastoral and Theological Studies
Spring 2016
Dr. W. Duncan Rankin
wduncanrankin@gmail.com**

Course Description

This course introduces the student to exegetical, theological, historical, and practical aspects of ministry. Students are equipped to use the practice of ministry as the integrating concept for all of their theological studies and apply Reformed Theology in all areas of pastoral labors.

Course Objectives

To familiarize students with the basics of Reformed Theology in historical context and encourage students to reflect on the basic hermeneutical and practical implications of Reformed Theology. The course will study the significance of a Reformed worldview for pastoral and theological studies.

Course Requirements: Reading, Listening, and Viewing

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith* (2012; Kindle or paperback; see http://www.amazon.com/Secret-Thoughts-Unlikely-Convert-ebook/dp/B0097G05F8/ref=dp_kinw_strp_1)

John Calvin, *Instruction in Faith* (1537; paperback; see http://www.amazon.com/Instruction-Faith-John-Calvin/dp/0664253148/ref=sr_1_cc_1?s=aps&ie=UTF8&qid=1375588587&sr=1-1-catcorr&keywords=John+Calvin+Instruction+in+faith)

DA Carson, Albert Mohler, Tom Schreiner, and Peter Williams, "BibleMesh Panel: Rediscovering the Importance of Biblical Languages for Faithful Ministry"
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5jTtbXKvxA>)

Martin Downes, "Is Inerrancy Unbiblical, Rationalistic and Presumptuous? A critique of A.T.B. McGowan's proposal for evangelicals to reject inerrancy"
(<http://www.reformation21.org/featured/is-inerrancy-unbiblical-rationalistic-and-presumptuous-a-critique-of-atb-mcgowa.php>)

Ligon Duncan, "Covenant Theology"
(http://thirdmill.org/magazine/article.asp/link/http:%5E%5Ethirdmill.org%5Earticles%5Ejl_duncan%5Ejl_duncan.CT004.html/at/Covenant%20Theology)

Os Guinness, “Challenging the Darkness” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6Hw9dNF7I4>)

Justin Holcomb, “The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy”
(<http://justinholcomb.com/2011/10/19/the-chicago-statement-on-biblical-inerrancy/>)

Michael Kruger, “Why You Can Rely on the Canon”
(<http://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library/why-you-can-rely-on-the-canon>)

Donald Macleod, *Faith to Live By* (2010; Kindle or paperback; see
http://www.amazon.com/Faith-Live-PB-Understanding-Christian/dp/1845505859/ref=tmm_pap_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1375588652&sr=1-1)

Al Mohler and Ligon Duncan, “Together in the Scripture: Is the Bible Totally True?”
(<http://t4g.org/media/2012/04/together-in-the-scriptures-is-the-bible-totally-true/>)

Al Mohler, John Piper, Ligon Duncan, Mark Dever, Peter Williams, and Simon Gathercole,
“Inerrancy: Did God Really Say...?” (<http://t4g.org/media/2012/05/inerrancy-did-god-really-say/>)

RC Sproul, *Chosen by God* (2011; Kindle or paperback; see http://www.amazon.com/Chosen-God-R-C-Sproul/dp/0842313354/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375588708&sr=1-1&keywords=rc+sproul+chosen+by+god)

RC Sproul, *Scripture Alone: the Evangelical Doctrine* (2005; hardback: may need to order from Ligonier Ministries direct; see http://www.amazon.com/Scripture-Alone-Evangelical-Doctrine-Library/dp/1596380101/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375588749&sr=1-1&keywords=rc+sproul+scripture+alone)

John Piper, Voddie Baucham, and Miguel Nunez, “Is Preaching Still Relevant?”
(<http://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library/is-preaching-still-relevant>)

Course Schedule: Lectures Topics, Required Reading, Listening, and Viewing

Read, listen, and/or view in advance of lectures in the order as listed. As noted in the Course Evaluation section below, a one page reaction paper is due for each separate Assignment listed below.

Assignment 1: Holcomb

Assignment 2: Mohler & Duncan

Assignment 3: Mohler et al

Assignment 4: Downes

Assignment 5: Carson et al

Assignment 6: Kruger

Assignment 7: Macleod, chapters 1 & 2

Assignment 8: Sproul, Scripture Alone

Assignment 9: Sproul, Chosen by God

Assignment 10: Macleod, chapters 3-13

Assignment 11: Calvin

Assignment 12: Duncan

Assignment 13: Macleod, chapters 14-26

Assignment 14: Piper et al

Assignment 15: Os Guinness

Assignment 16: Butterfield

Course Evaluation

1. Reaction Papers (40%)--Each student must prepare a one page reaction paper for each listed Assignment above, totaling 16 in all.
2. Term Paper (30%)--Each student must prepare an 8 to 10 page research paper on an agreed theological topic mentioned in the first half of Macleod's *Faith to Live By*, to be turned in with the Final Exam. These must be submitted in MS Word format, containing footnotes and a bibliography. At least ten systematic theological works like those from the Monergism website (<http://www.monergism.com/topics/systematic-theology>) must be included in the paper footnotes. The paper must trace the practical ministry implications of the theological concept in question. **A one page written proposal of the topic for this Term Paper must be submitted to the professor before the paper is written.**
3. Take Home Final Exam (30%)--Each student must complete a Take Home Final Exam by midnight on the last day of exams in May.
4. Optional Extra Credit (+10%)—Each student may, if he or she so chooses, prepare a 10 page personal ministry paper on why Sola Scriptura is vital to Christian ministry, for up to 10% extra credit. This paper should be in the first person and include personal convictions and insights into the role of Scripture in Christian ministry. These must be submitted in MS Word format, containing footnotes and a bibliography. At least ten systematic theological works like those from the Monergism website (<http://www.monergism.com/topics/systematic-theology>) must be included in the paper footnotes. The paper must trace the practical ministry implications of the theological concept in question. **A one page written proposal of the topic for this Term Paper must be submitted to the professor before the paper is written.**

Late Work

Students should make every effort to turn in work on time or early. In the rare case of medical or other providential emergency, extensions and/or alternative arrangements may be granted. Students should particularly note the RTS-Houston Course Extension Policy, circulated to every student by the seminary office.

Class Attendance

Given the huge amount of material we have to cover and the relative scarcity of classroom hours, attendance will be at a premium and, of course, to the benefit of the student. If you need to miss a class or to leave early or to arrive late, you should seek permission. Failure to attend class, or to engage while in the class, will be noted. No unexplained absences.

Academic Integrity

All work submitted must be the student's own. Group-produced work is not permitted. Plagiarism and copying of old assignments are all considered cheating.

REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

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

Course: Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies

Professor: Dr. W. Duncan Rankin

Campus: Houston

Date: Spring 2016

<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	Students will respond to the material both in written papers & exams as well as in an oral exam
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	This course stresses the organization and teaching of the whole Scripture and Scripture's implication for ministry
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Introduction to the contours of Reformed Theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Study of a Reformed Worldview and godliness required of God's ministers
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Stresses the content of the worldview founded on the Scripture
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	Focuses on the beauty of the Scripture's teaching and desire to bring people to saving knowledge of God
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	minimal	Gives a foundation for interpretation, exegesis, and application in preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Stresses God as the author and object of worship
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.	Strong	The forming of "servant-leaders" & "pastor-shepherds" is the goal

Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Comparison of the Biblical, Reformed Theology with other systems
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