

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOUSTON CAMPUS
05ST526/01 Sanctification
Winter 2016
Dr. W. Duncan Rankin
wduncanrankin@gmail.com

Course Description

This course examines personal growth in Christ or sanctification, as grounded in the historic Reformed view of the means of grace. The Word of God read, preached, prayed, sung, and seen is emphasized throughout the course. Students are equipped in the ordinary means of grace as a method of theological formation, informing all aspects of Christian living and service.

Course Objectives

To familiarize students with the doctrine of sanctification in the Reformed tradition. Through the study of Scripture, reflection on historic sermons, application of the Lord's Prayer, practice of liturgical singing, experience of the sacraments, and encouragement through Christian biography, the basics of this Reformed dogma will be probed. The course will provide the opportunity to test a Reformed approach to true theological formation.

Course Requirements: Reading, Listening, and Viewing

W Robert Godfrey, *John Calvin: Pilgrim and Pastor* (2009 by Crossway, available on Kindle or paperback via Amazon)

John Calvin, *Commentary on the Gospel of John*, chapters 1-5 only (Parker translation of 1961 recommended, although out of print; earlier translations on Kindle or the internet may be used, such as <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom34.html>)

Robert Bruce, *Mystery of the Lord's Supper: Sermons by Robert Bruce* (2005 edition from Christian Heritage edited by TF Torrance, available on Kindle or paperback on Amazon)

Derek Thomas, *Praying the Saviour's Way* (2003 by Christian Focus, available on Amazon)

Trinity Hymnal, original 1961 edition, sing any 50 hymns with someone else (words & music both available on http://www.opc.org/hymn.html?list_type=alpha)

Trinity Fellowship, "151119 Heart Prep" (watch these 12 music videos on YouTube)

Tim Challies, *Sexual Detox* (2010 by Cruciform Press, available on Kindle or paperback via Amazon)

Course Evaluation

1. Reaction Papers (30%)—Each student must prepare a two page reaction paper for each of the readings by Godfrey, Calvin, Bruce and Thomas, totaling 4 in all.
2. Means of Grace Singing Exercise (20%)—Each student must sing 50 hymns from the *Trinity Hymnal* (1961) with a spouse, family, or friends, as well as listening to the 12 Trinity Fellowship YouTube music videos, submitting a four page exercise summary.
3. Means of Grace Sacrament Exercise (20%)—Each student must prepare for, participate in, and reflect on the Lord's Supper, submitting a four page exercise summary.
4. Final Paper (30%)—Each student must apply the Reformed doctrine of sanctification to the pastoral problem addressed in Tim Challies' *Sexual Detox*, preparing a reflection and plan for how to address this issue from an ordinary means of grace approach.

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: 05ST526/01 Sanctification

Professor: Dr. W. Duncan Rankin

Campus: Houston

Date: William 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
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
---------------------	---	----------	--