

**SYLLABUS**  
**FALL 2020**  
**HUMAN PERSONALITY CO5250**  
**Reformed Theological Seminary**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rod Mays**  
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### **Course Description**

This course will look at theories of personality and capture what the Bible says about human nature. We will survey and critique some prominent personality theories, personality assessments, and personality "disorders". We will learn how biblical counselors might address the issues and questions raised by secular theories. The course will analyze what it means to know God and to know ourselves in relation to Biblical anthropology.

### **Course Requirements**

- Reading: Students will have readings from the required texts and articles and will write a two- page book review of each.
- At the beginning of the semester, students will write a two-page paper on their own personality, how they see themselves.
- At the end of the semester, students will write a seven-page paper on what it means to know themselves in light of knowing God.
- During the semester, students will participate in group case studies and projects.
- Each student will orally report on an encounter or relationship with a difficult person.
- Class participation is expected and required.

### **Exams**

- Mid-term and final exams will include essay questions from the required reading and lectures.

### **Class Participation**

- It is required that students be present for all class sessions. If a student is “providentially hindered” from attending class, if possible, please notify the instructor. It is expected that students will keep current in their reading and assignments on time. Failure to comply with these standards will result in grade reduction unless other arrangements have been made.

### **Grading**

- Book reports 25%
- Papers 25%
- Mid-term 25%
- Final 25%

LECTURE I	August 20	The Sufficiency of Scripture
LECTURE II	August 27	Personality Theories
LECTURE III	September 3*	Creation and Image of God
LECTURE IV	September 10	Knowing Yourself as an Image Bearer
LECTURE V	September 17 *	The Fall and Personality
LECTURE VI	September 24 *	The Fall and Personality, continued
<b>MID-TERM</b>	October 1	
<b>FALL BREAK</b>	<b>October 8</b>	
LECTURE VII	October 15*	Shame and Guilt
LECTURE VIII	October 22 *	Redemption Accomplished
LECTURE IX	October 29	Redemption Applied
LECTURE X	November 5 *	Sanctification
LECTURE XI	November 12	Sanctification and Personality
LECTURE XII	November 19*	Glorification
<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	November 26	
	<b>December 3-8</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

### ★Paper and Book Reports Due

September 3	My Personality (two-page paper)
September 17	Institutes, Book 1, Chapters 1-5 (two-page review). <b>AND</b> <i>Jesus and Personality Theory</i> (two-page review)
September 24	Who Are We? Needs, Longings, and the Image of God in Man (JBC article; two-page review). <b>AND</b> <i>Unashamed</i> (two-page review)
October 15	<i>Love's Executioner</i> (two-page review)
October 22	<i>When People are Big and God is Small</i> , (two-page review)
November 5	<i>Descriptions and Prescriptions</i> <b>AND</b> <i>How Does Sanctification Work</i>
November 19*	Know Yourself in Light of Knowing God (seven-page paper)

## **Required Book and Article List**

- 1. Love's Executioner, Irving Yalom**
- 2. When People are Big and God is Small, Ed Welch**
- 3. Who are We? Needs, Longings, and the Image of God in Man, Ed Welch, article, JBC 13.1**
- 4. Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin; Book 1, Chapters 1-5**
- 5. Descriptions and Prescriptions, Michael R. Emlet**
- 6. Unashamed, Heather Nelson**
- 7. How Does Sanctification Work, David Powlison**
- 8. Jesus and Personality Theory, James R. Beck**

### RTS Charlotte Classroom Technology Usage

RTS Charlotte recognizes how essential it is for students to have reliable, campus-wide access to the internet. For that reason, we have made Wi-Fi available for our student body, not only in the library and student lounges, but also in the classrooms. We know that students need to use the internet to download class materials, access files on the Cloud, and locate other important information. However, we also recognize that internet access in the classroom provides opportunity for abuse and misuse. Some students have unfortunately used their internet access to engage in many activities that distract them from the classroom lectures (e.g., surfing the web, checking sports scores, playing games). Not only does such activity hamper a student's own seminary education, but it distracts other students who can easily view the screens of nearby students. In addition, donors and classroom guests (who often sit in the back) can see this inappropriate internet usage, which reflects poorly on RTS. Classroom etiquette includes leaving cell phones turned off, refraining from surfing the Internet or playing computer games or other distracting activities. In addition, students must respect standards set by individual professors regarding the use of technology during their class.

In order to address this issue, we must appeal to the integrity of the students as ones who are preparing for a lifetime of ministry to Christ and his church. We expect each student to take personal responsibility for proper classroom technology usage and to encourage others around them to do the same. All RTS-Charlotte students are accountable to the policies stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog and are therefore expected to use technology in the classroom only for appropriate class-related activities. Student conduct is under the supervision of the Dean of Students.

## **Student Instructions for Exams with LockDown Browser**

1. Install the LockDown Browser application on the computer you intend to use for exams, prior to sitting for the exam, using this link: <https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=998253613>
  - This link is ONLY for RTS students and covers Mac and Windows applications.
  - Be sure that you are able to login to your Canvas account from the LockDown Browser before scheduling a time to take your exam.
  - The LockDown Browser application is already installed on the computers in the RTS Charlotte library. (Note that if you elect to use the library computers, your proctor must still be present throughout the duration of the exam.)
  - If you use internet filtering software (for example, Covenant Eyes) you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser. Some types of filtering software can block your computer's connection to Canvas. Also, please be sure to add an exception for our Canvas URL:  
<https://rts.instructure.com>
2. Make arrangements with a proctor to supervise the exam within the date timeframe set by the professor. The proctor cannot be a family member, current RTS student (current = taken a class within the past year but not yet graduated), or member of the library staff. Typical proctors are pastors or church staff members. The document "Procter Expectations Letter.doc" has been provided on your Canvas homepage in order to facilitate communication with your proctor. For your convenience, there will be several on-campus proctor blocks where a proctor will be available to supervise your exam. Dates and times will be posted on Canvas and announced in the weekly Semper.
3. The proctor must observe student taking exam and ensure that there are no devices or resources available other than the computer being used for the exam.
4. Access the exam during the date window specified for that midterm:
  - a. Start the LockDown Browser application using a wired or known reliable WIFI connection. We do not recommend using restaurant or coffee shop WIFI to take exams.
  - b. Have your student ID number available to input into the exam.
  - c. If you use internet filtering software, you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser.
  - d. Login to your Canvas account using your Self-Service username and password. If you need to reset your Self-Service password, you may do so at <https://selfservice.rts.edu>.
  - e. Navigate to the exam. You will not be able to access the exam with a standard web browser. For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review this **Student Quick Start Guide (PDF)**.
  - f. Time clock will begin once you open the exam.
  - g. Exam must be completed in one sitting. You may not exit and return to exam later.
  - h. The exam will contain questions requiring the proctor contact information, an honor pledge, and certification that your proctor was present during the entire exam period.
5. Proctors may be contacted to verify information regarding exam administration.
6. In the rare case of a technical issue (for example, if internet service goes out during exam), the proctor should contact the course TA. While the TA's may not be immediately available, the date and time of the email will document when the issue was reported. Please have your TA's contact information available for your proctor before opening the exam. Once you open the exam using the LockDown Browser, you will not be able to access other programs on your computers.



### Course Objectives Related to MACC Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Human Personality

Professor: Rod Mays

Campus: RTSC

Date: June 1, 2020

<b>MACC Student Learning Outcomes</b> <i>In order to measure the success of the MACC 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 MAC outcomes.</i>	<b>Rubric</b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<b>COUNSELING KNOWLEDGE</b> Demonstrate knowledge of counseling theories and modern anthropology.	Strong	Counseling theories and a biblical anthropology are parts of the core of the course
<b>COUNSELING SKILL</b> Ability to apply biblical truths and common-grace insights in church-based counseling settings.	Strong	Application of scripture and common grace are frequently demonstrated in the course material
<b>SCRIPTURE</b> Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture and ability to apply to modern counseling circumstances.	Strong	Examples of Biblical exegesis are demonstrated throughout the lectures
<b>REFORMED THEOLOGY</b> Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice and ability to apply to modern counseling circumstances	Strong	Reformed Soteriology is the basis for understanding change in a person's life
<b>SANCTIFICATION</b> Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	A love for God and neighbor are required in the life of a counselor in order serve and help people. This is constantly emphasized in the class.
<b>WINSOMELY REFORMED</b> Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos.	Strong	Stressed as a major criterion for the way a counselor connects.



## Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Human Personality

Professor: Rod Mays

Campus: RTSC

Date: June 1, 2020

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Rubric</b>	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<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>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Moderate	The course will equip the student to apply a biblical anthropology to counseling situations
<b>Scripture</b>	Strong	Examples of biblical exegesis are demonstrated throughout the lectures.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Strong	Reformed theology is the basis for understanding change in a person's life.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Strong	A love for God and neighbor is required in the life of a counselor in order to love and serve people.
<b>Worldview</b>	Strong	Biblical worldview is frequently discussed in the class in order to interact with current counseling theories
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Strong	Stressed as a major criterion for a way a counselor connects
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Moderate	The class will apply to some of these; but in a counseling context.