

**03ST6140R: Theology of Scripture
Fall 2020
RTS-Charlotte "Remote Live"**

I Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas
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Class Time: Mondays 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Location: Zoom

Important Dates:

- 6/15 Online registration opens
- 8/17 Orientation
- 8/19 Classes begin
- 9/2 Last day to add class
- 9/7 Labor Day, no classes
- 9/23 Last day to drop class
- 10/5-10/9 Fall Break
- 11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving holiday, no classes
- 12/1 Last day of classes
- 12/3 Term papers due
- 12/3-12/8 Final exams

II 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.

III Course Objectives

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.

IV Theological Standpoint

The course will be taught from the standpoint of a personal commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith. Additionally, all good theology should be doxological. Obedience in worship will be the chief objective of this course.

Note should be taken of the following quotations:

- “Theology seems often to the outsider just so much word-spinning air-borne discourse which never touches down except disastrously.” [Ian Ramsey, *Models for Divine Activity* (London: SCM Press, 1973), 1.]
- “There are theologians in the bottom of hell who are more interested in their own thoughts about God than in God himself.” [C. S. Lewis]
- “Theology is the science of living blessedly forever” [William Perkins, *The Golden Chaine* (1590), 1]

V. Course Requirements

Textbooks (Required)

1. D.A. Carson, *Collected Writings on Scripture* (Crossway: ISBN 978-1433514418)
2. Derek Thomas, *The Bible: God's Inerrant Word* (Banner of Truth: ISBN 9781848718128)
3. Michael J. Kruger, *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books* (Crossway: ISBN 9781433505003)
4. J.I. Packer, *"Fundamentalism" and the Word of God* (Eerdmans: ISBN 978-0802811479)
5. B.B. Warfield, *Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* (P&R: ISBN 978-0875525273)

Class Attendance

Class attendance will be imperative for successful completion of this course.

Assignments

Exams

A written midterm and cumulative final exam will cover course content including assigned readings and class lectures and discussions. Exams will include a variety of question types, not excluding some short answer and essay questions.

Term Paper

Students will write a 10-15-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.

VI. Course Grade

Exams	40% total (20% each)
<u>Term Paper</u>	<u>60%</u>
Total	100%

VII. Extension Policy

All assignments 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. A grade penalty may be assessed.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 03ST6140R: Theology of Scripture
 Professor: Dr. Derek Thomas
 Campus: "Remote Live" hosted by RTS-Charlotte
 Date: Fall 2020

<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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	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	All doctrine formulations must be the produce of accurate exegesis and synthesis.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The class presents an explicitly Reformed orthodox doctrine of Scripture as articulated in the Reformed standards.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	The course aims at increasing student's knowledge of Scripture the primary means of grace.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	This course argues that Scripture, as God's own word to us, is the supreme authority over faith and life and the 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.)	Strong	The course will encourage winsome debate and disagreement.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	A robust understanding of the doctrine of Scripture is necessary for all pastoral ministry.