

**09PT5375 (RE)****Personal Sanctification****Reformed Theological Seminary in New York City****Fall 2020****Dr. Jay Harvey****Course Description**

The course aims to see students grow in the fruit of the Spirit and their experience of the presence of God through reflection and practice. We will reflect on Scripture, classic writings on sanctification, and other contemporary works.

**Course Details**

Zoom instruction

6:00PM-7:30PM

Tuesday 8 September to 3 November (9 meetings)

**Course Philosophy**

Each class will have a combination of lecture and discussion. Attendance and participation are vital for your personal growth in the course and your academic success. We will discuss the authors, themes, and works with a view to our own relationship with Christ and the strengthening of discipleship in our churches.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

- 05% Reading—You are asked to read all the material listed for each week. At the end of the term you will submit a reading report indicating what you have read. Completing the reading constitutes 5% of your grade.
- 10% Class Participation—Participation is an important part of the course and is cultivated by the professor. We will also have breakout sessions for discussion each time we meet. While lecturing, notes and outlines are shared which reduces “zoom fatigue” and centers student attention on material.
- 05% MCORE—Dr. Bill Fullilove will place instructions to complete your MCORE inventory in Canvas. To receive full credit, you must upload the appropriate documents and discuss the results with Dr. Fullilove. This is a unique opportunity to benefit from the ministry of your Dean of Students.
- 06% Student to Professor Interactions via Canvas
- 06% Student to Student Interactions via Canvas
- 22% Meditations on Scripture—Using methods recommended by Dr. Tim Keller, students will complete 4 meditations. These assignments are posted in Canvas.
- 26% Final Paper Project—Students will submit a 4-6 page paper on a topic arising from the lectures or readings. The professor will provide a detailed rubric for the paper that will double as a guide for writing and a rubric for grading. This paper is intended to provide a guided exercise to strengthen your writing in seminary. The project includes some reading and reflection on writing an outline. See Canvas for the specific assignments.
- 20% Final Exam

## Required Texts

Students are asked to purchase copies of the following texts. The remainder of the readings are in Canvas.

- [\*Confessions of St. Augustine\*](#)—This classic work of spiritual autobiography and theological self-reflection continues to exercise great influence. It repays reading time and again. The Oxford World Classics edition is recommended for ease of readability. We will read Books II, II, IV, IIX.v-IX.xiii, and X. This material is available in the public domain but the Oxford Classics translation is recommended for accuracy and ease of reading.
- [\*The Deeply Formed Life: Five Transformative Values to Root Us in the Way of Jesus\*](#), by Dr. Richard Villodas—A newly published work from an evangelical perspective with focus on urban discipleship. Dr. Villodas' diverse pastoral context (Queens, NY) is evident in the book. Drawing upon multiple theological traditions and a high view of Scripture, he offers insightful pathways in reflection and discipleship.
- [\*Free at Last: The Gospel in African American Experience\*](#), by Dr. Carl Ellis—This book was re-released in June 2020 by Intervarsity Press as part of their IVP Signature Collection. This republication is a significant honor, recognizing that his work was groundbreaking for its contextualization of Reformed Theology within the African American experience. The African American experience and the Black church is the focus of the book. However, in addressing this context, Dr. Ellis provides a unique perspective on Christianity and Culture and offers his own model for contextualization.
- [\*A Rulebook for Arguments, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition\*](#), by Anthony Weston—A helpful, short book that addresses critical reasoning and argument. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition is necessary as it contains new material on public debate.

## Class Schedule with Readings

1. 9/8 Christianity, Culture, and the Challenge of Discipleship
  - a. Scripture: Genesis 3:15, Gen 17:1-6
  - b. Reading: Ellis, *Free At Last* (all); Soong-Chan Rah, "Lament is a Necessary Step Toward Healing;" Grimke, "Fifty Years of Freedom," pp. 489-496
2. 9/15 Ordering Our Loves, Finding Satisfaction in Christ
  - a. Scripture: John 10:10
  - b. Reading: Augustine, *Confessions*, Books I, II, IV, IIX.v-IX.xiii, and X
3. 9/22 The Restoration of the Image of God in Christ
  - a. Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-32
  - b. Reading: Calvin, *Golden Booklet of the Christian Life* (pp.1-40)
4. 9/29 Overview of Sanctification
  - a. Scripture: Romans 6:1-14
  - b. Reading: Bavinck, "Sanctification;" Murray, "Definitive and Progressive Sanctification;" WCF 10-13, 16, 25-29
5. 10/6 Mortification and the Tongue
  - a. Scripture: Romans 8:1-15; Ephesians 4:29

- b. Owen, "Mortification" pp. 1-33; Villodas, *Deeply Formed*, chs. 5-6; Weston, *A Rule Book for Arguments*, pp. 1-8 and pp. 61-86
- 6. 10/13 Worship, Meditation, Lord's Supper, Baptism
  - a. Corinthians 3:17-18
  - b. Reading: Owen, "Glory of Christ" pp. 1-15; Villodas, *Deeply Formed*, ch. 1, WCF 25-29
- 7. 10/20 Suffering and Prayer
  - a. Scripture: Romans 8:16-39
  - b. Reading: Luther, "A Simple Way to Pray"
- 8. 10/27 Sabbath and Sexuality
  - a. Scripture: Romans 7:21-25
  - b. Reading: Villodas, *Deeply Formed*, chs. 2, 7-8; WLC 115-121
- 9. 11/3 Race and Justice
  - a. Scripture: Amos 5:18-24
  - b. Reading: Villodas, *Deeply Formed*, chs. 3-4; WCF 16, "Of Good Works;" Keller, "A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory;"
- 10. 12/17 (latest possible date)
  - a. Short Answer: You will be given approximately 10 key terms to define
  - b. Short Essay: You will be given two short essays for answers of 1-2 paragraphs

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

Course: Personal Sanctification  
 Professor: Dr. Jay Harvey  
 Campus: New York City  
 Date: 8/14/2020

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></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><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"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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	Students will be able to articulate the doctrine and practice of sanctification with an emphasis on the ordinary means of grace in an urban context. Students will write a 4-6 page paper.
<b>Scripture</b>	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.)	Minimal	Course emphasis is on practical application.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The directly engages significant portions of the Westminster Standards and the syllabus includes classic Reformed texts.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	The class presents a Reformed doctrine and practice of sanctification.
<b>Worldview</b>	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.	Moderate	This course aims to cultivate the spiritual practice, rather than theory, of growing in love for God and neighbor. Assumptions of modernity and postmodernity that create challenges to personal sanctification are addressed.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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 design intentionally engages non-Reformed perspectives on and challenges to spiritual growth with a winsome tone.
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	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.	Moderate	Course aims and objectives have significant implications for Biblical shepherding.