**PT 5375 Personal Sanctification**

**January 2021**

**Michael Allen**

**Note that class meets on the evenings of hybrid week (January 11-15). It is an intensive course, however, where the totality of class occurs during that week. Reading and other exercises are done prior to and after class.**

**Course Description**

This course examines the doctrine of sanctification in reformed theological perspective. We will examine biblical themes, theological formulation, and contemporary understanding with an eye toward pursuing holiness within the students’ lives.

**Course Objectives**

1. To help the student gain an understanding of the biblical doctrine of sanctification.

2. To grow in appreciation of our gracious Father renewing His people in the image of His Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. To grasp the importance of pursuing holiness for Christian discipleship and ministry.

4. To gain resources for cultivating growth in the Christian life.

**The Instructor**

Michael Allen, Ph.D.

Email: mallen@rts.edu

Phone: 407-278-4445

Feel free to contact me whenever needed (preferably via email or a conversation in person). If you have questions about class protocols and expectations or about the content of your readings, please email early and inquire. Better yet, come by my office and talk in person.

**The Textbooks**

1. Augustine, *The Confessions* (trans. Maria Boulding; New York: New City, 2001).
2. John Calvin, *A Little Book on the Christian Life* (Sanford, FL: Reformation Trust, 2017).
3. Thomas Watson, *The Lord’s Prayer* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1960).
4. James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2016).

**The Requirements**

1. Read.

Reading must be thoughtful and engaged. Read the entirety of the assigned texts.

Theology is an activity done largely through the process of good reading. Read carefully. Read charitably. Read with others. Read with the expectation that you will learn from others, even when you disagree with their main point. Read even when a text is dense and difficult, for you will learn perseverance and fortitude here. Read that which seems trite and obvious, asking how others might object or criticize. Most importantly, read because God was willing to reveal himself in written words, and because we can best witness to God’s grace with corresponding words. Read because words matter in God’s economy of grace.

Report of all reading due by 11:00 a.m. on Canvas on Saturday, February 20.

1. Attend.

Please attend and participate actively. Bring your notes, books, and Bibles. Bring writing utensils. Don’t try to take down everything that is said; rather, engage and participate actively in lectures, discussions, and exercises.

No screens (see explanation below on page 3).

1. Spiritual Discipline Exercise.

You are to pick a spiritual discipline that you have not yet privileged and to attend to it intentionally from our weekend of class through reading week. You are then to report on your commitment to this exercise and to post on its effect upon your life (and, as applicable, to that of your family, friends, and church community). Your report will be a single page post on Canvas that describes *what* you did, *why* you did it, *how* it fit into your daily or weekly rhythm, and *to what effect* it contributed to your spiritual growth this month.

Examples: praying the hours, praying the Psalter, practicing Sabbath, attending Sunday evening worship, leading family worship, fasting, practicing Christian hospitality, etc.

Due 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 20.

1. Reflective Paper.

You will write a concluding paper that offers personal reflections prompted by the reading of Augustine’s *Confessions* and Thomas Watson’s *The Lord’s Prayer*. Two questions must be addressed: (1) learning from Augustine, what false hope or love do you need to specifically name and repent of and how has his book given you categories for describing it; and (2) learning from Watson, what particular prayer do you need to make your own and how has this study of the Lord’s Prayer helped you understand it? In making this reflective account autobiographically, root it in biblical and theological analysis. Your report can be between 1000 and 2000 words total.

Due Saturday, March 13 by 11:00 a.m.

**Grading Structure**

Grades will be assessed as follows:

Reading 1/3

Spiritual Discipline Exercise 1/3

Reflective Paper 1/3

The grading scale can be found in the Academic Catalog. As laid out in the catalog, a “B” is the work normally expected of a student. An “A” is given for someone who consistently outperforms expectations, and a “C” is given for persons who only minimally and occasionally meet expectations. Read the Academic Catalog to see what grades reflect.

**Technology Policy *(Modified from Dr. Alan Jacobs of Baylor University)***

Computers, tablets, and smart-phones are not allowed in class. Think I’m over-reacting? Think you’re a master of multitasking? [You](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/25/business/25multi.html?_r=0) are [not](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/07/24/tech/main1832042.shtml). No, [I really mean it](http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-professor-blog/multitasking-confronting-students-with-the-facts/). Notes taken by hand are almost always more useful than typed notes, because more thoughtful selectivity goes into them; plus there are multiple cognitive benefits to [writing by hand](http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/taking-notes-by-hand-benefits-recall-researchers-find/51411). And people who use laptops in class [see their grades decline](http://www.montrealgazette.com/technology/Students+laptops+class+lowers+grades+Canadian+study/8788540/story.html) — and even contribute to lowering the grades of *other people*.

**Class Schedule**

We will meet in the evenings of hybrid week (January 11-15). Note that times are shorter on Monday and Friday.

*Monday, January 11 (6-8 p.m.)*

Sanctification in Brief

*Tuesday, January 12 (6-9 p.m.)*

Habits and Means of Grace

*Wednesday, January 13 (6-9 p.m.)*

The Lord’s Prayer

*Thursday, January 14 (6-9 p.m.)*

Word and Sacrament

*Friday, January 15 (6-8 p.m.)*

Sabbath and Fellowship

**Other Due Dates**

1. Reading Report: due by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 20.
2. Spiritual Discipline Exercise: due by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 20.
3. Reflective Paper: due by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13.



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

Course: PT 5375

Professor: Allen

Campus: Orlando

Date: Winter 2021

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *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.*  *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* | | **Rubric**   * Strong * Moderate * Minimal * None | **Mini-Justification** |
| **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. | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Moderate | Students will respond to the material both in written papers and exams as well as in an oral exam | | |  | | --- | | Students will respond to the material in a final paper. | |
| **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 biblical description of holiness. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | Introduction to the Reformed approach to moral transformation and to discipleship. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | Sustained focus upon pastoral character and the practices of good theological study for Christians and specifically for future leaders. |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Strong | Stresses the systematic and ethical shape of Reformed theology, which is rooted in scriptural exegesis. |
| **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 | Focuses on the wider catholic heritage and also the Reformed distinctives that mark our theological approach. |
| **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 by focusing on how change happens. |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Strong | Focuses significantly on the role of the means of grace in the Christian life, notably on prayer. |
| **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. | Moderate | The formation of a lived understanding of discipleship is a major focus of readings, lectures, and exercises. |
| **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. Significant focus upon spiritual implications of Reformed worldview. |