

ST5200 – Systematic Theology  
Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology

Reformed Theological Seminary  
Houston, Spring 2021

Friday – 6-9pm  
Saturday – 8am-4pm

February 5 & 6  
March 12 & 13  
April 2 & 3  
May 7 & 8

**DETAILS**

Instructor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell  
Contact: [gfinley@rts.edu](mailto:gfinley@rts.edu)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To orient and familiarize the student to the theological categories of Christ's person (Christology), Christ's work (soteriology) and the events surrounding Christ's return and the hope we have in Christ's promises to His people (Eschatology)
2. To explore and investigate the exegetical, doctrinal and historical foundations of Christology, Soteriology and Eschatology as understood, taught, and confessed in the Reformed tradition
3. To develop a deeper dependence and love for the prophetic and apostolic witness, a more joyful appreciation for reformed theology, and, ultimately, to grow in one's love and worship of the Triune God of our salvation

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. *Class Participation*: includes attendance of all classes and active participation and contribution in class discussion

2. *Provisional Bibliography (5%)*: Due by **March 19<sup>th</sup>**. Students are required to hand in a brief description of the topic for their research paper that also includes a provisional thesis statement and a working bibliography. This bibliography should include 10-18 books and articles.
3. *Midterm (25%) (March 19<sup>th</sup>) and Final Exams (25%) (May 8<sup>th</sup>)*: Exams will test understanding and comprehension of material covered in class, readings, and the ability to articulate and communicate theological material in a clear way. Each exam will consist of short and long questions.
4. *Theological Research Paper (35%) (May 8<sup>th</sup>)*: Students will write a 12-15 page paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt font). The paper must treat a doctrinal topic related to the content of the class, that is, broadly, Christology, Soteriology or Eschatology. Standard *SBL* format ought to be followed. Footnotes to be used (not endnotes)
5. *Reading (10%)*: At the time of the final examination (**May 8<sup>th</sup>**), students will be asked to report the percentage of required course material that they have read (not skimmed!) during the term

## GRADING

a. Reading Report	10%
b. Provisional Bibliography	5%
c. Midterm exam	25%
d. Final exam	25%
e. Theological Research Paper	35%

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Allen and Swain, eds., *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Grand Rapids, Baker, 2016), **chs. 5, 11, 12, 16**

Herman Bavinck, *The Last Things: Hope for This World and the Next* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996)

Gerald Bray, *Creeds, Councils and Christ: Did the Early Christians Misrepresent Jesus?* (Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2009)

Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960)

Calvin, *A Little Book on the Christian Life* (Reformation Trust, 2017)

Murray, *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1955)

**REQUIRED READING [AVAILABLE ON CANVAS]**

Richard Bauckham, 'Eschatology', in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, 306-21

Ivor J. Davidson, 'Atonement and Incarnation' in Adam J. Johnson (ed.) *T & T Clark Companion to Atonement* (London: T&T Clark, 2017) pp. 35-56

Donald Macleod, 'Covenant Theology' in *Dictionary of Scottish Church History & Theology*, pp. 214-18

Warfield, 'The Emotional Life of Our Lord' in *The Person and Work of Christ* (PA: P&R, 1950), pp. 93-146

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes  
With Mini-Justification**

Course: ST 5200  
 Professor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell  
 Campus: Houston  
 Date: Spring 2021

<b><u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<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.	Strong	Exams, theological reflections and theological research 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.)	Strong	Each theological locus finds its explanation and authority in the canonical teaching of Holy Scripture
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Students are guided in this theology course by the Reformed Theology as it is articulated in the Westminster Standards
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Students will read Calvin's book on sanctification in the relevant week but will see the deep value of the application of these doctrines to the Christian life
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	This course enables students to see the coherence these doctrines bring to the understanding of reality
<b>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</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	Approaches theological loci of other traditions in a warm, courteous, respectful and appreciative manner
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Christ's person, work and return ought to shape the best of preaching in a reformed context
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Studying the God of redemption will lead the student into richer worship, both individually and corporately
<b>Shepherd</b>	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	Students are encouraged to understand their role in shepherding as a reflection

			and ordered extension of that of the Good Shepherd
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	<b>Minimal</b>	Broad understanding of cultural issues are informed by a theological framework