Reformed Theological Seminary
Distance Education

Theology of Worship

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan, III

Course Overview

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Course Description:

0PT5300 Theology of Worship, 2 hours
Lecturing Professor: Dr. J. Ligon Duncan, III
Professor of Record: Dr. Guy Waters

The biblical foundations of worship, including music, worship strategies, creative styles, and worship for special occasions are considered in this course. The goal is to prepare students to be worshipers and effective leaders in worship.

Course Objectives:

- To prepare the student for ministry with knowledge of the history and practices of worship and to be effective church leaders in worship.
- The course will impart to the learner a foundation and theology of worship that is biblically based, historically reformed, Westminster confessional, and according to the Regulative Principle of Worship.
- The outcome for the learner is that he/she is equipped for articulating the theology and practice of worship in his/her life, and so that they can instruct others in this area.

Required Textbooks:

Carson, D.A., ed. ***Worship by the Book***. Grand Rapids. MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. ***Worship: Reformed according to Scripture***. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Ryken, Philip Graham, Derek W.H. Thomas, and J. Ligon Duncan, eds. ***Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship: Celebrating the Legacy of James Montgomery Boice***. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Pub., 2011.

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

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Online Student Handbook:

The Online Student Handbook (can be downloaded here) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

Summary of Requirements:

1. Watch all recorded Lectures
2. Complete all Readings
3. Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and the professor)
4. Submit Long Essay
5. Submit three (3) Bulletins/Orders of Service
6. Submit three (3) Written Prayers
7. Take the Final Exam
8. Submit Mentor Report or Course Application Paper

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Meet the Professors

Lecturing Professor:

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III is the Chancellor/CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary and the John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology. Ligon was born in Greenville, SC, and reared in the home of an eighth generation Presbyterian ruling elder. A 1983 graduate of Furman University (B.A. History), he received the M.Div. and M.A. (Historical Theology) from Covenant Theological Seminary. He earned the Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, New College, Scotland, in 1995 (under the supervision of renowned Reformation and Patristics scholar, David F. Wright). While in Scotland he also studied Systematic Theology at the Free Church of Scotland College (now Edinburgh Theological Seminary) with Professor Donald Macleod. Follow Dr. Duncan on his website: ligonduncan.com, on Twitter: @LigonDuncan, or on Facebook: LigonDuncan.

Professor of Record:

Dr. Guy P. Waters is the James M. Baird, Jr. Professor of New Testament with a particular interest in the letters and theology of Paul, the use of Scripture in the New Testament, and the Synoptic Gospels. He received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania (1995), his M.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary (1998), and his Ph.D. from Duke University (2002). Prior to coming to RTS Jackson in 2007, he spent one year teaching Hellenistic Greek at Duke Divinity School and five years as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Belhaven College. In 2003, he became a teaching elder in the Mississippi Valley Presbytery (PCA). He has also been the Chair of the Credentials Committee since 2004.

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Grades

Forum Discussions (15%):

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
   A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
   B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts =10 total posts).
   C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
   A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

Long Essay (30%):

In order to assist the student in their preparation for ordination, ministry, and life, as well as to provide a meaningful outlet for interaction with the materials, philosophies, and issues in this course, students will be required to write a long essay. See section titled "Long Essay" in this syllabus.

Examination (Final 20%)

There will be one comprehensive final to be taken at the end of the course covering Lessons 1-10, including all required readings and lectures. In preparation for this exam students should use the Lesson Review Questions, Topical Discussion Questions, and their Short Essays. The format of the exam will be 5 short answer questions (2-3 paragraphs), and 1 long essay question (6-8 paragraphs).

Bulletins (15%):

The student will create three (3) complete Worship Bulletins/orders of service. One bulletin for each of the following service types is to be submitted:

- Lord's Supper
- Baptism or Profession of Faith
- Regular Lord's Day Morning and Evening services (Submit as one bulletin)

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Format should be appropriate and conducive to the worship service. Be sure to include all elements of a Reformed Worship service (call to worship, benediction, etc.).

Students should consult Chapter 4, Appendix A "Sample Worship Service" of Worship by the Book edited by D.A. Carson. And students may also consult their own church bulletin for helpful samples, but make sure the work is your own (avoid plagiarism).

A "Worship Guide" is also expected for each worship order of service. In the guide you will explain the reasons you structured the service the way you did, include reference to historical Presbyterian worship, scriptural basis, elements, forms, circumstances, and rubric etc. (know what each of those terms mean in a worship service). Be sure to integrate your worship order, structure, hymn selection, and texts. If you choose to disagree with the philosophy of worship articulated in this course, you must provide a full justification for that in your "worship guide."

Written Prayers (15%):

The student will write three (3) prayers from the following options; focusing each on a particular theme or circumstance:

- Justification
- Adoption
- Sanctification
- Confession of Sin
- Imprecatory
- Invocation
- Pastoral Prayer

The practice of extemporary praying is a good one and one for which our Puritan and Presbyterian forefathers fought hard to maintain. But even these traditions called for what they termed "studied prayers": prayers that had been planned and thought through and then delivered without notes.

Format: please submit your written prayers using this formatting:

- Choose a Theme
- Font: Times New Roman, size 12
- Spacing: single spaced,
- Margins: 1"
- Length: The prayer must be one page exactly (no more, no less). Must be within 1-3 lines of the bottom of the page. In addition to the written prayer, on another page give me a paragraph explaining what it is you hope to accomplish in this prayer. Is it thematic? Is it based on some texts of Scripture? The total length will be approximately 1-1/2 pages. (Submit only one document.)

How should I go about writing these prayers? Take a Psalm and meditate on it. Then

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begin to formulate the ideas and word structures of the Psalm, adapting them for suitability in 21st century parlance. Follow the order of thought in the Psalm where appropriate. Grading someone's prayers poses some problems. Still, a measure of objectivity will be attempted. Grading will depend on such things as style, wording, biblical content, structure.

*Mentor Report **OR** Course Application Paper (5%):*

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree or certificate program, you are required to submit a mentor report at the end of the course. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom.

If you are receiving your degree through another **RTS campus** (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.), or are a certificate student, or special student (e.g. from another seminary), you are asked to write a 200-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 200 words will receive a grade deduction.

Assignments:

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information:

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Lessons

Lesson One
Introduction to Worship

Lesson Two
How Do We Worship?

Lesson Three
The Reasons for Worship

Lesson Four
Qualities of Biblical Worship

Lesson Five
Parts of the Ordinary Worship Service

Lesson Six
Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Lesson Seven
Weddings and Funerals

Lesson Eight
History of Christian Worship

Lesson Nine
Hymns and Psalms: Greek, Latin, and German

Lesson Ten
Hymns and Psalms: English

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Long Essay Instructions

In order to assist the student in their preparation for ordination, ministry, and life, as well as to provide as meaningful outlet for interaction with the materials, philosophies, and issues in this course each student will submit one (1) of the following two (2) essay options, along with a synopsis of your own theology of public worship at the end of the paper:

Option #1: Compare and contrast the historic "Regulative Principle of Worship" with other philosophies of worship. Include the history, key proponents, Biblical basis, and difficulties of each view.

Include Theology of Public Worship: Describe in sufficient detail your own theology of public worship, but make sure that this section is a minority of the full paper. While this is somewhat subjective to each individual, you will need to fully defend your stance especially where it may differ from Reformed theology of Worship.

Option #2: Discuss the use and views of church liturgy, the "church calendar", and "contextualization" from a Biblical as well as historical-theological standpoint. The student will be sure to include benefits and difficulties with various understandings and practices.

Include Theology of Public Worship: Describe in sufficient detail your own theology of public worship, but make sure that this section is a minority of the full paper. While this is somewhat subjective to each individual, you will need to fully defend your stance especially where it may differ from Reformed theology of Worship.

The best essays will include copious use of scripture, theologians, and creedal statements. Be sure to make reference to and interact with both the lectures and assigned readings for this course.

Format: Please submit your essays using Turabian formatting (Size 12, Times New Roman, one-inch margins); essays are expected to land within 8-10 double spaced pages.

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Course Objectives Related to MAR Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Theology of Worship
Professor :Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III
Campus: Global Education

MAR Student Learning Outcomes *In order to measure the success of the MAR 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 MAR outcomes.*		**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.	Strong	The student will demonstrate that understanding in weekly pastoral prayer submissions incorporating those details, concepts, and frameworks in a way that glorifies God and edifies the hearers.
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	Worship is to be governed by the Word of God; the question of how to apply the principles God decrees for His worship in His Word for modern and post-modern people will be discussed.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The course will teach a consistent Reformed, Westministerian Theology of Worship, and include significant discussion of the Regulative Principle of Worship (RPW).
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Worship is both demanded by the Creator of His Creatures, but as His redeemed and adopted sons, we long to worship our Father.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Church power is ministerial and declarative; in worship we both minister to God and His people as well as declare His glory to a watching world.
Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic	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.)	Moderate	The student will be taught a love for the gospel rightly displays a winsome desire to worship the Lord and bring others to do so.
Teach/Preach	Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	The student will be able to structure the whole worship of God so that the climax is the preached word. Discussion and guidance is also given to preaching.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Study of the Trinity Hymnal as well as other worship media will be considered.
MAR Specific SLO	An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one's own calling in society	Moderate	By studying the theology of worship taught in scripture and examined from history, the student will be able to use this in their calling in the church either as a leader or active participant.

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