

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
01PT5375 Remote: Personal Sanctification
Spring Semester 2021 (Selected Mondays, 5:00 – 7:00 PM Central Time)
Dr. Ligon Duncan

Course Description

This course emphasizes methodology and responsibility for personal growth in Christ. This involves the study of Scripture for personal nurture and the exercise of certain disciplines necessary for spiritual growth.

Course Purpose

This course is designed to be a help to your personal growth in grace. Without personal sanctification, you will not survive in life or ministry.

Course Objectives

1. To cultivate the student's personal holiness.
2. To help the student understand the Reformed doctrine of the Christian life.
3. To help the student cultivate the use of the means of grace in sanctification.
4. To memorize scriptures and catechism answers concerning sanctification.

Contact Information

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Assisting me to facilitate this course will be my TA: Tony Doggett Email: tdoggett@rts.edu

Course Texts

Required:

The Bible. (either *ESV Study Bible*, Crossway; *or Reformation Study Bible*, Reformation Trust)

The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms (either Banner of Truth or PCA/OPC edition)

David B. Calhoun, *Prayers on the Psalms* (Banner of Truth)

Matthew Henry/O. Palmer Robertson, *A Way to Pray* (Banner of Truth) *or*

Matthew Henry/Ligon Duncan, *A Method for Prayer* (Christian Focus) and MatthewHenry.org

Terry Johnson, *Family Worship* (Christian Focus)

B.B. Warfield, *The Religious Life of Theological Students* (P&R)

Syllabus Readings: Ligon Duncan, *The Ordinary Means of Grace & The Joy of Sanctification*

Recommended:

Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry* (Banner of Truth)

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices* (Banner of Truth)

Sinclair Ferguson, *Devoted to God* (Banner of Truth)

Walter Marshall, *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification* (Reformation Heritage Books)

David Mathis, *How to Stay Christian in Seminary* (Crossway)

J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* (IVP)

J.C. Ryle, *Holiness* (Banner of Truth)

Herman Witsius, *The Character of a True Theologian*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance. Class attendance is, of course, crucial to the benefit of the student and is therefore required for PT5375R. The professor will try to make every possible provision to the student for synchronous and asynchronous access to the lecture material, but the student will want and need to engage attentively with the course exposition, and to participate in class interaction in various ways. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he or she should notify the instructor in advance.

2. Topical Discussion Questions and Student-to-Student Interactions. Students must answer all five topical discussion questions and respond to all four student-to-student interactions in Canvas. Please see due dates in Canvas for each topical discussion question and student-to-student interaction. The topical discussion questions and student-to-student interactions are worth **10%** of your final grade.

3. Written Prayers. 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. Please follow this format exactly: Font size 12, Times New Roman, single spaced, 1” margins. Prayers should be at least a half-page in length and no more than one full page in length. **Prayers must be submitted via Canvas by 5:00 pm Central Time prior to the beginning of class each week.** The written prayers are worth **40%** of your final grade.

4. Final Oral Examination. There will be one oral examination in this course. For the final oral exam, you will be required to memorize Titus 2:11-14 and *Westminster Larger Catechism*, question and answers 70, 74, and 75. The final oral examination will include recitation of your memorization and theological/practical discussion of it. The final exam is worth **50%** of your final grade.

5. Grading Scale. The grading scale for this course is the seminary’s grading scale. You may find it listed in the *RTS Catalog*.

6. Plagiarism. Please review the seminary’s policy on plagiarism. Plagiarized work will subject the student to failure in the course and possible disciplinary action.

7. Special Needs. In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

8. Disclaimer. This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

COURSE OUTLINE

Monday, February 1, 2021 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time)

Class 1. Loving God in Seminary

BRING: Bible, WCF, Calhoun, Henry, Johnson (every class)

READ: B.B. Warfield, *The Religious Life of Theological Students* (P&R)

COMPOSE: A prayer based on Psalm 1

BE READY: to lead the class in prayer or reading

Devotional: Read Psalm 1, Pray Psalm 1, Sing Psalm 1

Monday, February 8, 2021 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time)

Class 2: The Ordinary Means of Grace

BRING: Bible, WCF, Calhoun, Henry, Johnson (every class)

READ: Ligon Duncan, *The Ordinary Means of Grace*

COMPOSE: A prayer based on Psalm 2

BE READY: to lead the class in prayer or reading

Devotional: Read Psalm 2, Pray Psalm 2, Sing Psalm 2

Monday, February 15, 2021 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time)

Class 3: Justification by grace alone through faith alone, in Christian life and ministry

BRING: Bible, WCF, Calhoun, Henry, Johnson (every class)

READ: *Westminster Confession and Catechisms* on Justification (WCF 11.1-6, WLC 69-71, WSC 33)

COMPOSE: A prayer based on Psalm 23

BE READY: to lead the class in prayer or reading

Devotional: Read Psalm 23, Pray Psalm 23, Sing Psalm 23

Monday, February 22, 2021 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time)

Class 4: God's Adoption of us as sons, in Christian life and ministry

BRING: Bible, WCF, Calhoun, Henry, Johnson (every class)

READ: *Westminster Confession and Catechisms* on Adoption (WCF 12, WLC 74, WSC 34)

COMPOSE: A prayer based on Psalm 51

BE READY: to lead the class in prayer or reading

Devotional: Read Psalm 51, Pray Psalm 51, Sing Psalm 51

COURSE OUTLINE (Continued)

Monday, March 1, 2021 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time)

Class 5: Growth in Godliness (Sanctification), in Christian life and ministry

BRING: Bible, WCF, Calhoun, Henry, Johnson (every class)

READ: Ligon Duncan, *The Joy of Sanctification*

READ: *WCF and Catechisms* on Sanctification (WCF 13.1-3, WLC 75, 77-78, WSC 35)

COMPOSE: A prayer based on Psalm 88

BE READY: to lead the class in prayer or reading

Devotional: Read Psalm 88, Pray Psalm 88, Sing Psalm 88

Monday, March 8, 2021 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time)

Class 6: Desiring God and Godliness, in Christian life and ministry

BRING: Bible, WCF, Calhoun, Henry, Johnson (every class)

READ: Terry Johnson, chapter 7 “Historical Resources” 97-118

COMPOSE: A prayer based on Psalm 90

BE READY: to lead the class in prayer or reading

Devotional: Read Psalm 90, Pray Psalm 90, Sing Psalm 90

Monday, March 22, 2021 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time)

Class 7: Problems and Challenges in Christian life and ministry

BRING: Bible, WCF, Calhoun, Henry, Johnson (every class)

READ: Matthew Henry, chapter 9 “Shorter Forms of Prayer”

COMPOSE: A prayer based on Psalm 100

BE READY: to lead the class in prayer or reading

Devotional: Read Psalm 100, Pray Psalm 100, Sing Psalm 100

Course: Personal Sanctification
 Professor: Rev. Dr. J. Ligon Duncan, III
 Campus: Jackson
 Date: Spring Remote Residential 2021

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <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> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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	All written work must demonstrate good style, grammar, and syntax.
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	The doctrine of sanctification will be approached through a careful study of the biblical text.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Students will study the doctrine of sanctification as it is propounded in the Westminster Standards.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Student will study the connection between personal holiness and fruitful ministries.
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	Students will address contemporary issues about sanctification in a manner informed by scripture.
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	Students will approach debates about sanctification with both a clear articulation of biblical truth as understood in the Westminster Standards and with gracious speech.
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	Students must use language that is accessible to ordinary congregations.