**Christ, Culture, and Contextualization (ST 5600)**

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Professors: Gray Sutanto, Irwyn Ince, Mike Park

Summer 2021

The course explores a biblical theology of culture, evaluates alternative approaches to culture, and develops a holistic approach toward cultural engagement and contextualization. Students wll demonstrate an understanding of the religious underpinnings of culture, and develop a theological understanding of diversity, secularization, and pluralism.

Course Readings:

1. Larry Hurtado, *Destroyer of the Gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World* (Baylor University Press, 2017). Entirety.
2. David Koyzis, *Political Visions and Illusions: A Survey and Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies* (2nd ed. IVP, 2019). Read introduction and select five chapters to read.
3. Esau McCaulley, *Reading While Black* (IVP, 2020), Entirety.
4. Joshua Chatraw, *Telling a Better Story: Talking about God in a Skeptical Age* (Zondervan, 2020). Entirety.
5. Tim Keller, *How to Reach the West Again* (Redeemer CTC, 2020) [60 pages], Entirety.
6. Daniel Strange, *Plugged In* (Good Books, 2019). Entirety.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation (10%)
2. Final Exam (40%)
3. Contextualization Project (50%)

**Grading System**

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| **A** | **(97-100)** | **4.00** |
| **A-** | **(94-96)** | **3.66** |
| **B+** | **(91-93)** | **3.33** |
| **B** | **(88-90)** | **3.00** |
| **B-** | **(86-87)** | **2.66** |
| **C+** | **(83-85)** | **2.33** |
| **C** | **(80-82)** | **2.00** |
| **C-** | **(78-79)** | **1.66** |
| **D+** | **(75-77)** | **1.33** |
| **D** | **(72-74)** | **1.00** |
| **D-** | **(70-71)** | **0.66** |
| **F** | **(below 70)** | **0.00** |
| **I** | **(incomplete)** | **–** |
| **W** | **(withdraw)** | **–** |

The grade “I” indicates that the work required for the course was not completed. It is given only when special, extenuating circumstances (such as illness) prevent the student from completing the work or taking the examination.

A written request for an extension must be submitted prior to the due date of the work concerned. If the request is granted, it remains the responsibility of the student to complete all work for the course as soon as possible. In any case, an “I” grade must be removed within the extension time granted; otherwise it will be changed to “F.”

The grade “W” indicates that a student has withdrawn from a course after the drop deadline. This grade is granted by the academic dean only in extenuating circumstances.

If a course is retaken, the original grade remains on the transcript and is included in the GPA.

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

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Campus: Washington, D.C.

Date: Summer 2020

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| **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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | Reading, lectures, and writing, focus on content, clarity, persuasive argumentation, and logical analysis.  |
| **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.) | Moderate | Lectures and reading will emphasize that Scripture shapes our understanding of culture.  |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.  | Strong | Lectures and reading will show how Reformed theology impacts our understanding of culture and contextualization. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | Lectures and reading focus on understanding our theology better and the world better so that we might grow in confidence and patience.  |
| **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 | This is a specific focus of this course.  |
| **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 | The course will focus on applying the Christian faith for the good of the city.  |
| **Pastoral Ministry** | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Strong | Ministers should be able to aid their congregants through the challenges of the contemporary times.  |