ST 5250 Syllabus

Summer 2021

RTS Charlotte

**Systematic Theology**

**Ecclesiology and Sacraments**

**Meeting Information**

July 12, 1:00 – 4:30

July 13, 14, 15, 9:00 – 4:30 (with a break for lunch)

July 16, 9:00 – 12:00

**Contact Information**

Prof. Kevin DeYoung (kdeyoung@christcovenant.org)

My assistant at Christ Covenant is Barry Peterson (bfpeterson@christcovenant.org)

**Course Description**

This course will systematically present biblical teaching on the topics of ecclesiology and the sacraments as understood and taught within the Reformed tradition. We will also talk about the doctrine of the church in the Christian life with a focus on understanding and articulating sound theology. While the course is academic by nature. It is also designed to be doxological (inspiring us to worship) and practical (helping us in real life ministry).

**Course Requirements**

In addition to attending the class faithfully and being a joyful and active participant, there are three requirements.

1. Reading (30%) - Reading is an important part of the class. Students are expected to read all the assigned material *with reasonable care*. This means skimming does not count. Listening to a recording of the book does not count. There is one big book assigned for this class, James Bannerman’s classic *The Church of Christ*. Some parts of the book are dated and some parts you may disagree with (e.g., his support for the Establishment Principle), but all in all this is still the best single volume on Presbyterian ecclesiology. Read all the prefatory material in the book and the main text. You do *not* need to read the appendices. The reading must be completed by **August 13**.
2. Tests (30%) – There will be three in-class quizzes during the week. The exams will be based the material covered in the classroom lectures. Reading the Bannerman book will also help you on the quizzes, so you would do well to read as much of the book as you can prior to the course week.
3. Research Paper (40%) – A final research paper is also due on **August 13**. The paper should be in 12pt., Times New Roman font, full justified, 1-inch margins on all sides, 1.5 spacing, page numbers at the bottom, a title at the top of the first page, with your name, class, and date on the right top of the first page. Include the word count at the end of your paper. The paper should be around 4,000 words. Do not go over 4,500 words. Use footnotes (not endnotes) according to the SBL Handbook of Style. The most important thing is to be consistent with your citation style. Your paper should include a bibliography. The bibliography does not contribute to your word count, but the footnotes do. The goal of a research paper is to state and defend an argument, demonstrating facility with academic sources and showing that you are familiar with the major arguments, including those you do not agree with. In addition to grading on content, papers will be marked down for grammatical mistakes, sloppy writing, syntactical errors, improper formatting, and failure to communicate your argument clearly and cogently.

**Possible Paper Topics**

* What is the proper relationship between church and state?
* How should the church relate to the culture?
* How should we view the mission of the church in light of our ecclesiology?
* How should we respond to recent innovations in contemporary church life (e.g., multisite, online church, house church)?
* What role should doctrinal standards play in the church? How should we think about confessional subscription?
* How should Christians today employ (or not) the doctrine of the spirituality of the church?
* How should Christians keep (or not) the Lord’s Day?
* How should the church properly use the gifts of women in the church?
* How does our doctrine of the church relate to Pentecost? What does it mean to be apostolic? Are all the offices and gifts of the church operative today?
* What role should the sacraments play in the life of the church?
* What do we mean by the catholicity of the church? Why is it important? What should church unity entail (or not entail)?

You can do any of these topics or something related these. Do not use material from other courses in your paper. If you pick something else (which is great), just let me know your proposed topic before getting to work. Remember, you are not just summarizing material in an academic paper. You are making an argument (with a good introduction and cogent thesis statement) that contributes to our learning and aids the reader in the pursuit of truth.

**Required Reading**

Bannerman, James. *The Church of Christ: A Treatise on the Nature, Powers, Ordinances, Discipline, and Government of the Christian Church.* Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2015 (1869). (870 pages)

*Why We Love the Church: In Praise of Institutions and Organized Religion.* Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.(You only need to read my chapters, which total around 150 pages)

**Other Class Rules**

Computers and tablets are not allowed in class, except in typing your final essay on the last day. Unless there is an emergency, cell phones are not allowed either. Even with the godliest, most focused student, screens are almost always a distraction. Moreover, recent articles have suggested that students learn better when taking notes by hand.



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

Course: Ecclesiology and Sacraments

Professor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung

Campus: Charlotte

Date: July 12-16, 2021

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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.  | Strong | Students must demonstrate that they have learned the material and can communicate it to others both in writing and by speaking.  |
| **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 exegesis and application of Scripture is a major component in this class. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.  | Strong | We will draw from the Reformed tradition in great detail, using classic texts and confessional formulations. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate |  The aim of class is not just information but transformation. |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | The loci covered in this class relate to all of life and godliness. |
| **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 student will learn the best of the Reformed tradition while dealing respectfully with a diversity of viewpoints within the church. |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Moderate | The class will equip the student to effectively communicate what he learns in a local church setting. |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Strong | All of the ideas in the class touch on Christian worship, some very directly. |
| **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 | Many of the theological themes covered will be immediately applicable to local church ministry. |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | There is a strong emphasis on understanding the church’s role and mission in the world. |