

**Reformed Theological Seminary - Houston
Summer 2021**

**PT5375 Personal Sanctification 1 Hour
6:00 PM – 9:15 PM
June 7 – June 10, 2021**

**Rev. Fred Greco
Visiting Lecturer
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Course Description

This course explores the theology and methodology of personal growth in Christ. It focuses on sanctification and the means of grace as set forth in the Bible. The goal of the course is not only to provide the student with a better understanding of sanctification, but to give the student tools to help with personal sanctification.

Course Objectives

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

Required Texts (total 514 pages)

(These texts may be in an electronic format (e.g. Kindle), or audio format if available)

1. The Holy Bible, preferably in a recent translation (the instructor will use the ESV).
2. *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*
3. Beeke, Joel. *Family Worship*. Reformation Heritage Books: Grand Rapids, MI; 63 pages.
4. Ferguson, Sinclair. *Devoted to God: Blueprints for Sanctification*. Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA; 277 pages.
5. Lundgaard, Kris. *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin*. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing: Phillipsburg, NJ; 1998. 160 pages
6. Warfield, B.B. *The Religious Life of Theological Students*. (Lecture at Princeton Theological Seminary) Available at <http://www.tms.edu/tmsj/tmsj6g.pdf> 14 pages.

Recommended Texts

(These texts are not required reading for the examination)

1. Augustine. *The Confessions*.
2. Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
3. Calvin, John. *A Little Book on the Christian Life*.
4. Douma, J. *The Ten Commandments*.

5. Henry, Matthew/Duncan, Ligon. *A Method for Prayer*.
6. Jones, Mark. *Antinomianism: Reformed Theology's Unwelcome Guest?*
7. Owen, John. Eds. Kelly M. Kopic and Justin Taylor. *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*.
8. Marshall, Walter. *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification*.
9. Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*
10. Ryle, J.C. *Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*.

Assignments & Requirements

(1) Completion of the Assigned Reading. The student will complete all of the Required Reading above, approximately 514 pages. The student must indicate to the instructor in writing at the time the Final Exam is turned in how much of the reading has been completed (partial credit will be given). **30% of Final Grade**

(2) Attendance and participation. Class attendance is mandatory. This is an intensive class, so each missed class represents ¼ of the total instruction time. Students are expected to participate in class discussion. **30% of Final Grade**

(3) Memorization. Students will memorize Westminster Shorter Catechism answers to questions 35-42. Students will also memorize Ephesians 4:20-24 and Romans 6:5-7 in the English Standard Version. Students will be asked to recite their memorization to a proctor approved by the instructor. **10% of Final Grade**

(3) Reflection Paper. The student will submit a 5-6 page paper (typed, double-spaced using 12 pt. font) reflecting on a topic or book covered in the course. The paper is not a compilation of research, but is rather an articulation by the student of the main theme of the book chosen, or a summary of the salient point of the topic/issue chosen. Topics for this paper include:

- The importance of family worship and the challenges to it
- The use of the means of grace in sanctification
- What is the nature of true repentance?
- What is the power of sin and how does one combat it?

The paper is due at on **Thursday, July 8, 2021. Late Papers will be penalized. 30% of Final Grade**

Attendance

Because of the condensed nature of this course, class attendance is required for PT 5375. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance.

Grading Scale

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

Plagiarism

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

In-Class Computer Use

Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature believers in Christ. Classroom manners should reflect this maturity. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, and plan to return calls during breaks. Please refrain from surfing the internet, playing games, or chatting during class time.

Approximate Class Schedule

Please note that this schedule is approximate and subject to change at any time.

The instructor's announced changes in class will be the final word on the nature and date of assignments.

They are the student's sole responsibility to note and to implement.

Class will meet from **6:00 PM until 9:15 PM** on June 7-10:

- June 7 **In-Class Topic:** Introduction to Sanctification
A study of what sanctification is and its relationship to the ordo salutis.
- June 8 **In-Class Topic:** Sanctification and the Means of Grace
The use of the means of grace (the Word, sacraments, and prayer) in cultivating sanctification in ourselves and others.
- June 9 **In-Class Topic:** Sanctification – mortification and vivification
A study of the importance of putting sin to death and living to righteousness, with an emphasis on practical matters.
- June 10 **In-Class Topic:** Sanctification – grace and law
The relationship of the law as a means of sanctification and a rule of life and principles of grace. Attention will be given to errors with respect to sanctification.
- July 8 Reflection Paper Due

Instructor's Background

Rev. Greco is a teaching elder (pastor) in the Presbyterian Church in America. He has served as the Senior Pastor of Christ Church in Katy, TX (www.cckpca.org) for the past eight years. He currently serves as the Chairman of the PCA's Standing Judicial Commission, which serves as the highest court in the PCA. Prior to entering the pastorate, Rev. Greco was a ruling elder and Clerk of Session at Grace PCA in Hudson, Ohio. He was an attorney specializing in corporate governance, commercial finance, and real estate. He earned his law degree (J.D.) from the University of Michigan (1996), his graduate degree (M.A. in Classical Languages and Literature) from the University of Chicago (1993), and his undergraduate degree (B.A.) from the State University of New York at Buffalo (1991). He is a graduate of Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson (2003).

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Personal Sanctification (PT5375)
 Professor: Fred Greco
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Summer 2021

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</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>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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.	Moderate	Students will have to write a paper and participate in classroom discussions.
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	Scripture is the basis for the course.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The Westminster standards will be the basis for the course and memorization of catechism answers will be required.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Course is dealing with sanctification.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Course will touch on worldview issues.
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.)	Moderate	The importance of working alongside others on matters of practical living will be emphasized.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	Students will consider the implications of sanctification within the wider context of ministry.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	The use of the means of grace in sanctification will be considered.

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.	Strong	Sanctification is the foundation of shepherding.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Course will touch on the differences between Christian and non-Christian worldviews.