

Faith and Life: Readings in Old Princeton Theology
05HT6160
RTS-Houston – Fall 2021
John R. Muether (jmuether@rts.edu)

Meeting Dates

October 1-2 (Friday and Saturday)

December 3-4 (Friday and Saturday)

Course Description

A survey of the “majestic testimony” of Princeton Theological Seminary from its founding in 1812 to its reorganization in 1929, with readings from major figures including Archibald Alexander, Charles Hodge, Benjamin Warfield, and others. Emphasis will fall on its defense of the Reformed faith against the challenges of its time, its influence on the establishment of American Presbyterian identity, and its role in shaping contemporary American evangelicalism.

Course Outline (Subject to Change)

1. Introduction: What was Old Princeton?
2. Archibald Alexander
3. Charles Hodge
4. A. A. Hodge
5. B. B. Warfield
6. Other Voices
7. J. G. Machen
8. Conclusion: The Legacy of Old Princeton

Assignments

1. Completion of 1000 pages of reading. (10%)
2. Class presentation on a representative of Old Princeton theology (20%)
3. Research Paper (50%)
4. Class attendance and participation (20%)

Readings

Students will compile a reading list of primary and secondary sources in consultation with the instructor. It should include

1. Selections from Calhoun and/or Moorhead
2. Readings from at least four members of the Old Princeton faculty
3. At least two selections from both *The Way of Life* by Charles Hodge and *Faith and Life* by B. B. Warfield.
4. Resources for their class presentation and research paper.

Research Paper

The research paper is a 3000-4000 word paper which will explore in depth a particular figure in the story of Old Princeton. (The paper may not exceed 4000 words.) It should reflect a thorough grasp of the relevant primary and secondary source material and assess the subject's influence in the academy and church and his continuing relevance for our day. This assignment is due on Monday, December 13, 2021, and must be uploaded to Canvas or emailed to the professor.

Class Presentation

One half hour presentation on the fruits of the student's research.

Some Recommended Texts (fuller bibliography to come)

1. Primary

Alexander, Archibald. *Thoughts on Religious Experience*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1998.

Hodge, Charles. *The Way of Life: Christian Belief and Experience*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2020.

Noll, Mark A., ed. *The Princeton Theology, 1812-1929: Scripture, Science, and Theological Method from Archibald Alexander to Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield*. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R 1983.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Grace and Glory: Sermons Preached at Princeton Seminary*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2020.

Warfield, B. B. *Faith and Life*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1974 (first published 1916)

2. Secondary

Calhoun, David B. *Princeton Seminary* 2 vol. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1994-1994

Moorhead, James H. *Princeton Seminary in American Religion and Culture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

Steward, Gary. *Princeton Seminary (1812-1929): The Leaders' Lives and Works*. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2014.

Wells, David F., ed. *Reformed Theology in America: A History of Its Modern Development*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985. (See "Part 1: The Princeton Theology")

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Faith and Life: Readings in Old Princeton Theology

Professor: Muether

Campus: Houston

Date: Fall 2021

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<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.	Strong	Class discussions and research paper will aid in the articulation of theology.
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	Class will study the doctrinal of Scripture and exegetical approach of Old Princeton theology..
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Student will survey the ways the Princetonians excelled in defending and propagating the Reformed faith and their fidelity to the church standards.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Class will study how the Princeton theology gives shape to distinctive features of Reformed piety.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	The appropriate integration of Reformed faith and practice will be highlighted throughout the 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.)	Moderate	The class will discuss how Princeton engaged winsomely with others even in their polemical works.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to the heart 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.	Minimal	The class is designed to prepare students to be both theologically informed and pastorally effective, both in public and private settings.