PT5373 Syllabus

Fall 2021

Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte

**Personal Sanctification**

**Meeting Information**

Meeting Time: Thursdays, 1:00 PM–2:00 PM (August 26 – December 2)

Meeting Place:

**Contact Information**

Prof.: D. Blair Smith (office: lower level in E building)

Office Phone: 704-366-5066 (x4223)

Email: [bsmith@rts.edu](mailto:bsmith@rts.edu)

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 PM–4:00 PM and by appointment

Teacher Assistant: Matthew Kirk ([matt4kirk@gmail.com](mailto:matt4kirk@gmail.com))

**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 Objectives**

1. To help the student understanding how God transforms us through sanctification.
2. To grow in appreciation of our gracious Father renewing His people in the image of His Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. To grasp the importance of pursuing holiness for Christian discipleship and ministry.
4. To gain resources for cultivating growth in the Christian life.

**Texts and Abbreviations** (*Required*)

*TC:* Saint Augustine, *The Confessions* (Preferred translations are Chadwick, Boulding, or Sheed. I will be referring to Chadwick’s translation in class, which is found in the Oxford World Classics series.)

* We will read Books 1-10.

*RA:* Jason Byassee, *Reading Augustine: A Guide to the Confessions* (Cascade Companions; Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2006).

* We will read chapters 1-10.

*DG:* Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Devoted to God: Blueprints for Sanctification* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2016).

*YWL:* James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2016).

* We will read chapters 1-4.

*CPS:* *Class Packet on Sanctification (Available on Canvas)*

Thomas Chalmers, “The Expulsive Power of a New Affection” from <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/Chalmers,%20Thomas%20-%20The%20Exlpulsive%20Power%20of%20a%20New%20Af.pdf> (11 pgs.)

J. Ligon Duncan, “The Ordinary Means of Growth” from <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/ordinary-means-growth/> (3 pgs.)

John. M. Frame, “Law and Gospel” from [http://frame-poythress.org/law-and- gospel/](http://frame-poythress.org/law-and-gospel/) (8 pgs.)

Jonathan Grant, “The Hypersexual Self: *Sex and Relationships as Happiness Technologies*” and “Churches without Steeples: *The Loss of Transcendence and the Atomistic Worldview*” in *Divine Sex: A Compelling Vision for Christian Relationships in a Hypersexualized Age* (Grand Rapids, MI: BrazosPress, 2015), 96-130 (chapters 5-6).

Tom Schwanda, “Growing in Christ: Glorifying and Enjoying God through Reformed Spiritual Disciplines” *Reformation & Revival* 10:1 (Winter 2001): 19-45.

**Requirements**

1. Attendance and Participation (20%)

Students are expected to attend each class and be ready to participate in class discussion. Please let me know if you have an unavoidable conflict that will require you to miss class.

1. Reading (20%)

Students are required to complete the reading for each week. When recording their memorization work during the final exam period, students will turn in a reading report stating the percentage of the assigned readings that they have read with reasonable care over the course of the semester.

1. Memorization (10%)

During the final exam period students will be required to write out either Psalm 1; Romans 6:1-14, 6:15-23, 12:1-8, or 12:9-21 from memory.

1. Spiritual Disciplines Reflection (25%)

At the beginning of the semester students will choose one of the four “Public Spiritual Disciplines” *and* one of the four “Personal Spiritual Disciplines” highlighted in the assigned article by Tom Schwanda. Over the course of the semester students will give attention to these particular disciplines in their lives. At the end of the semester students will turn in a three to four page reflection paper (double-spaced, with one-and-a-half to two pages roughly covering each selected discipline). In your reflection, detail the manifestation this discipline took in your life, how you might have struggled with it, in what ways you found God’s grace channeled through it, how it might be sustained in your life going forward, and ways you can encourage this discipline in those you disciple.

1. Paper on *The Confessions* (25%)

Students will write a three to five page double-spaced essay interacting with Augustine’s classic autobiographical “prayer,” *The Confessions.* Options for interaction include:

1. Imitating Augustine, you can write your own spiritual autobiography as a prayer to God.
2. A topic of your choosing, such as temptation or friendship (or others approved by the professor), that emerges out of *The Confessions* and is connected to your sanctification.

This is not a research paper and does not require footnoting, documentation, and bibliography.

1. Extra Credit Option (10% possible)

You can add 10% to your total grade by writing a 4-6 page review of one of the following books. Your review should summarize the major claims of the book, identify any areas of disagreement, suggest agreements or criticisms, and communicate relevance the book has for ministry.

Michael Allen, *Sanctification* (New Studies in Dogmatics; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018).

Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Whole Christ: Legalism, Antinomianism, & Gospel Assurance—Why the Marrow Controversy Still Matters* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016).

Thomas Devonshire Hawkes, *Pious Pastors: Calvin’s Theology of Sanctification and the Genevan Academy* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2016).

Richard F. Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1979).

John Owen, *Communion with the Triune God*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Overcoming Sin and Temptation*

JC Ryle, *Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*

Octavius Winslow, *The Work of the Holy Spirit: An Experimental and Practical View*

**Schedule, Reading Schedule, and Assignments**

**Class 1 – Thursday, August 26**

**Topic: *Introduction: The Importance of Holiness***

*DG:* pp. ix-29 (Introduction & chapter 1)

*RA:* pp. vii-6 (Preface & Introduction)

**\*These should be read before the first day of class.**

**Class 2 – Thursday, September 2**

**Topic: *The Context of our Sanctification***

*DG:* pp. 31-53 (chapter 2)

*TC:* Book 1

*RA:* pp. 7-12 (chapter 1)

*CPS:* Tom Schwanda, “Growing in Christ: Glorifying and Enjoying God through Reformed Spiritual Disciplines” *Reformation & Revival* 10:1 (Winter 2001): 19-45.

**Class 3 – Thursday, September 9**

**Topic: *An Overview of Sanctification***

*DG:* pp. 55-70 (chapter 3)

*TC:* Book 2

*RA:* pp. 13-16 (chapter 2)

**Class 4 – Thursday, September 16**

**Topic: *Scripture and Sanctification***

*DG:* pp. 71-91 (chapter 4)

*TC:* Book 3

*RA:* pp. 17-20 (chapter 3)

**Class 5 – Thursday, September 23**

**Topic: *Prayer and Sanctification***

*DG:* pp. 93-109 (chapter 5)

*TC:* Book 4

*RA:* pp. 21-26 (chapter 4)

**Class 6 – Thursday, September 30**

**Topic: *Union with Christ & The Holy Spirit***

*DG:* pp. 111-138 (chapter 6)

*TC:* Book 5

*RA:* pp. 27-32 (chapter 5)

**Class 7 – Thursday, October 7**

**Topic: *Union with Christ & The Holy Spirit cont’d***

*DG:* pp. 139-160 (chapter 7)

*TC:* Book 6

*RA:* pp. 33-37 (chapter 6)

**Oct 14 – FALL BREAK – No Class**

**Class 8 – Thursday, October 21**

**Topic: *The Law & Love***

*DG:* pp. 161-188 (chapter 8)

*TC:* Book 7

*RA:* pp. 38-46 (chapter 7)

*CPS:* Thomas Chalmers, “The Expulsive Power of a New Affection” from <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/Chalmers,%20Thomas%20-%20The%20Exlpulsive%20Power%20of%20a%20New%20Af.pdf> (11 pgs.)

John. M. Frame, “Law and Gospel” from [http://frame-poythress.org/law-and- gospel/](http://frame-poythress.org/law-and-gospel/) (8 pgs.)

**Class 9 – Thursday, October 28**

**Topic: *Orienting our Desires***

*YWL:* pp. 1-25 (chapter 1)

*TC:* Book 8

*RA:* pp. 47-52 (chapter 8)

**Class 10 – Thursday, November 4**

**Topic: *Training our Desires***

*YWL:* pp. 27-81 (chapters 2-3)

*TC:* Book 9

*RA:* pp. 53-58 (chapter 9)

**\*Assignment: Paper on *The Confessions***

**Class 11 – Thursday, November 11**

**Topic: *Ecclesial Sanctification: Being Conformed* Together *into the Image of Christ***

**Guest Lecturer: Dr. Matthew S. Miller**

*YWL:* pp. 83-110 (chapter 4)

*CPS:* Jonathan Grant, “The Hypersexual Self: *Sex and Relationships as Happiness Technologies*” and “Churches without Steeples: *The Loss of Transcendence and the Atomistic Worldview*” in *Divine Sex: A Compelling Vision for Christian Relationships in a Hypersexualized Age* (Grand Rapids, MI: BrazosPress, 2015), 96-130 (chapters 5-6).

**Nov 18 – ETS Week – No Class**

**Nov 25 – Thanksgiving – No Class**

**Class 12 – Thursday, December 2**

**Topic: *Ordinary Progress***

*DG:* pp. 189-235 (chapters 9-10)

*TC:* pp. 187-229 (Book 10)

*RA:* chapter 10

*CPS:* J. Ligon Duncan, “The Ordinary Means of Growth” from <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/ordinary-means-growth/> (3 pgs.)

**\*Assignment: Spiritual Disciplines Reflection & Extra Credit**

**On Laptops and Smartphones in Class**

It is my strong recommendation that you take notes by hand using the hardcopy outlines I will provide before class. If you have an equally strong inclination to use your laptop, I require you put your word processing program in “full screen” mode or use the “do not disturb” function so that other applications on your computer do not grab your attention (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

Please keep your smartphone in your pocket on vibrate. If you do not have a pocket, put it facedown on your desk. Only check them on breaks or if you are receiving repeated notifications indicating an emergency.

**RTS Charlotte’s Classroom Technology Usage Policy**

RTS Charlotte recognizes how essential it is for students to have reliable, campus-wide access to the internet. For that reason, we have made Wi-Fi available for our student body, not only in the library and student lounges, but also in the classrooms. We know that students need to use the internet to download class materials, access files on the Cloud, and locate other important information. However, we also recognize that internet access in the classroom provides opportunity for abuse and misuse. Some students have unfortunately used their internet access to engage in many activities that distract them from the classroom lectures (e.g., surfing the web, checking sports scores, playing games). Not only does such activity hamper a student’s own seminary education, but it distracts other students who can easily view the screens of nearby students. In addition, donors and classroom guests (who often sit in the back) can see this inappropriate internet usage, which reflects poorly on RTS. Classroom etiquette includes leaving cell phones turned off, refraining from surfing the Internet or playing computer games or other distracting activities. In addition, students must respect standards set by individual professors regarding the use of technology during their class.

In order to address this issue, we must appeal to the integrity of the students as ones who are preparing for a lifetime of ministry to Christ and his church. We expect each student to take personal responsibility for proper classroom technology usage and to encourage others around them to do the same. All RTS-Charlotte students are accountable to the policies stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog and are therefore expected to use technology in the classroom only for appropriate class-related activities. Student conduct is under the supervision of the Dean of Students.



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

**With Mini-Justification**

Course: PT5375

Professor: D. Blair Smith

Campus: Charlotte

Date: Fall 2021

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| **MDiv Student Learning Outcomes** | | **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 | Emphasis on reflecting on sanctification through writing assignments |
| **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 | The professor will exegete relevant passages, and students are expected to understand the biblical underpinnings for the theology and practice of sanctification. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | Students are expected to understand a reformed approach to sanctification within the framework of the Westminster Standards. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | This is the main goal of the course. |
| **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. | Moderate | God’s Word is the foundation for knowing what it is that pleases the Lord and how we grow in union with Christ. |
| **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 professor will communicate alternative approaches to personal Sanctification with fairness. |
| **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.. | Moderate | The role of personal sanctification in ministering to others will be emphasized. |