ST 5150/03 Syllabus

Fall 2021

RTS Charlotte

**Systematic Theology**

**Scripture, Theology, Anthropology**

**Meeting Information**

Wednesdays, August 25 – December 1, 8:30am – 12:00pm

**Contact Information**

Dr. Kevin DeYoung (kdeyoung@christcovenant.org)

My TA at RTS is Alberto Paredes (aparedes@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 Scripture (prolegomena), Theology proper (doctrine of God), and Anthropology (doctrine of man) as understood and taught within the Reformed tradition. We will also talk about the place of systematic theology in the Christian life and why it is critical for pastors to think and write well. Consequently, we will 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 entire class and being a joyful and active participant in the class, there are four requirements.

1. Mid-term Exam (15%) – The exam will cover the lecture material up to this point in the course. The questions will focus on facts and terms, with a few short answer questions. The mid-term exam will be on **October 6**.
2. Final Exam (15%) – The exam will cover the lecture material from the mid-term through the end of the course. The questions will focus on facts and terms, with a few short answer questions. The final exam will be on the last day of class, at the end of the period on **December 1**.
3. Required Reading (35%) – 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. You will find that Turretin is not easy reading. Many terms and debates and people will be unfamiliar to you. That’s okay. Just press through and do the best you can to pick up as much as you can. You won’t regret having tackled Turretin (or allowing him to tackle you!). The Dolezal book will introduce you to critical debates in the area of theology proper. The Trueman book does not cover Christian theology per se as much as it explains our culture’s default anthropology. It is an important book and should be read carefully, even if some of the philosophers will be new to you. There is an above average amount of reading in this class, but there are no other assignments outside two in-class exams and a final paper. The reading is a key component of what you are meant to do and learn in this course. All the required reading must be completed by **December 14**.
4. Research Paper (35%) – A final research paper is also due on **December 9**. The paper should be in 12pt., Times New Roman font, fully 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. The paper should be 3500-4000 words, which is roughly 8-12 pages (given the formatting above). Do not go over 4000 words. Use footnotes (not endnotes) according to the Chicago Manual, but really 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. Papers will be marked down for grammatical mistakes, sloppy writing, syntactical errors, and failure to communicate your argument clearly and cogently.

**Possible Paper Topics**

* Recent challenges to the doctrine of Scripture
* The debate over the eternal subordination of the Son
* Whether or not Christians and Muslims worship the same God (or whether Christians and Mormons worship the same God)
* How the notion of an impassible and immutable God works (or doesn’t) in a world of evil and suffering
* Recent challenges to the historicity of Adam
* How the *imago dei* relates to increasing political, religious, and racial polarization
* How biblical anthropology informs our culture’s most heated controversies (e.g., global warming and the environment, human sexuality, political philosophy)

You do NOT have to do one of the topics above. I want you to write about something you are interested in and about which you are eager to learn more. If you pick something else, you may want to 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 that contributes to our learning and aids the reader in the pursuit of truth.

**Required Reading**

Dolezal, James E. *All That Is in God: Evangelical Theology and the Challenge of Classical Christian Theism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2017. (162 pages)

Trueman, Carl. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to the Sexual Revolution*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020. (432 pages)

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology, Volume One*, edited by James T. Dennison, Jr. Translated by George Musgrave Giger. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1992. (685 pages)

**Grading**

Mid-term Exam – 15%

Final Exam – 15%

Required Reading – 35%

Research Paper – 35%

**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. Besides, recent articles have suggested that students learn better when taking notes by hand.



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

Course: Scripture, Theology, Anthropology

Professor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung

Campus: Charlotte

Date: Fall 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 the 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 | Many of the ideas in the class touch on Christian worship. We will have the privilege to focus on the nature and character of God himself. |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting the 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. | Moderate | Points of application will help the student understand the church’s role and mission in the world. |