
REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
GLOBAL



ORIENTATION SEMINAR
MR. DAVID R. JOHN, III



Course Overview

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Course Description:

00PT5000 Orientation Seminar, 1 hour

Professor of Record:
Mr. David R. John, III

An introduction to distance learning techniques, theological bibliography, and academic disciplines in the seminary curriculum. Special emphasis is given to the unique aspects and requirements of Global Education M.A. programs.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate an Understanding of Course Syllabi and Notebooks
- Discover How to Use Canvas
 - Canvas Overview
 - Course Navigation
 - Discussion Forums
 - Taking Quizzes
 - Checking Grades
- Explore the RTS Mobile App
- Interact with the RTS Library and Global Librarian
- Understand the Mentoring Program
- Recognize the Course Registration Process and How to Contact Student Support
- Determine Learning Strategies and Review Online Etiquette

Required Textbooks:

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 4th ed. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Cameron, Andrew J. B. and Brian S. Rosner. *The Trials of Theology: Becoming a 'Prover Worker' in A Dangerous Business*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus Publications, 2010.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

Online Student Handbook:

The Online Student Handbook (can be [downloaded here](#)) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

Summary of Requirements:

1. Watch all [Videos](#)
2. Complete all [Quizzes](#)
3. Participate in [Forum Discussions](#)
4. Submit the [Final Essay](#)
5. Submit [Mentor Agreement Form](#)

Meet the Professor and Staff

Professor of Record:



David R. John III joined the RTS staff in 2007 and serves as the Executive Director for the RTS Global & Distance Education. Mr. John has worked in the distance education field for higher education for over 20 years. In addition to his time in higher education, he has worked in television production and news broadcasting fields and has an extensive background in video-conferencing, streaming platforms, smart classroom design and integration, and a variety of multimedia platforms and course delivery systems for education. David received his B.S. in General Communication from Florida State University and holds an M.A. (Theological Studies) from Reformed Theological Seminary. David is married to Janna and they have three children and currently reside in Fort Mill, SC.

Global and Distance Education Staff:

David R. John III, Executive Director (djohn@rts.edu)

Alice Hathaway, Executive Assistant and Registrar (ahathaway@rts.edu)

Brittian Brewer, Director of Admissions (bbrewer@rts.edu):

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Evan Frazier, Instructional Designer and Canvas Admin (efrazier@rts.edu)

Jaime Miller, Instructional Design and Graphics (jmiller@rts.edu)

Todd Whiting, Director of Instructional Design and IT (twhiting@rts.edu)

Grades

Participation (25%):

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
 - a. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
 - b. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts).
 - c. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to contribute five (5) substantive posts in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)

The student is required to contribute five (5) substantive posts in this forum. A post may be a new topic, a response to an already existing topic, a question the student has, or a statement to another student.

Final Essay (Final 20%):

The student is required to write a final essay that answers the following questions:

1. What brought you to seminary and what do you hope to do with your degree?
2. What are some tips for taking advantage of distance education?

Your essay should be 1-2 pages in length, double-spaced with standard margins. You are required to upload your finished exam essay in MS Word or PDF format using the appropriate upload link in the Learning Management System (LMS/Canvas). You are not required to have a title page or bibliography but please be sure your name and date are on the submitted document:

Quizzes (25%):

The student is required to complete four quizzes in the course. These quizzes will cover specific course content related to the modules in which they are presented. Quizzes are not cumulative.

Reading (25%):

The student is required to complete all reading assignments. An assignment link for reporting the completed percentage of required reading is provided in Canvas.

Mentor Agreement Form (5%):

The church-based mentor is a key component of M.A. degree programs and all Global M.A. and certificate program students are required to choose a mentor. Your mentor may be a pastor, elder, or other mature Christian in the church. You must upload a completed Mentor Agreement form, signed by your mentor, to register your mentor with RTS. Your mentor will receive a welcome letter and several books to enjoy as a gift.

As you take courses during your program, you are required to meet with your mentor once every month (3 credit hour course = 3 mentor meetings) to discuss course material and the application of what you have learned to your personal, professional, and ministerial growth. A copy of the Mentor Agreement form is available for download in the LMS.

Please note you are not required to submit a Mentor Report for this course but will be required to submit one for each course you take in the future.

Assignments:

Best practice for your time management is for you to complete and submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information:

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education
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Charlotte, NC 28226
(704)688-4265
1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
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Web site: www.rts.edu/global

Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Orientation Seminar, OPT5000

Professor: David R. John, III

Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<i>In order to measure the success of the degree 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 degree 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description and explanation of degree curriculum and disciplines - Description and explanation of degree thesis
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.)	Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Librarian lectures on theological research for courses and thesis -Peer interaction from a variety of global cultures
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	None	
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mentoring process for theological distance education -Student to student learning and fellowship online - Integrating seminary studies and developing a heart for ministry.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating seminary studies and developing a heart for ministry.
Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic	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.)	Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Academic work applied to cultural transformation
Teach	Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leveraging tools for online education. - Utilizing library and electronic sources for research. - Developing and writing good research papers.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Testimony of reason for degree -Critical thinking about the role of the degree in career - Engaging peers from different ecumenical and demographic backgrounds.
Degree Specific SLO	An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one's own calling in society	Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical application of degree in ministry. - Mentoring program and ministry. -Advisement and interaction with peers