**Course Overview**

**Course Description:**
00ST5100 Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies, 3 hours
Lecturing Professor: Dr. James N. Anderson
Professor of Record: Dr. D. Blair Smith

This is a survey course on the basic tenets of Reformed Theology that developed during the time of the Reformation. Specifically the course will focus on the Reformation Solas and the five points of Calvinism, and their impact on Christian living and pastoral ministry.

**Course Objectives:**
• To familiarize the student with the basics of Reformed Theology (specifically, the Reformation Solas and the “Doctrines of Grace”) in their historical context
• To familiarize the student with the core biblical arguments for Reformed theology
• To encourage the student to reflect on some of the hermeneutical and practical implications of Reformed theology
• To help the student appreciate the significance of a Reformed world view for pastoral and theological studies

**Required Textbooks:**

[A copy of this will be made available in the Learning Management System (LMS)]


Packer, J. I. “‘Saved By His Precious Blood’: An Introduction to John Owen’s The Death of Death in the Death of Christ.” in A Quest for Godliness. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1994
[A copy of this will be made available in the LMS]


Sproul, R. C. What is Reformed Theology? Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005. [These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

**Online Student Handbook:**
The Online Student Handbook 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. Listen to all recorded Lectures
2. Complete all Readings
3. Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and the professor)
4. Take the Midterm Exam
5. Take the Final Exam
6. Submit Research Paper
7. Submit Mentor Report or Course Application Paper
Lecturing Professor: 

Dr. James N. Anderson is an ordained minister in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Dr. Anderson came to RTS from Edinburgh, Scotland, and specializes in philosophical theology, religious epistemology, and Christian apologetics. His doctoral thesis at the University of Edinburgh explored the paradoxical nature of certain Christian doctrines and the implications for the rationality of Christian faith. His research and writing has also focused on the presuppositionalism of Cornelius Van Til, particularly his advocacy of the transcendental argument. Dr. Anderson has a longstanding concern to bring the Reformed theological tradition into greater dialogue with contemporary analytic philosophy. Before studying philosophy, Dr. Anderson also earned a Ph.D. in Computer Simulation from the University of Edinburgh. He is a member of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion, and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. Prior to joining RTS Charlotte, Dr. Anderson served as an assistant pastor at the historic Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh where he engaged in regular preaching, teaching, and pastoral ministry. He is active now in service at Ballantyne Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. He is married to Catriona and they have three children. You can follow his blog at www.proginosko.com or on Twitter @proginosko

Professor of Record: 

Dr. D. Blair Smith is the Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at RTS Charlotte. Blair earned his Th.M. in Theology from Harvard Divinity School, where he wrote his thesis on “Athanasius’s Trinitarian Theology of Redemption, with Special Reference to the Holy Spirit.” He holds a Ph.D. in Historical Theology (Patristics) at Durham University in England under Professor Lewis Ayres, one of the world’s leading patristic scholars. The working title of his dissertation is “The Fatherhood of God in Fourth-Century Pro-Nicene Trinitarian Theology.” During a portion of his doctoral studies, Blair served as a Research Visitor at The University of Notre Dame. Blair is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America and served for more than seven years as the Pastor of Adult Education at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. He also served as a part-time associate Pastor at Michiana Covenant Presbyterian Church near South Bend, IN, preaching throughout the Great Lakes Presbytery of the PCA and ministering to graduate students at Notre Dame. Blair is married to his wife, Lisa, and they have 4 children.
Forum Discussions (15%):
The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:
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 post four (4) times 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)
   A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

Examinations (Midterm 20%, Final 25%):
The midterm exam will cover lessons 1-8. The format of the exam will be a series of multiple choice questions based on the material covering the first half of the course. Use the Lecture Review Questions at the end of each lesson to assist you in studying. The student will have 90 minutes to complete this exam.

The final exam will be cumulative covering all lessons, 1-14. You should review all of the lecture material and course notebook in preparation for the exam. The final exam will consist of a combination of short-answer and short-essay questions based on all of the lecture material. The student will have three hours to complete this exam.

The midterm and final exams for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

Research Paper (30%):
You should write a paper (3500-4500 words, excluding footnotes) that discusses either one of the five “Reformation Solas” or one of the five “Doctrines of Grace.” You are free to choose which one of these ten articles of doctrine to discuss. See section titled “Research Paper Instructions” in this syllabus for more detailed instructions on planning and writing your research paper.
Reading Report (5%):

The student must complete all of the required reading. Reading assignments are broken down week by week within the LMS. The Reading Report will indicate the amount of required reading that has been completed during the semester and must be filled out and submitted at the end of the course. No partial credit will be given for readings that have not been completed.

Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):

If you are enrolled in an RTS Global degree or certificate program, you are required to submit a mentor report at the end of the course. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom.

If you are receiving your degree through another RTS campus (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.) or special student (e.g. from another seminary), you are asked to write a 200-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 200 words will receive a grade deduction.

Assignments:

Best practice for your time management is for you to 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
2101 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 900-1257
1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/global
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lessons</th>
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| Lesson One  
Introduction: What is Theology?  

Lesson Three  
Background: The Reformation and Its Theology  

Lesson Five  
Doctrine of Solus Christus (Christ Alone)  

Lesson Seven  
Doctrine of Sola Fide (Faith Alone)  

Lesson Nine  
The Reformed Doctrines of Providence and Predestination  

Lesson Eleven  
The Doctrine of Unconditional Election  

Lesson Thirteen  
The Doctrine of Preserving Grace  

Lesson Two  
Foundations: The Doctrine of Scripture  

Lesson Four  
Doctrine of Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)  

Lesson Six  
Doctrine of Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)  

Lesson Eight  
Doctrine of Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone)  

Lesson Ten  
The Doctrine of Radical Depravity  

Lesson Twelve  
The Doctrine of Efficacious Grace  

Lesson Fourteen  
The Doctrine of Particular Redemption |
Research Paper Instructions

You should write a paper (3500-4500 words, excluding footnotes) that discusses either one of the five “Reformation Solas” or one of the five “Doctrines of Grace.” You are free to choose which one of these ten articles of doctrine to discuss, but you should not try to address every aspect of the doctrine in your paper. Rather, the paper should have a narrowly-defined thesis that focuses on one aspect or element of your chosen doctrine. (For example, you might choose to write specifically on the self-attesting nature of Scripture as an essential element of the doctrine of Sola Scriptura.) The paper may argue for or against your chosen article of doctrine (e.g., if you do not agree with the doctrine of Particular Redemption, you may argue against it). Your paper should include all of the following:

- A clear statement and explanation of the article of doctrine under discussion, with supporting references.
- An argument either for or against your chosen article, based primarily on a responsible exegesis of relevant biblical texts. You are strongly encouraged to focus on two or three key texts, discussing them in some depth and drawing from scholarly exegetical commentaries to support your interpretations. You may also use arguments based on other doctrines (e.g., doctrine X is implied by doctrines Y and Z).
- A treatment of at least two prominent objections to the position you have taken (i.e., the objections and then try to refute them). You should cite sources (either popular or scholarly) for these objections.
- A discussion of some of the practical applications of the position you have taken (i.e., answer the question: what real difference does it or should it make in the life of a Christian believer?).
- A standard bibliography (see below on sources and citations).

Your paper will be graded according to the following criteria, in no particular order: responsible use of Scripture, responsible use of sources, extent of research, creativity, clarity, structure and coherence, cogency of argument, evidence of critical thinking, practical relevance, and good writing style (including grammar, spelling, and punctuation). Your paper should cite at least 6 scholarly sources. For the purposes of this paper, a scholarly source is a book or article by a recognized expert in the field (and not aimed at a popular level for a general audience). Please consult the professor if you have any doubts about whether a source is scholarly. You should not rely heavily on web-based sources. Use the library!

The Professor of Record is available via the Student-Professor Forum to provide direction on formulating a good thesis and finding appropriate scholarly sources. The Global Librarian is available for assistance in accessing and navigating the library resources.

The paper should be word-processed, not hand-written. Use a 12-point font and double line-spacing for the main text. Use section headings where applicable to improve readability. Use
footnotes (10-point font) rather than endnotes. Use Turabian style for citations, footnoting, and bibliography. The paper should be submitted with a title page containing all of the following: the name and year of the course, your name, the professor’s name, the title of the paper, and the exact word count for the paper (obtained from your word processor’s word-count feature).

The following rubric contains some of the key criteria by which your paper may be graded:

1. **Clear & Viable Thesis**: The paper puts forth a viable thesis that is clearly stated and can be reasonably defended in a paper of the assigned length.

2. **Structure & Argumentation**: The paper has a logical structure and provides appropriate argumentation in support of the thesis.

3. **Use of Resources**: The paper uses the proper number and types of resources. This includes using diverse, quality resources in a responsible manner.

4. **Turabian Formatting**: The paper is properly formatted according to the RTS Turabian guidelines. These guidelines can be downloaded within your course on the “Notebook” page.

5. **Depth of Paper**: The paper has depth that reflects scholarly research, critical analysis, theological insight, and creativity.

6. **Presentation of Paper**: The paper reflects good grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with clarity of expression and appropriate academic style.

You will be penalized if you do not observe the requirements and guidelines above.
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professor:</td>
<td>James N. Anderson</td>
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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.*

<table>
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<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Moderate | 1. Pastoral application paper  
2. Final exam tests knowledge and articulation of course topics  
3. Class discussion questions testing understanding and application |

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<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| 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 | 1. Detailed discussion of biblical basis for doctrines of grace  
2. Covers basic principles of biblical interpretation  
3. Discussion of Reformed doctrine of Scripture |

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<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Introduction to Reformed theology</td>
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<th>Sanctification</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Minimal | 1. Personal application of doctrines of grace  
2. Emphasis on cross-centered living |

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<th>Desire for Worldview</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Relevance of Christian doctrines to all of life</td>
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<th>Winsomely Reformed</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| 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 | 1. Distinction between Christian orthodoxy and Reformed distinctives  
2. Respectful engagement with non-Reformed views |

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<tr>
<th>Preach</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Importance of doctrines as foundation/framework for preaching</td>
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<th>Worship</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Introduces Reformed views on worship (application of Sola Scriptura)</td>
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<th>Shepherd</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| 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. | Moderate | 1. Emphasis on pastoral application of doctrines of grace  
2. Discusses implications of Reformed theology for evangelism/discipleship |

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<th>Church/World</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal | 1. Understanding and appreciation for Reformed distinctives  
2. Reformed theology placed in context of broader Evangelical tradition |