

New Geneva Theological Seminary  
(Fredericksburg Campus)

Syllabus

ST 501- Introduction to Reformed Theology

Fall 2017

Instructor: Robert Rumbaugh

**Course Description**

An overview of major theological and philosophical systems, providing the groundwork for a Reformed world-and-life view. Students will receive training in understanding the theological and ecclesiastical landscape as they address the question, “Why are we committed to the Reformed faith?”

**Overview and Objectives**

1. Knowledge:

- To gain a basic understanding of the theological principles that drove the Reformation.
- To understand these principles in the light of the history of the church
- To see the unity and scope of the Scriptures as God’s message to all people, cultures, and nations.

2. Skills:

- To be able to explain the distinctives of Reformed Theology
- To be able to begin to apply Biblical doctrines to personal piety and obedience
- To be able to make a beginning in applying biblical doctrines to modern moral and societal problems
- To be able to synthesize the Redemptive story of the Bible from a Reformed Theological perspective

3. Character

- To fear God as our Father and Creator, Sustainer, and Governor of all things.
- To be humble under the hand of God, in having Christ formed in us by the Holy Spirit.
- To be fervent in devotion, earnest in prayer, actively obedient in every aspect of our lives: personal, family, church, society, missionary, and national.

**Grading**

Quizzes: 20%

Mid-Term Exam 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Research Paper 30%

### Required Resources

1. Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; New edition edition (August 25, 1996)
2. Westminster Confession of Faith
3. Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms

### Supplemental Resources

1. John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*
2. Robert Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*: 2nd Edition
3. Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*
4. Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants between God and Man*
5. Joel R. Beeke, *Living for God's Glory : An Introduction to Calvinism*

### Schedule:

Week	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignments (Berkhof)
09/13/17	Theology	1 <sup>st</sup> Section : pages 15-34; 53-75; 95-97
09/20/17	Doctrine of Revelation	1 <sup>st</sup> Section: pages 116-169
09/27/17	Doctrine of God – Part I	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 41-81
10/04/17	Doctrine of God – Part II	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 82-99
10/11/17	Doctrine of God – Part III	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 100-125; 165-180
10/18/17	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
10/25/17	Doctrine of Man	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 181-236
10/32/17	Doctrine of Christ – Part I	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 312-324; 331-355
11/08/17	Doctrine of Christ – Part II	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 356-383; 392-414
11/15/17	Doctrine of Salvation – Part I	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 415-464
11/29/17	Doctrine of Salvation – Part II	2 <sup>nd</sup> Section: pages 465-554
12/06/17	<b>Final Exam / Paper Due: 12/13/17</b>	

### Research Paper Guidelines

- The paper may be on one of the subjects covered within the class; i.e., to “dig deeper” into one of the areas of Reformed Theology.
  - For example while the class lecture may not have enough time to go deeper into the theological controversy over “Sola Scriptura” between the Reformers and the Catholic Church the student may do his/her paper on this subject.
  - If you have questions on the topic please consult with the instructor first.
- The student is required to use the standard MLA format.
  - A simple guideline is provided at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
  - Extended parentheses (For example, a “long winded excursus stuck in the middle of a sentence to explain a complicated idea or concept) are frowned upon in this format. It breaks up the train of thought and makes it very difficult for the reader to follow.
  - Footnotes at the bottom of the same page.

- The paper must be written from two standards:
  - It must be academically proficient: as a graduate student always remember that your research is to be of the highest caliber.
  - It must be professionally proficient: a theological paper is written concerning the deep truths of God.
- Avoid excessive use of internet citations.
  - One example is above with the MLA format address. There is no telling how long that address will exist on the internet since it changes so often, servers go down, etc.
  - With the internet, there is a “flattening” of authority; i.e., anyone with a keyboard is now a selfproclaimed authority. Good research isn’t googled.
- Include a correctly formatted bibliography.
  - If you footnote a source it must be in your bibliography.
- Length of Paper
  - A standard length for a graduate paper is 15-20 pages – double spaced.
  - The bibliography is not included in the page count.
  - Font is Times New Roman, 12 point.
  - Late papers will be docked one grade for each day the paper is late. If the student cannot complete the assignment (as above), please see the instructor before the due date.