

New Geneva Theological Seminary
(Fredericksburg Campus)

Syllabus

ST 502 – Revelation and Inspiration

Fall 2018

Instructor: Robert Rumbaugh

Course Description

This course is a survey of the doctrines of Inspiration and Revelation, both general or natural (the book of creation) and special or supernatural (verbal revelation). Special emphasis will be given to standard theological themes.

Objective

1. Knowledge

- To have a basic understanding of the complementary ways that God has revealed Himself in the creation of all things and in the inspiration of the Bible.
- To know the Biblical passages that teach this revelation.
- To be familiar with the key parts of the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms.
- To have knowledge of the canons of grammatico-historical theological exegesis
- To place this understanding within the context of the historical development of these doctrines and principles, including the canon of Scripture.

2. Skills

- To be able to defend the inerrancy and inspiration of the Bible.
- To understand the challenges made to inerrancy even by those who claim to believe in inerrancy.

3. Character

- To be “Men of the Bible” who take their philosophy, theology, and practice from Scripture alone.
- To bring every thought captive to Jesus Christ.

Procedure

1. Method

- Students will be expected to become familiar with the literature of Inspiration and Revelation.

2. Class

- Students are responsible for all the material presented or discussed in class.

3. Grading

- Quizzes: 30%
- Mid-Term Exam 25%
- Research Paper 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

4. Required Resources

- Edward. J. Young *Thy Word is Truth*
- Stonehouse and Wooley, *The Infallible Word*
- John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book I, Chapters I-IV
- Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter 1
- Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms – Memorize Larger Question 4

5. Supplemental Resources

- W. à Brakel, (1992). *The Christian's Reasonable Service*. (J. R. Beeke, Ed., B. Elshout, Trans.) (Vol. 1, p. 3-5). Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books.
- Harold Lindsell, *The Battle for the Bible*

6. Schedule

- Classes will be held every Monday 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

Week	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignments
09/10/18	Revelation	
09/17/18	Inspiration of Scripture	
09/24/18	Authority of Scripture	
10/01/18	Inerrancy of Scripture	
10/08/18	Infallibility of Scripture	
10/15/18	Mid-Term Exam	
10/22/18	Perspicuity of Scripture	
10/29/18	Necessity of Scripture	
11/05/18	Sufficiency of Scripture	
11/12/18	Canon of Scripture	
11/19/18	Interpretation of Scripture	
12/03/18	Final Exam / Paper Due: 12/10/17	

7. *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 self-proclaimed 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.