

New Geneva Theological Seminary
(Fredericksburg Campus)

Syllabus

ST 502 – Revelation and Inspiration

Winter/Spring 2025

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 faithful servants of God who take their philosophy, theology, and practice from the Scriptures alone.
- To bring every thought captive to Jesus Christ.

Procedure

1. Method

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

2. Class

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

3. Grading

- Quizzes: 20%
- Interaction 20%
- Reading 20%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Research Paper 20%

4. Required Resources

- Bible
- Beeke, J. R., & Smalley, P. M. (2019). Reformed Systematic Theology: Revelation and God (Vol. 1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.
- Berkhof, L. (1932). Introductory Volume to Systematic Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- **Free Ebook:** <https://www.monergism.com/introduction-systematic-theology-ebook>
- Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter 1
- Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms

5. Supplemental Resources

- John Calvin, The Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book I, Chapters I-IV
- Warfield, B. B. (2023). The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible (J. J. Hughes, Ed.; Revised and Enhanced). P&R Publishing.

6. Schedule

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

Modules	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 1	02/03/25	Introduction to Revelation	Beeke (Ch 10)
Week 2	02/10/25	History of Revelation in Biblical	Berkhof (Ch III.A) Beeke (Ch 11)
Week 3	02/17/25	History of Revelation in the Church	Berkhof (Ch III.D) Beeke (Ch 12)
Week 4	02/24/25	Reformed Doctrine of Revelation	WCF Ch 1 Beeke (Ch 13)
Week 5	03/03/25	General Revelation	Beeke (Ch 14)
Week 6	03/10/25	Special Revelation	Beeke (Ch 15-16)
Week 7	03/17/25	The Word of God	Beeke (Ch 17)
Week 8	03/24/25	Properties of the Written Word – Part 1	Beeke (Ch 18-19)
Week 9	03/31/25	Properties of the Written Word – Part 2	Beeke (Ch 20-21)
Week 10	04/07/25	Properties of the Written Word – Part 3	Beeke (Ch 22-23)
Week 11	04/14/25	Canon of Scripture – Part 1	Beeke (Ch 24)
	04/21/25	No Class	
Week 12	04/28/25	Canon of Scripture – Part 2	Beeke (Ch 25)
Week 13	05/05/25	Final Exam	
Week 14	05/12/25	Research Paper Due	

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 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 5000 words – 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.