

HT 560 Reformed Spirituality
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Fall Semester, 2008
Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.

Class meets: Wednesday morning, 8:00-11:00 AM

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Course Description:

This course examines the Biblical foundations, history, and theology of Reformed spirituality (also called the doctrine of the Christian life, or sanctification). Students will read spiritual classics such as Calvin's *Golden Booklet of the Christian Life*, Richard Baxter's *Reformed Pastor*, *The Heidelberg Catechism*, and others. Students also consider contributions from other Christian traditions such as the Holiness Movement and the Charismatic renewal, as well as from the history of Christian thinking about the contemplative life.

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to develop the knowledge and skills introduced in church history, Bible and theology classes and thus build a theology of Reformed Spirituality.

Course Objectives:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. We thus encourage students to take classes such as Reformed Spirituality that contribute to the personal, devotional and theological life of the seminary student.

It is the instructor's goal that each student will be able to:

1. Identify key developments regarding spirituality in the History of Christianity
2. Identify key features of Spirituality, Christian devotion, sanctification and Reformed Spirituality
3. State the contributions of the Protestant reformers regarding spirituality
4. Explain key elements and characteristics of Reformed Spirituality
5. Explain the relationship between Pietism and Reformed Spirituality

Course Methods:

The purpose and objectives of this course are achieved through three learning components and measurements. The first requires the completion of assigned reading and the mastery of lecture content measured by essay exams. The second is classroom participation. Each class will include lecture and the opportunity for discussion. Each student is expected to complete the assigned readings and offer informed opinions at the appropriate time. Thirdly, each student will write a paper related to Reformed Spirituality. The professor reserves the right to approve all paper topics.

Required Texts: (Note: Required texts may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at <http://www.ecampus.com/erskine>. Contact professor regarding any unmet textbook needs.

John H. Armstrong, *True Revival, What Happens When God's Spirit Moves?* Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2001. [Formerly titled, *When God Moves*]

Alister E. McGrath, *Spirituality in the Age of Change...* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., and A. Andrew Wartman, eds., *Reformed Spirituality: Communion With our Glorious God.* Taylors, SC: Southern Presbyterian Press, 2003.

Joel R. Beeke, *Puritan Reformed Spirituality.* Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 2006.

Recommended Texts:

L. Bouyer, *Orthodox Spirituality and Protestant and Anglican Spirituality*, 1965 vol. 3 of *A History of Christian Spirituality*.

P. N. Brooks, ed., *Christian Spirituality: Essays in Honour of Gordon Rupp*, SCM, 1975.

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress.* London: Penguin Books, 1987.

L. Dupre and D.E. Saliers, eds., *Christian Spirituality: Post-Reformation and Modern*, 1989.

C.E. Hambrick-Stowe, *The Practice of Piety: Puritan Devotional Disciplines in 17th Century New England*, 1982.

John H. Leith, *Calvin's Doctrine of the Christian Life*, John Knox/Westminster, 1989.

Richard Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal.* IVP, 1979, ISBN 087784626X

James I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1990.

Lucien Joseph Richard, *The Spirituality of the Christian Life*, John Knox Press, 1974.

Jill Riatt, et al., eds., *Christian Spirituality: High Middle Ages and Reformation*, 1987.

L.E. Schmidt, *Holy Fairs: Scottish Communion and American Revivals in the Early Modern Period*, 1989.

Richard Stauffer, *The Humanity of John Calvin*, Abingdon, 1971.

James Tanis, *Dutch Calvinistic Pietism in the Middle Colonies...*, 1967.

D.D. Wallace, Jr. ed., *The Spirituality of the Latter English Puritans*, 1987.

_____. *Calvin's Doctrine of the Christian Life*, Eerdmans, 1952 and Oliver & Boyd, 1959

M. J. Westerkamp, *Triumph of the Laity: Scots- Irish Piety and the Great Awakening, 1625-176*, 1988.

Course Requirements:

Attendance at each class is vital to the success of each student.

The purpose and objectives of this class are achieved through lectures, and class discussion, assessed through two exams a research paper and an oral presentation on the paper. The research paper will be 10-12 pages of text. Specific details will follow.

Criteria for Grading Research Papers:

- Adherence to instructions
- A clear thesis statement/historiographical issue
- Strong defense of the thesis
- Convincing solution or resolution of the issues
- Depth, analysis and use of sources including primary source and journal article
- Proper use of English
- Full and proper documentation of sources

Grading Scale:

See page 35 of the current seminary catalog

Notice Regarding Drop/Add:

Please note the following information: Class registration is a BINDING CONTRACT. Should you decide to drop this class, you must complete the DROP/ADD form with the appropriate signatures and submit it to the Registrars office. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.

Language about God and Humanity:

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine language when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "'man" or "people" rather than "men."

Thus, the seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The seminary catalog stands as an example of recommended language.

Conduct in Theological Discussions:

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of

respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the *Catalog* for more information.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. Plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community. See p. 37 of the current catalog for a fuller treatment of this issue including the specific consequences for violation and the grievance procedures.

ANY STUDENT GUILTY OF PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING IS IN VIOLATION OF SEMINARY POLICY AND IS LIABLE FOR DISMISSAL.

All written work must conform to the Turabian Manual of Style.

A grade of incomplete is rare and must conform to policy statements in the catalog. A student does not have the option of simply “taking” an incomplete when they fail to complete the requirements of the class. It is granted to a student who has completed most of the work and because of illness or some other extenuating circumstances is providentially hindered from completing the course on time.

Course Outline: Lecture and Reading Schedule

Topics for September:

Distribute syllabus, explanations, etc.
Defining Spirituality: A Historical Overview
Spirituality and the Early Church
Monastic Spirituality in the Middle Ages
English Mystics
Continental Spirituality: The *Devotio Moderna*
Byzantine Spirituality

Read by the end of the month: Handouts and reading
On Reserve in the Library, TBA
John Armstrong, *True Revival*
Hughes Oliphant Old, *What is Reformed Spirituality?*

Topics for October:

Lutheran Spirituality and the 3rd Use of the Law
Defining Reformed Spirituality
John Calvin and the Christian Life, Part I and II
Heidelberg, Reformed Confessions and Spirituality
John Knox, Scotland and the Practice of Fasting
Spiritualism and the Anabaptists

Essay exam number one- October 15
Read by the end of the month: Pipa and Wortman, eds.,
Reformed Spirituality
McGrath, *Spirituality In an Age of Change*, Chap. 1-5

Topics for November: The Crisis of Reformed Scholasticism
Defining Puritanism
Spener, Francke and Halle
Reformed and Puritan Spirituality

Topics for December: No Classes – Week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 24-28
Mercersberg Theology
Scottish Sacramental Seasons

Brief Oral Presentations on Research Paper

FINAL EXAM

IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS FOR FALL SEMESTER

Fall Missions Conference	Sept. 16-18
Christianity and Public Morality	Sept. 24 (Wed)
The Bible and Archaeology	Oct. 16 (Thurs)
Christian and Public Service	Nov. 12 (Wed)