



HT 560 Reformed Spirituality
Fall Semester, 2010
Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.

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

e-mail: djohnson@erskine.edu

Office Phone: (864) 379-6662

Home Phone: 260-9504

Seminary Fax: 379-3171

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 ministry 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
6. **Most importantly, it is the goal of this instructor that each student cultivates spiritual disciplines resulting in a deeper love for our Savior and Redeemer.**

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:

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

- David Cornick, *Let God be God: The Reformed Tradition*. Marynoll, NY: Orbis Books. ISBN-13: 978-1-57075-779-2
- Michael Haykin, *The God Who Draws Near: An Introduction to Biblical Spirituality*. Evangelical Press. ISBN-13: 9780852346389
- Alister E. McGrath, *Spirituality in the Age of Change...* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994. ISBN 10: 0310429218 or ISBN- 13: 978-0310429210
- James I. Packer, *Keeping in Step with the Spirit: Finding Fulness In Our Walk with God*. Baker Books, revised ed., 2005. ISBN- 13: 978-0801065583

Recommended Texts:

- John H. Armstrong, *True Revival, What Happens When God's Spirit Moves?* Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2001.
- Joel Beeke, *Puritan Reformed Spirituality*. Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 2006.
- 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
- _____. *Renewal as a Way of Life*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1985
ISBN 0-87784-594-8
- James I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1990.
- Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., and A. Andrew Wortman, eds., *Reformed Spirituality: Communion*

With Our Glorious God. Taylors, SC: Southern Presbyterian Press, 2003.
Lucien Joseph Richard, *The Spirituality of the Christian Life*, John Knox Press, 1974.
Jill Raitt, 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 as appropriate
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 pages 42-43 of the current seminary catalog

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 (1 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, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its 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.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Incompletes

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

Drop/Add/ and Course Withdrawal: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

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. 41f 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” and 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.

Chapel Attendance Policy (FOR TUESDAY-THURSDAY ON-CAMPUS CLASSES)

All morning and afternoon on-campus classes (except for Friday and Saturday courses) carry a chapel attendance requirement. Consult the catalog for the specifics of the chapel attendance policy. There is a per chapel fee if you attend fewer chapels than required.

Course Outline: Lecture and Reading Schedule

Topics for September:

Distribute syllabus, explanations, etc.
Defining Spirituality: A Historical Overview
Monastic Spirituality in the Middle Ages
Continental Spirituality: The *Devotio Moderna*
Lutheran Spirituality and the 3rd Use of the Law

Read by the end of the month/complete the following:

On Reserve in the Library, TBA
Michael Haykin, *The God who Draws Near*
Hughes Oliphant Old, *What is Reformed Spirituality?*
(Professor will distribute this essay to students)

Topics for October:

Lutheran Spirituality, (contin.)
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 #1- October 13

Read by the end of the month/complete the following:

Cornick, *Let God Be God*
McGrath, *Spirituality In an Age of Change*, Chap. 1-5

Topics for November:

The Crisis of Reformed Scholasticism
Defining Puritanism
Pietism: Spener, Francke and Halle
Reformed and Puritan Spirituality

NO CLASSES – Week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 20-28

Read by the end of the month/complete the following:

McGrath, finish book
Packer, *Keeping in step with the Spirit*, first half of book

Topics for December:

Mercersberg Theology/Piety (guest speaker, Ben DeSpain?)
Scottish Sacramental Seasons
(NOTE: We will address these topics as time allows)

Brief Oral Presentations on Research Paper

Read by the end of the month: Finish the Packer book

FINAL EXAMINATIONS: Dec. 6-10

Research Paper Due one week before Final Exam

Course Evaluations-End of course survey

IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS FOR FALL SEMESTER