

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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AR 501CO Associate Reformed Presbyterian History and Polity

Summer 2009

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Associate Professor of Systematic Theology

Class Meeting Times and Location

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

June 6, 20; July 11, 25; and August 8

Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus
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OFFICE HOURS

Summer: After class and by appointment

My office is in Columbia and may not be convenient for commuting students. I will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient time and place to meet if you need to see me, or we can make a telephone appointment. To make an appointment, you can contact me by e-mail or telephone.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides an opportunity to explore the history and polity of the ARP Church. Students are invited to develop an appreciation of the ARP heritage that enables them to be sensitive leaders in the Church. Attention is given to the government, discipline, and worship of the denomination. *Required for A.R.P. M.Div. students. Alternate years. Three hours.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Erskine Theological Seminary is an educational institution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and its mission is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. This course is specifically designed for students considering and/or preparing for ministry opportunities in the ARP Church. The course will cover the history of the ARP Church and its constitutional standards in government, discipline, and worship. Its primary aim is to prepare students for ordination examinations in the ARP Church, but students who are not seeking ordination will also profit from the course by coming to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ARP Church's history, government, discipline, and worship. Diligent students successfully completing this course should be able to:

1. Name and generally explain the content of the six documents that make up *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.
2. Provide an outline of the history of the ARP Church from its Presbyterian roots in the Swiss Reformation to the present day.
3. Explain the Biblical basis for Presbyterian church government.
4. Explain the basic principles and elements of ARP government, discipline, and worship.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*. Greenville, South Carolina: Printed under the auspices of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 2008.

NOTE: Students must have the 2008 edition of *The Standards* since in that year *The Directory of Public Worship* replaced *The Book of Worship*.

2. Ray A. King, *A History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*. Revised edition. Greenville, South Carolina: The Board of Christian Education Ministries, 2008.

NOTE: Books 1 and 2 may be ordered from the General Synod Office.

3. Sean Michael Lucas, *On Being Presbyterian: Our Beliefs, Practices, and Stories*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P&R Publishing, 2006. **Note:** This textbook may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Online Bookstore at www.ecampus/erskine

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Bring your Bible and *Standards* to each class session. Students must arrive on time for class and following breaks. You are expected to remain at each session until it concludes. Students who miss more than one full day or its equivalent in hours will normally be required to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade.
2. **Two oral examinations** – Beginning with the second class meeting, students will be assigned to answer questions from the professor on the reading for that class session. There will be ten questions for each student. These examinations will take about 15 minutes and will be patterned after the oral examinations given to candidates seeking licensure and/or ordination in the ARP Church. Each oral exam will be worth 10% of your final grade.
3. **Three written examinations** – Three written exams will be given on the lectures and reading pertaining to ARP history, government and discipline, and worship. The

exams will include 15 short-answer questions from the readings and the lectures. Each exam will be worth 15% of your final grade.

4. **Choose one of the following options:**

- a. **Memorization of the Shorter Catechism** – The Shorter Catechism must be memorized (unless you will be taking the Westminster Standards course later; if so, you will do it as a part of that course). This will count for 35% of your final grade. You will be given a numerical grade for the recitation, based on the following scale: Correct answers for 107-105 = 35, 104-102 = 34, 101-99 = 33, 98-97 = 32, 96-94 = 31, 93-92 = 30, 91-90 = 29, 89-86 = 28, 85-83 = 27, 82-81 = 26, 80-77 = 25, 76-75 = 24, 75-0 = 23-0. The standard for an acceptable answer is one which is accurate and complete, not verbatim (though verbatim is certainly the best way to insure both accuracy and completeness).

Special Note: *There is a monetary award for those successfully reciting all 107 questions provided through an endowment to the seminary. This has nothing to do with your grade.*

- b. **Term paper** – A 15-page term paper may be done in lieu of reciting the Shorter Catechism, if you will be taking the Westminster Standards course later. This paper will provide an overview of ARP history, government (including discipline), and worship. Equal treatment should be given to each topic. The paper should conform to the normal seminary standards of term papers. Some research beyond the assigned texts should be included in the paper. This will count for 35% of your final grade. A letter grade will be given for the paper, and then converted to a numerical grade: A = 35, A- = 33, B+ = 32, B = 31, B- = 30, C+ = 29, C = 28, C- = 27, D+ = 26, D = 25, D- = 24, F = 0-23

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your final grade will be determined by the points you accumulate on the various requirements indicated above. The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade.

A	95-100	B	88-90	C	80-83	D	72-75
A-	93-94	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71
B+	91-92	C+	84-85	D+	76-77	F	0-69

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?”

Luke 14:28

Each seminary class requires about 120 hours of work, covering both time in class and time spent in reading, researching, thinking, and writing. 35 hours will be spent in class for this course, leaving an additional 85 hours of work to be done. Roughly, that means that for each 7 hour day you spend in class, you will need 2 more days before the next class to complete the assigned work. Plan ahead. Please complete the readings before class and bring your questions about the reading to class. Let the one who has ears to hear, hear!

The dates given below are when the assignments are due!

- June 6th Read all of Sean Michael Lucas, *On Being Presbyterian*.
- June 20th Read all of Ray A. King, *A History of the ARP Church*.
Oral examinations on Presbyterian and ARP history (based on the lectures and the readings from Lucas and King)
Memorize Shorter Catechism (SC), Qs. 1-26
- July 11th Read *The Confession of Faith*, chs. I and XX-XXXI
Read all of *The Form of Government* (FOG)
Written examination on Lucas and King
Oral examinations on the FOG
Memorize SC Qs. 28-52
- July 25th Read all of *The Book of Discipline* (BOD)
Oral examinations on the BOD
Written examination on the FOG and the BOD
Memorize SC Qs. 53-81
- August 8th Read all of *The Directory of Public Worship* (DPW)
Oral examinations on the DPW
Written examination on the DPW
Memorize SC Qs. 82-107
- August 15th Recite SC or turn in term paper

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES FOR INCLUSION IN COURSE SYLLABI

Drop/Add/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.

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."

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 usage 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").

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.

Office Hours

During the summer my office hours will vary from week to week, so please make an appointment before coming to the office. I will make every effort to accommodate you. Students commuting to Columbia for class may prefer to meet by telephone.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester must attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester must attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). You may access this document at the McCain Library’s web site, under Library Research Guides, under Seminary Guides, <http://www.erskine.edu/library/content/Style-FormStandards.pdf>. 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.

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. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails

to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a

document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from “Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities,” 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered ‘documented’ when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student’s own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated ‘documented theft of another student’s work.’

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student’s work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

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