

Course Description
HT520-01 Reformed Theology I
Residential/Synchronous Section, Fall 2025
Three Credits. Letter grade only

Faculty Information:

Instructor: Dr. Richard Burnett

Office: TBD

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Office Hours: By appointment

Email responded to regularly on weekdays 8:00-5:00, Tuesday-Friday.

Meeting Times:

Weekly Discussion/Q&A Forum: Thursdays 3 p.m. CDT/4 p.m. EDT

Residency at Providence Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, from Sept. 22–26, 2025. Recommendations available for near, affordable accommodations, to be arranged by the student. The student is responsible for travel arrangements and expenses. Meals provided. MART students should consult with Dr. Burnett.

OVERVIEW/COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the Christian faith as understood by the Reformed tradition. Using contemporary and classic texts valued by the Reformed tradition, it examines the doctrine of the knowledge of God, revelation, Scripture, authority, the triune life of God, election, God the Creator and Redeemer.

This course is a required course for the M.A.R.T. Program and an elective in other degree programs.

Since this course is offered in a hybrid format that includes both face-to-face and online learning, we will offer in-person learning at Providence Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, from Sept. 22–26, and recorded material and online exercises will be supplemented by scheduled weekly videoconferencing discussions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By participating fully in this class, students will be able to:

- 1) Define key terms and concepts of Christian theology and, more specifically, Reformed theology.
- 2) Understand how such terms and concepts relate to Holy Scripture and how they emerged and have developed in both the catholic and Reformed tradition.
- 3) Evaluate some of the Church's major theological claims in light of the criticisms of voices within and without the Church and in light of the demands of pastoral ministry today.

M.A.R.T. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course:

- Identify and articulate core commitments of the Christian tradition, with a focus on the Reformed tradition
- Identify how key theological commitments emerged and function within the Christian tradition and, more specifically, the Reformed tradition
- Describe and evaluate the core commitments of the catholic and Reformed tradition in conversation with historical and contemporary critics
- Explain how key theological terms and concepts have been understood and applied in Christian congregations of various times and places, and, more specifically, in congregations of the Reformed tradition

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course:

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity.
- Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation and responses to questions on assigned readings (1/3)
2. Mid-term exam (1/3)
3. Final exam (1/3)

REQUIRED TEXTS (You must have the edition noted by ISBN. You must have a print copy unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical to the print copy.):

Donald G. Bloesch, *A Theology of Word & Spirit: Authority & Method in Theology*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 1992. ISBN 0-8308-1411-6

Donald G. Bloesch, *Holy Scripture: Revelation, Inspiration and Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 1994. ISBN 0-8308-1412-4

Donald G. Bloesch, *God the Almighty: Power, Wisdom, Holiness, Love*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 1995. ISBN 0-8308-1413-2

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, I-II. Ed. John T. McNeill. Trans. Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. ISBN 0-664-21882-2

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Sinclair Ferguson and David F. Wright, *New Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1988. ISBN 0-8308-1400-0

Van A. Harvey, *A Handbook of Theological Terms*. New York: Macmillan, 1964. ISBN 0-02-085430-7

James Mannion, *The Everything Philosophy Book: Understanding the Basic Concepts of Great Thinkers-Socrates to Sartre*. Avon, MA: Adams Media, 2002. ISBN 1580626440

Alan Richardson and John Bowden, *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983. ISBN 0-664-22748-1