

COURSE SYLLABUS
Systematic Theology III: Christology, Soteriology and Eschatology
OST522, 3 hours
J. Ligon Duncan, Ph.D.
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

Reverend J. Ligon Duncan III is Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS and former Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology at RTS/Jackson. He earned the B.A. from Furman University, the M.A. and the M. Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary and the Ph.D at the University of Edinburgh. He is co-author of *Study to Show Yourself Approved: A Primer For Young Theologians*.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to study the topics of: Christology, Christ and His Work; Soteriology, the area of sin and salvation; and Eschatology, the end times. This is the continuation of the courses Systematic Theology I and II.

Of special concern are the sub-topics of: the doctrine of the covenant; the covenant concept in biblical context; the doctrine of the atonement; effectual calling, justification, and adoption; the doctrine of sanctification; Christian liberty; the nature of faith; the work and doctrine of the Holy Spirit; Christ's return and future judgement.

The course will consist of lectures recorded on cassettes, and this accompanying workbook, which contains a study guide. This guide comprises outlines to assist the student in listening to the lectures. Also included are study questions to help integrate the course content into meaningful knowledge.

Required Textbooks

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1996.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1975.

Macleod, Donald. *The Spirit of Promise*. Houston, TX: Christian Focus Publications, 1988.

Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm .B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1992.

The Westminster Confession of Faith. Greenwood, SC: The Attic Press, Inc., 1979.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.

Recommended Textbooks

Whyte, Alexander, *A Commentary on the Shorter Catechism*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1954.

Suggested Reading

At the end of each lesson, a list of suggested reading is provided. Each of these entries is also included in the Bibliography at the back of the course notebook. These books are not part of the required material for the course. They have been included solely to point interested students to more comprehensive and in-depth treatments of the subjects covered in this course.

Course Requirements

Online Student Handbook

The online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located at the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

Requirements in Brief

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

Follow the Study Guide provided.

Listen to all recorded lectures.

Complete all readings.

Midterm examination

Final examination

Mentor report/Course application paper

(For MAR students only) Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) Pre-Test (Ungraded)

Examinations (Midterm: 45%, Final: 50%)

You will take two examinations, the mid-term after Lesson 5, and the final after Lesson 11. The examinations consist of questions and essays that require summary and analysis of issues and concepts studied in the course.

All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu/>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments. Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu).

Time Limit

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) Pre-Test (Ungraded)

MA/Virtual degree students take a pre-test on the Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) after taking the Systematic Theology III Final Exam. The emphasis here is on *pre-test* because you do not need to prepare for this test. It is a tool to see how much you know already about the Westminster Shorter Catechism and to get you started thinking about the requirement to take a post-test at the end of your degree program.

You will not receive a grade for this test, as it will merely assess how much of the WSC you already know. Therefore, this test will not affect your grade for Systematic Theology III.

The 107 questions of the catechism are divided into 3 exams. Your proctor will randomly select questions from each of the exams for which you write out the answer. If you feel that you know very little of the catechism, you may want to go ahead and request all 3 exams be sent to your proctor for you to take at the same time. If you have a pretty good knowledge of the catechism, you may wish to arrange 3 separate times with your proctor.

We want to use the WSC as a measure of knowledge, un-graded, for our program evaluation. The English Bible exam is a pre-test in the Orientation Seminar. Likewise, the WSC is a pretest in Systematic Theology III because the professor discusses it so much and has required materials on it.

During your Integration Seminar, at the end of your degree program, you will then take both the English Bible Exam and the Westminster Shorter Catechism Exam as another program evaluation tool as part of your final requirements in order to graduate from RTS.

Contact Information

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