
Systematic Theology II

Lectures by
Douglas F. Kelly, Ph.D.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Virtual Campus

RTS Distance Education

The Virtual Campus of Reformed Theological Seminary offers students the convenience of home study with the quality of on-campus instruction. This course is based on classroom lectures using the GUIDE approach to learning.

Each lesson contains the following:

Getting Started

To prepare adequately for each lesson, a reading assignment and audio lecture are listed.

Understanding

To maximize student learning, the purposes and objectives for the lesson are given.

Investigating

To integrate readings, audio lectures, and outline, students are encouraged to notate information in a manner that will prove beneficial for study and examination. The study guide allows space for note-taking to expand the outline.

Developing

To further develop the concepts presented, suggested readings and applications are offered.

Evaluating

To help students summarize and synthesize the material covered, study questions are provided.

COURSE SYLLABUS
Systematic Theology II, OST516 2 hours
Dr. Douglas F. Kelly
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

Dr. Douglas Kelly is a scholar marked by profound piety as exemplified in volumes such as *If God Already Knows, Why Pray?* and *Preachers with Power: Four Stakwarts of the South*. His firm grasp of multiple languages and his theological competence are capably demonstrated in translating such works as Sermons by John Calvin on II Samuel. He is serving with David Wright of the University of Edinburgh as a general editor for a revision of Calvin's Old Testament Commentaries. In addition, he is co-editor for a twenty volume dogmatics series, for which he is writing a volume on the Trinity. He has written *Creation and Change: Genesis 1.1 - 2.4 in the Light of Changing Scientific Paradigms* and *Carolina Scots: An Historical and Genealogical Study of Over 100 Years of Emigration*, and is currently writing a systematic theology.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the doctrines of the church and the sacraments. This survey of theology emphasizes the practical application of the doctrines to the ministry of the gospel in contemporary culture. ST0516 Systematic Theology II is a continuation of ST0508 Systematic Theology I.

Course Objectives

- To define the relationship of NT ecclesiology to the OT people of God.
- To engender comprehension of important theological concepts related to the doctrine of the church, such as the visible versus invisible church, metaphors for the church, the marks of the church, the covenant, and the sacraments.
- To analyze the biblical teaching regarding the government of the church.
- To facilitate conversance with the biblical teaching regarding the means of grace and their importance in the Christian life.
- To appraise the Puritan regulative principle of worship and its implications related to modern questions of Christian worship.
- To outline the biblical teaching regarding the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Required Reading

- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. Pages 562-92; 651-57.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Ed. John T. McNeill. Trans. Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. Book 4.1.1-17.
- Clowney, Edmund. *The Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1995. Chapters 12, 15-16.
- Kelly, Douglas F. "The Puritan Regulative Principle and Contemporary Worship." (Provided)
- _____. "The True Church: A Reformed View." (Provided)
- The Westminster Confession of Faith. Chapters 21, 25-31.
- Wallace, Ronald. *Calvin's Doctrine of The Word and Sacrament*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1997. Chapters 11-13.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
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Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the online Virtual campus experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS/Virtual website (<http://virtual.rts.edu>) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Requirements

- * Follow the Study Guide provided.
- * Listen to all Recorded Lectures.
- * Complete all Readings.
- * Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and Professor)
- * Take the Mid Term Exam
- * Take the Final Exam.
- * Write a Course Paper
- * Submit Mentor Report/Course Application Paper

Research Paper (35%)

See page vi for a description and requirements of the research paper.

Forum Discussions (10%)

The student is to participate in forum discussions in the online tutorial. 10% total (5% Student to Student, 5% Student to Professor, with minimum of 5 posts each, including the Introduction and 4 Topical Question responses.

Examinations (Mid Term 25%, Final 25%)

There are two examinations for this course. The mid term examination will cover all the lectures and readings from Lessons 1-5. The final examination will cover all the lectures and readings from Lessons 6-10.

All exams are to be requested online via the links in the Virtual Classroom during week 4 for the Midterm and week 8 for the Final. All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please upload your exam in the Virtual Classroom.

Mentor Report / Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his or her 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 required 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

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall in the Virtual Classroom, using the upload links provided. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time. No late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information

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RESEARCH PAPER
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Paper Assignment

Choose one topic from among the following topic options. Write an 8-10 page paper, utilizing the theological categories presented in this course. Demonstrate how Scripture bears upon your subject. Significant interaction with course lectures, notes, and reading is encouraged insofar as they relate to your topic. In addition, the use of sources external to course materials is required. It is encouraged that the student limit his or her interaction with external materials to 2-3 major sources.

Write a strong, specific, and interesting thesis, presenting it clearly in the first few paragraphs. Support your thesis in the body. Summarize the findings of your paper and make a few comments about its implications for modern life, and a conclusion section. Reference the Online Student Handbook for stylistic concerns.

Paper Topics

1. How do the gifts of the Holy Spirit relate to the ministry and worship of the church today? Limit your paper to a topic in the trajectory of one of the following sub-categories: preaching, counseling, Christian education, covenant children, music, missions and outreach, fellowship, diaconal work, the session or church government, denominational affairs, financial stewardship, hospitality. Other paper topics might include the relationship between the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the role of technology in ministry, spiritual gifts and ministerial preparation, or the role of the covenant community in the development of spiritual gifts.
2. The role of women in the church (narrow topic to one angle).
3. What is “contemporary worship”? Define this movement, and explain the views of 2-3 important advocates of contemporary worship. One of these advocates must *explicitly* interact with the Puritan regulative principle in their writings. How do these advocates of contemporary worship explain the relationship of contemporary worship to the regulative principle? How do these advocates answer challenges from other viewpoints? Which arguments do you think are strong, and which do you think are weak?
4. What is “traditional worship”? Define traditional worship, and explain the views of 2-3 important advocates of traditional worship. One advocate must use arguments for traditional worship that are informed by the Puritan regulative principle. How do these advocates answer challenges from other viewpoints? Which arguments do you think are strong, and which do you think are weak?
5. Another topic approved by the course administrator.

COURSE OUTLINE
Systematic Theology II, OST516 2 hours
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Lesson One

Scriptural Words for the Church

Lesson Two

Biblical Images of the Church

Lesson Three

The Church as the Fulfillment of the OT

Lesson Four

The Government of the Church

Lesson Five

The Attributes and Marks of the Church

Lesson Six

The Means of Grace

Lesson Seven

The Puritan Regulative Principle

Lesson Eight

The Definition of Sacrament

Lesson Nine

The Sacrament of Baptism

Lesson Ten

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper