

COURSE SYLLABUS  
The Theology of John Owen, OST619, 2 hours  
Sinclair B. Ferguson, Ph.D.  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

*Professor*

A former professor of systematic theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson is currently Minister of St. George's Tron Church of Scotland, Glasgow and adjunct professor of theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Ferguson has authored numerous books and publications, including *Children of the Living God*, *Discovering God's Will*, *A Heart for God*, and *John Owen on the Christian Life*.

*Course Description*

This course is a study of the prominent 17th Century Puritan, John Owen. A biographical sketch provides a look at Owen's life and ministry and also places his writings within their historical context. Special emphasis is given to his theological contributions to the doctrines of Scripture, Salvation, and the Holy Spirit.

*Required Textbooks*

Ferguson, Sinclair B. *John Owen on the Christian Life*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1987.

Owen, John. *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*, with an Introduction by J. I. Packer. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1983.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <[www.rts.edu/bookstore](http://www.rts.edu/bookstore)>.

The following titles by John Owen are provided in the course notebook and should be read in their entirety.

*Ebenezer: A Memorial of the Deliverance of Essex County, and Committee.*

*Ouranon Ourania: The Shaking and Translating of Heaven and Earth.*

*Christ's Kingdom and the Magistrate's Power.*

*The Glory and Interest of Nations Professing the Gospel.*

*Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers: The Necessity, Nature, and Means of It.*

*The Duty of Pastors and People Distinguished.*

*Eschol: A Cluster of the Fruit of Canaan.*

*Suggested Reading*

A bibliography is included with the syllabus. 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 on 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.

Response paper

Outlines

Final examination

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper

### *Response Paper (25%)*

After reading John Owen's works, *The Duty of Pastors and People Distinguished* and *Eschol: A Cluster of the Fruit of Canaan*, the student is to write a 5 to 8 page response paper (typed and double spaced). The paper is to be an evaluation of the student's church (of which he or she is a member) in light of Owen's teachings in these two documents. What advice would Owen offer for your particular church? What might he commend and what might he recommend as necessary changes? Be specific.

### *Outlines (30%)*

The student is required to outline the following two treatises: *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* and *Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers*. The outlines should accent the most critical points in these treatises.

### *Final Examination (40%)*

There is one examination for this course. The exam consists of two parts. Part one deals with the reading material. Part two is taken from the lecture material.

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](mailto: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.

### *Contact Information*

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Web site: <http://virtual.rts.edu/>

COURSE OUTLINE  
The Theology of John Owen, OST619, 2 hours  
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*Lesson One: A Biographical Sketch of John Owen*

- I. Birth
- II. Education
- III. Chaplaincy
- IV. Salvation
- V. First Book
- VI. Family
- VII. Further Writings
- VIII. Church Government
- IX. National Prominence
- X. Further Writings
- XI. Political Involvement
- XII. The Savoy Declaration
- XIII. The Restoration of the Monarchy
- XIV. Writings on Toleration
- XV. Spiritual Writings
- XVI. Sermons vs. Book
- XVII. Pastoral Ministry
- XVIII. Final Years

*Lesson Two: The Doctrine of Scripture*

- I. Inspiration
- II. Authority
- III. Infallibility
- IV. Additional Attributes of Scripture
- V. The Holy Spirit and Scripture
- VI. The Influence of Calvin
- VII. Understanding Scripture
- VIII. The Influence of Scripture on the Christian Life

*Lesson Three: The Plan of Salvation*

- I. Historical Development of Covenant (Federal) Theology
- II. Owen's Exposition of Covenant Theology

*Lesson Four: The Role of the Holy Spirit*

- I. The Christological Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- II. The Soteriological Ministry of the Holy Spirit

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY  
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Primary Sources

- Owen, John. *A Display of Arminianism*. Reprint ed. Edmonton: Still Waters Revival Books, 1989.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Sermon Preached to the Parliament, October 13, 1652*. Oxford: Leonard Lichfield, 1652.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Vision of Unchangeable Free Mercy*. London: Philemon Stephens, 1646.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *An Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Edited by William Goold. 24 vols. Edinburgh: Johnstone and Hunter, 1854. Vols. 17-23, reprint ed., Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Evangelical Theology: A Translation of the Sixth Book of Dr. Owen's Latin Work Entitled Theologoumena*. Translated by John Craig. Edinburgh: M. Paterson, 1837.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Meditations and Discourses on the Glory of Christ*. Glasgow: Ebenezer Miller, 1790.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Oxford Orations of Dr. John Owen*. Edited by Peter Toon. Liukinhorne, Cornwall: Gospel Communications, 1971.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Perilous Times*. Grand Rapids: Inheritance Publishing Co., [between 1940 and 1970].
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*. Edinburgh: Johnstone and Hunter, 1852. Reprint ed., with Introduction by J. I. Packer. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1989.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Glory of Christ*. edited by Wilbur M. Smith. reprint ed. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Holy Spirit: His Gifts and Power*. Evansville: Sovereign Grace Publishers, 1954.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Works of John Owen*. Edited by William Goold. 24 vols. Edinburgh and London: Johnstone and Hunter, 1850-53. Vols. 1-16, reprint ed., London: Banner of Truth, 1987.

Secondary Sources

- Ferguson, Sinclair B. *John Owen on the Christian Life*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1987.
- Hawkes, Richard, M. "The Logic of Grace in John Owen, D.D.: An Analysis, Exposition, and Defence of John Owen's Puritan Theology of Grace." Thesis: Westminster Theological Seminary 1987
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- Law, R. J. K. *John Owen: Communion with God*, abridged. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991.
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- Vernon, George. *A Letter to a Friend Concerning Some of Dr. Owen's Principles and Practices*. London: Spencer Hickman, 1670.
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#### Periodicals

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