REFORMED THEOLOGY OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES
TH6/750
January-April 2016
Tuesday 2-5 pm.

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Purpose:

This course is designed to acquaint students with evolving theological expression of the Reformed Tradition in its 19th and 20th Century embodiments as it responds and interacts with the rise of modernity and late/post-modernity. (Think of the course as the good ship “Reformed” sailing from Schleiermacher to Barth and beyond.)

Through the examination of theological expressions of central doctrinal loci (revelation, God, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, eschatology, etc.), students will gain familiarity with and perspective on (1) some theological threads and tensions within the Reformed tradition, (2) recognize and appreciate constructive resources and limitations of the Reformed tradition and (3) gain some understanding of the roots of current theological discussion and conflict within the tradition.

Ad hoc attention to the authority of scripture, the nature of ‘critical’ scripture interpretation, the role of experience in theological reflection, the relationship between faith and culture and faith and science, Christianity among the religions, social justice and care for creation will be given in the readings, lectures and class discussion.

Competence Objectives:

TH 650
In completing this course a student will be able to:

1) Identify a range of doctrinal expression and ecclesiastical ethos that are Reformed.
2) Describe and assess particular theological reactions/responses that took place within the Reformed tradition in the 19th and 20th Centuries as attempts to accommodate, reject and/or critically appropriate new learning or cultural practice and awareness (e.g., the response to Darwin, biblical criticism, religious pluralism, women’s rights, and environmental crises).
3) Deploy the resources of 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} Century Reformed Theology to illumine the dynamics of current doctrinal and ethical discussion in the life of Reformed and Anglican Churches.

TH 750 (in addition to the above)

4) Critically assess secondary literature on 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} century Reformed Theology in the light of your reading of the primary sources.
5) (Modestly) recommend an irenic resolution to a matter of doctrinal conflict or tension in Reformed thought of the 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} century.

Format:

This class meets each day for three hours over two weeks. The primary format will be lecture and discussion based on the reading of the assigned texts. We will also listen to recordings of some of the theologians who are the topic of conversation in the course.

Expectations/Evaluation:

1) Class attendance and preparation of all required reading before class.
2) A single page each week which traces a theological theme or topic that runs through the assigned texts. This is not just a summary. It is an attempt to relate the readings to each other to note similarities and differences in how a particular doctrine is handled. The summary should take place under a thesis statement so that your page is essentially an argument that you prove in the summary of the texts read. These single pages will be submitted at the end of the class for which they are prepared. The criteria for evaluation are: does the summary show evidence of serious, attentive and imaginative engagement with the readings and is the argument persuasive?
3) A summary/research paper (10-12 pages) which is an elaboration of one of your summary pages after it has been submitted and commented on by the instructor. This paper should: (1) review each of the readings, briefly (2-3 pages); (2) compare and contrast at least two of the readings in greater detail (3-4 pages) and; (3) contain your own critical reflections (3 pages) and offer some sense of the import of the issue/theme for the current life and times of your denomination (2-3 pages). You ought to draw on at least 10 resources other than course readings for this assignment. The paper will be assessed on the basis of its use of primary and secondary resources, its clarity and fidelity of depiction and contrast and its constructive and elegant conclusions. See the bibliography at the end of the course outline for help with secondary resources.  

See Calendar Deadline.
TH750 Expectations/Evaluation:

1) See Expectations 1-2 above.
2) Write a paper of between 15-20 pages that (1) summarizes Karl Barth’s essay on Schleiermacher found in *From Rousseau to Ritschl*, pp. 306-354 (this essay is also found in Karl Barth, *Protestant Theology in the Nineteenth Century* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002], 411-459); (2) evaluates aspects of its accuracy and fairness to Schleiermacher; and (3) proposes an irenic and imaginative resolution to the theological rift between Barth and Schleiermacher on the points you raise under (2). You will need to include a bibliography of between 15 to 20 entries. Your paper will be evaluated based on accuracy of review, depth of critical engagement and elegance of resolution. A number of resources relevant to this exercise can be found in the bibliography.

**Deadline: See Calendar**

**Deadlines:**

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus for each course. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.

**Required Texts:**

Course pack to be accessed online through Moodle.


*This text can be ordered through amazon online as a used or new book.

**Course Schedule/Lecture Topics and Readings:**
Class 1: Introduction and Overview (January 19)


Optional helpful background reading:

Hendrikus Berkhof, Two Hundred Years of Theology: Report of a Personal Journey, pp. 1-29. Berkhof walks the reader through the thought of Kant in a way that illumines the theological project of Schleiermacher in the next chapter.

Hugh Ross MacKintosh, Types of Modern Theology: Schleiermacher to Barth, pp. 1-30. MacKintosh offers an important and reliable early twentieth century depiction of the philosophical and theological climate of modernity.

William Placher, A History of Christian Thought: an Introduction, pp. 237-254. This is a basic and quite readable overview of the late 18th century intellectual context of Christian theology.

John Vissers, The Neo-Orthodox Theology of W.W. Bryden. Princeton Monograph Series, pp. 1-26. This piece of historical theology locates the constructive efforts of Walter Bryden, a Canadian Presbyterian Theologian, within the dominant thought world of the time.

Class 2: Concerns and Methods of Theology


Class 3: The Doctrine of God


Class 4: Creation and The Human Condition

**Class 5: The Person and Work of Jesus Christ**


**Class 6: The Holy Spirit**


**Class 7: The Christian Life**


**Class 8: The Church**


**Class 9: Politics, Society and Culture**


**Class 10: Eschatology**


**Class 11: The Future of Reformed Theology and Practice**


Select Bibliography:


Livingston, James; Fiorenza, Francis Schussler; Coakley, Sarah; Evans, James H.  

*MacKintosh, Hugh Ross. Types of Modern Theology: Schleiermacher to Barth. London:  
Gilmour and Dean, 1937.  

*Mateus, Odair Pedroso. Editor. Reformed World. Volume 56:3 (September 2006), The  


McKim, Donald K. Editor. Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith. Louisville:  


*Pauw, Amy Plantinga and Jones, Serene. Feminist and Womanist: Essays in Reformed Dogmatics. Columbia Series in Reformed Theology. Louisville:  

Westminster, 1983.  


Schwarz, Hans. Theology in a Global Context: The Last Two Hundred Years. Grand Rapids:  
Eerdmans, 2005.  


*Indicates that at least portions of the book will be read for class.