COURSE PURPOSE

ST4654 WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH
This course is a study of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Since its origination in 1646, the Westminster Confession has served as the theological confession for much of Reformed Christianity. Its commitment to Scripture as the only foundation of theology sets it apart for over three centuries from many other church creeds. In this study, the student will not only gain an understanding of the statements of Reformed doctrine in the Confession but will also gain understanding of its doctrines based on their compelling clarity in Scripture. Topics will include the inerrancy of Scripture, the nature of God, providence, creation, predestination, effectual calling, repentance, justification, perseverance, worship, church councils, covenant baptism and the end times.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will gain an overview of the Reformed Faith as presented in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

2. The student will be able to understand and present the Reformed Faith based on its clear Biblical foundations.

3. The student will be equipped to competently instruct others in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

4. The student will be able to understand and defend the Reformed Faith in the context of other theological systems.
COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:


Either:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read texts

2. Write a theological paper on one of the following topics: the doctrine of Scripture, the doctrine of election, the doctrine of justification, or the doctrine of baptism. This paper must present the doctrine in light of its statement and treatment in the Westminster Confession of Faith.
   1. Title page
   2. Table of contents
   3. Introduction
   4. Thesis statement
   5. Body (should include)
      1) Definition of the doctrine
      2) Development of the doctrine in Historical Theology
      2) Presentation of the doctrine in the WCF
      3) Biblical defense of the doctrine
      4) Application of the doctrine to your discipline of study
   6. Conclusion - giving a summary of the paper's contents
   7. Footnotes
   8. Bibliography with at least 15 references
   9. Paper must demonstrate the use of Logos Bible Software
   10. Paper must be no less than fourteen pages and no more than twenty pages - typed (double spaced; *Times New Roman* 12 point type)
   11. Papers without footnotes or bibliography will not be credited.
GRADING

1. Completion of reading - 15% - due December 14
2. Theological Paper - 35% - due November 30
3. Final Examination – 50% - due December 14

Course Outline

Start Date: 09/14/2020  Complete Date: 12/07/2020

I. September 14  Introduction and Historical Background

II. September 21  WCF Chapters 1, 2
    Carson, Chapter 1 -- The Context and Work of the Assembly
    Carson, Chapter 4 - The Westminster Confession of Faith and Holy Scripture
    Carson, Chapter 9 - The Sovereignty of God
    Fesko, Chapter 3 – The Doctrine of Scripture
    Fesko, Chapter 4 – God and the Decree

III. September 28  WCF Chapters 3, 4, 5
    Carson, Chapter 2 -- The Men and Parties of the Assembly
    Carson, Chapter 3 - The Preaching of the Assembly
    Carson, Chapter 5 - The Westminster Shorter Catechism
    Fesko, Chapter 2 - The Historical and Theological Context
    Fesko, Chapter 5 – Covenant and Creation

IV. October 5  WCF Chapters 6, 7, 8
    Carson, Chapter 6 - The Westminster Larger Catechism
    Carson, Chapter 7 - The Form of Church Government
    Carson, Chapter 10 - The Pre-Eminence of Christ
    Fesko, Chapter 6 – The Doctrine of Christ
    Carson, Chapter 10 - The Pre-Eminence of Christ

V. October 12  Fall Break

VI. October 19  WCF Chapters 9, 10, 11
    Carson, Chapter 11 - The Application of Redemption
    Carson, Chapter 9 - The Sovereignty of God
    Fesko, Chapter 7 – Justification

VII. October 26  WCF Chapters 12, 13, 14
    Fesko, Chapter 8 – Sanctification

VII. November 2  WCF Chapters 15, 16, 17

VIII. November 9  WCF Chapters 18, 19, 20
    Fesko, Chapter 9 - The Law of God and the Christian Life

IX. November 16  WCF Chapters 21, 22, 23
    Carson, Chapter 7 - The Form of Church Government
    Carson, Chapter 8 - The Directory for Public Worship
    Fesko, Chapter 11 – Worship

X. November 23  WCF Chapters 24, 25, 26
XI. **November 30**  WCF Chapters 27, 28, 29  
Carson, Chapter 12 - The Influence of Westminster  
Carson, Chapter 13 - The Unfinished Westminster Catechism  
Carson, Chapter 14 - Parliamentary Background of the Assembly  

XII. **December 7**  WCF Chapters 30, 31, 32, 33  
Fesko, Chapter 12 – Eschatology  

**BTS FORMAT, STYLE, AND WRITING STANDARDS**  
BTS has adopted Turabian as the standard form and style for writing formal papers. However, professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. Students should reference Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 9th Edition*. A Turabian Supplement is available through the seminary. Students should also refer to the BTS Student Handbook on academic integrity/plagiarism. Below is a Paper Grading Rubric for formal papers:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A to A-</th>
<th>B to B-</th>
<th>C to C-</th>
<th>D to D-</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation</td>
<td>Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation</td>
<td>Many errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation</td>
<td>Difficult to read due to English writing errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading</td>
<td>Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent</td>
<td>Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent</td>
<td>Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person and format are proper for assignment</td>
<td>Person and format are inconsistent</td>
<td>Person and format are not appropriate</td>
<td>Person and format are totally inappropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument</td>
<td>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking</td>
<td>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding</td>
<td>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, overused, under used, or cited in error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper completely conforms to Turabian’s Manual for Writers</td>
<td>Paper generally conforms to Turabian’s Manual for Writers</td>
<td>Paper somewhat conforms to Turabian’s Manual for Writers</td>
<td>Paper does not conform to Turabian’s Manual for Writers</td>
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Bibliography


Beveridge, William. A Short History of The Westminster Conf