

#313 Theology 3: Man, Sin, and Salvation
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Fall 2015

COURSE INFORMATION

Course content

The purpose of this class is for you to begin to master the biblical doctrines of man, sin, and salvation. This is in many ways the heart of theology as it pertains to us believers. These doctrines were used to begin and sustain the Protestant Reformation, and have been the comfort and blessing of saints all through the ages.

Course objectives

You will work through, with lectures, discussion, and reading, the biblical and Reformed doctrines of the creation and nature of human beings, the origin, nature, and effects of sin, the predestination of God and his order of decrees, the saving work of Christ and of the Holy Spirit, the subjective elements of repentance and faith, and the continuing blessings of sanctification and perseverance. You also will prepare and give a presentation in class, giving the strongest reasons set forth for some historic or contemporary heresy related to these subjects, along with a biblical refutation and response.

Course outcomes

By successfully completing this class, you will be conversant with the range of doctrines covered under the subjects of man, sin, and salvation. You will know the Reformed position regarding these doctrines, and the biblical defense for it. You also will be familiar with alternate theologies related to these topics. You will be able to discern orthodox teaching, and, conversely, the primary deviations that have been or are held by unorthodox teachers. You will be able to preach sermons or teach classes that are theologically sound and edifying. If seeking ordination, you will be prepared to pass the section of the theology exam dealing with these subjects.

Attendance

Since class discussion is a vital part of this course, attendance at all classes is expected. One absence will be allowed without penalty. Additional absences will reduce the final grade, while perfect attendance will raise the final grade.

Tests

There will be two tests during the semester. These tests will cover the lecture material; each will count about one third of the final grade. The Midterm Exam will cover Questions #1-36, and the Final Exam will cover Questions #37-70.

Reading assignments

Completed reading will be due according to the course schedule:

Assignment #1

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Bk. 2, ch. 1-6, 9-17; Bk. 3, ch. 1-5, 11-18, 20-24
- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Part 2, ch. 1-9
- William G. T. Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, Vol. 2, ch. 1, “Anthropology: Man’s Creation”; and Vol. 3, pp. 249-288 (Supplementary Volume, additional material on “Man’s Creation” chapter [from “Vol. II, p. 6” through “Vol. II, p. 91”])
- A. A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith*, ch. 6-8
- John Murray, *The Imputation of Adam's Sin*

Assignment #2

- Charles Hodge, Part 3, ch. 1-18
- A. A. Hodge, ch. 9-18
- B. B. Warfield, *The Person and Work of Christ*, ch. 4, 10-13
- B. B. Warfield, *The Plan of Salvation*

Special presentation assignment

Each student will make a class presentation by taking a faulty position regarding one of the doctrines concerning man, sin, or salvation which is presented by some group or writer, accurately presenting that view and its main support, then providing a refutation of that view, and offering a clear definition and support for the corresponding correct view. Please either use PowerPoint, or else furnish a copy of your outline to each member of the class (or both). This presentation should take about 30 minutes.

Grading

The final grade will be computed as follows:

Reading Assignment #1	15%
Reading Assignment #2	15%
Special Presentation	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
Attendance and Participation	10%

Course Schedule

Sept.	7	Introduction to the course
	14	
	21	
	28	
Oct.	5	
	12	
	19	Reading Assignment #1 due
	26	Midterm Examination
Nov.	2	
	9	Special Presentation due
	16	
	23	(Thanksgiving Day recess)
	30	
Dec.	7	Reading Assignment #2 due
	14	Final Examination