

#314 Theology 4: The Church and Eschatology
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2014-2015

COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

This course is designed to cover the important doctrines dealing with the church—its character, make-up, officers, duties, and sacraments—and with the last days, including what is called personal eschatology (what happens at death and beyond) and general eschatology (what will transpire at the end of this age). On many of these doctrines all orthodox Christians agree, while with others there is widespread controversy. The class will seek to distinguish not only the biblical position in each area of doctrine, but also the degree of certainty and primacy the Scriptures give to each doctrine.

Contact with the professor

Please feel free to contact the professor (Dr. Battle in this case) anytime you have a question about the course material. Office phone: 253-272-0417; cell phone: 253-720-7586. Email: battle@wrs.edu. You may also set up a WebEx or Skype meeting over the internet.

Course notes and study questions

The course notes are provided on the seminary website. Please print these out. You should work through the notes during the year, in consultation with the professor and your pastoral mentor. The study questions provided will be used as the basis for your midterm and final examinations. Be especially careful to understand the answers you will give for the various study questions. These questions are in the order of the notes.

Examinations

There will be two exams during the year. These exams will cover the lecture material, and will be selected from the study questions provided. The midterm examination will cover Questions #1-28, and the final examination #29-59.

Reading assignments

Assignment #1 (due by the time of the Midterm examination)

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 3, ch. 25; Book 4, ch. 1-19

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Part 3, ch. 20

A. A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith*, ch. 25-31

Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*

John Murray, *Christian Baptism*

Assignment #2 (due by the time of the Final examination)

C. Hodge, Part 4, ch. 1-4

A. A. Hodge, ch. 32-33

James Oliver Buswell, Jr., *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*, Part 4, ch. 1, 4-7

Robert G. Clouse, ed., *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views*

Gleason L. Archer, Jr., Paul D. Feinberg, Douglas J. Moo, Richard R. Reiter, *Three Views on the Rapture*

Special Presentation

During the concentrated sessions each student will make a class presentation by taking a faulty position regarding one of the doctrines concerning the church, the sacraments, or eschatology 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 furnish a copy of your outline to each member of the class. This presentation should take about 30 minutes.

Grading

Attendance and participation	10%
Required reading	30%
Special Presentation	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%