

#351 Westminster Standards  
Western Reformed Seminary  
John A. Battle, Th.D.  
Fall 2017

## COURSE INFORMATION

### **Course objectives**

In addition to reading all the Westminster Standards, you will read a commentary on the Confession and a printed harmony of the Westminster Standards alongside of other standard Reformed confessions and catechisms. You will participate in detailed discussion in class of the Westminster Confession. You will complete a short exam on the history and background of the Westminster Assembly. While there are no other tests, you will memorize and recite the answers found in the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

### **Course outcomes**

Successful completion of this course will lead you into an appreciation of the Westminster Standards—their background and history, their particular teachings, and their importance for the teaching ministry of Presbyterian and Reformed churches. You will be able to identify sound Reformed teaching on the various topics covered by the Confession and to teach classes in churches or schools on this subject. This course will greatly aid candidates for the ministry to answer questions regarding theology. Memory of the Shorter Catechism will provide a lifetime of inspiration and help in defining important doctrines.

### **Required reading**

- The *Westminster Confession of Faith*, the *Larger Catechism*, and the *Shorter Catechism*, with Scripture proofs
- Joel R. Beeke, and Sinclair B. Ferguson, eds., *Reformed Confessions Harmonized*
- A. A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith* (if this book has not been read already)

### **Catechism memory**

Use the Catechism Worksheet to keep track of your memory work. You may recite or write the answers to the questions to any qualified (and careful) listener. Have the listener initial your sheet when recitations are completed. Do shorter questions in batches of 3-5; longer questions may be recited singly. A suggested catechism memory schedule is included.

## **Grading**

Reading	40%
Catechism memory	40%
Attendance and class participation	20%

## **Course schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture; WCF Chapter</b>	<b>Suggested Reading in Hodge</b>	<b>Suggested Catechism Memory</b>
Sept. 6	Introduction	pp. 1-24	
13	Ch. 1-2	pp. 25-62	1-11
20	(JB in CA; no class)		
27	(G. W. Presbytery meeting)		
Oct. 4	Ch. 3-4	pp. 63-90	12-21
11	Ch. 5-6	pp. 91-119	22-31
18	Ch. 7-8	pp. 120-158	32-41
25	Ch. 9-10	pp.159-178	42-50
Nov. 1	Ch. 11-13	pp. 179-201	51-59
8	Ch. 14-17	pp. 202-237	60-69
15	Ch. 18-20	pp. 238-69	70-81
22	Ch. 21-23	pp. 270-300	82-90
29	Ch. 24-27	pp. 301-337	91-98
Dec. 6	Ch. 28-29	pp. 338-365	99-107
13	Ch. 30-33	pp. 366-397; READING ASSIGNMENT DUE	CATECHISM DUE