

Reformed Theology

Course Description:

Courses in the area of Reformed Theology should be designed to provide Presbyterian Christian educators with a clear understanding of the theology of the Reformed Tradition, especially as it is expressed in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Confessions*. Courses should explore the content of those confessions, the historical contexts out of which they arose, and the contemporary significance those confessions have for the life of the church today. By means of varied teaching methods and learning activities (e.g., lectures, small group exercises, discussions, and personal research), students will be able to gain a personal understanding of the Reformed theological tradition. Courses should also allow participants to gain a balanced understanding of the broad landscape of Reformed theological understandings today. It is expected that a course will, minimally, include in-depth study of the *Book of Confessions* and/or cover extensive reading in the works of Reformed theologians.

Suggested Course Objectives:

Courses offered in the area of Reformed theology should enable participants to:

1. Have a basic theological understanding of the character and historical development of Reformed theology, including its roots in the 16th century, its connectedness to earlier theological traditions, and its development to the present.
2. Analyze the ways the Reformed theological tradition has been and continues to be applied to issues facing the church.
3. Understand the different expressions of the Reformed theological tradition within the PC(U.S.A.) and other Reformed denominations.
4. Compare and differentiate the Reformed theological tradition with other theological perspectives.
5. Reflect how the Reformed theological tradition shapes the participants' understandings of educational ministry and other aspects of the church and of daily living.
6. Develop curricular materials appropriate for teaching and interpreting Reformed theology to the contemporary church.

Foundational Resource:

The Book of Confessions: Study Edition (1999)

Suggested Texts:

Note: The texts listed below are representative of what is possible, but the instructor may choose whatever texts he/she believes will accomplish similar objectives as those listed above.

Allen, Michael R. *Reformed Theology* (2010)

Barth, Karl, *Dogmatics in Outline* (1959)
Dowey, Edward, *The Knowledge of God in Calvin's Theology*, (1993)
Johnson, David W., *Trust in God: The Basics of Reformed Spirituality* (2013)
Kerr, Hugh T., ed., *Calvin's Institutes: A New Compend* (1989)
McKim, Donald, *Introducing the Reformed Faith: Biblical Revelation, Christian Tradition, Contemporary Significance* (2001)
Migliore, Daniel, *Faith Seeking Understanding*. 2nd edition (2004)
Rogers, Jack, *Presbyterian Creeds: A Guide to the Book of Confessions* (1991)
Rogers, Jack, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality* (2009)
Small, Joseph D., *Conversations with the Confessions: Dialog in the Reformed Tradition* (2005)

Certification Exam Readiness:

By the end of the certification process, in order to successfully complete the examination, the educator will need to be able to write a statement outlining their basic theological approach to Christian education and identify theological elements of educational activities. The educator will show this through the use of one Reformed theologian or confessional document.

Approved by the PC(USA) Educator Certification Committee, April 28, 2016

The Educator Certification Committee of the PCUSA provides approval for each course and course instructor on an individual basis. This document is meant to provide only an overview of this particular topic and does not provide a blanket approval for all courses.