

#3312 The Westminster Doctrine of Scripture
Western Reformed Seminary (www.wrs.edu)
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Fall 2009

COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

The WRS *Catalog* describes this course as follows: “A detailed study of the doctrine of Scripture has propounded in the Westminster Standards and as explicated by the Westminster divines and their contemporaries; recent debates as to the doctrine of the inerrancy of Scripture as taught by the Westminster Standards; other current controversies related to the Westminster doctrine of Scripture.” By taking this course the student should be able to thoroughly understand and be able to teach the various aspects of the doctrine of Scripture, as held by the Westminster Assembly. He also will give presentations regarding current debates regarding such related topics as the Scripture’s canon, authority, inspiration and inerrancy, transmission, translation, sufficiency, perspicuity, and interpretation—comparing current opinions with those of the Westminster Assembly.

Reading assignment

Required reading

- Two commentaries on Chapter 1 of the WCF
- B. B. Warfield, *The Westminster Assembly and Its Work*, Ch. 3 (“The Westminster Doctrine of Holy Scripture”) and Ch. 4 (“The Doctrine of Inspiration of the Westminster Divines”) [This volume is Vol. 6 of his collected works and also is published separately.]

Elective Reading and Review (For extra hour of credit)

- Read a scholarly book related to this course and write a critical review of the book. Your review should be about 1,500 words, and of a high quality, suitable for publication in a journal. Obtain the professor’s approval of the book before reading it.

Research projects

During the semester you will conduct five research projects, selected from the topics listed below. Each research project should take at least ten hours of work outside of class. Research will include reading and the preparation of a presentation to be made to the class. This presentation will be oral, and should include a time for questions and answers. It should take about an hour. PowerPoint and/or printed handouts should be used.

Research topics:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Comparison of general and special revelation | 7. Perspicuity of Scripture |
| 2. Cessation of special revelation | 8. Inspiration of autographs of Scripture |
| 3. Canon of Scripture | 9. Preservation of text of Scripture |
| 4. Basis for authority of Scripture | 10. Translation of Scripture |
| 5. Evidence for Scripture | 11. Interpretation of Scripture |
| 6. Sufficiency of Scripture | 12. Authority of Scripture |

Grading

Two-hour course

Required reading assignment	20
Research projects	75
Attendance and participation	5

Three-hour course

Required reading assignment	10
Elective reading assignment	15
Research projects	70
Attendance and participation	5

Class Schedule

Sept.	8	(NW Presbytery meeting in Edmonton)
	15	
	22	
	29	
Oct.	6	Project #1
	13	
	20	Project #2;
	27	Required Reading
Nov.	3	Project #3
	10	
	17	Project #4
	24	
Dec.	1	Project #5
	8	
	15	Elective Reading and Review