

#313 Theology 3: Man, Sin, and Salvation
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2019-2020

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 though 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.

Concentrated session

Since lectures and class discussion, as well as the special presentation, are an important part of this course, attendance and participation at the concentrated two-week session is required, and will contribute toward your final grade.

Tests

There will be two tests during the year. These tests will cover the lecture material, as taken from the Study Questions provided in the course syllabus. The Midterm will cover #1-36, and the Final will cover #37-70.

Reading assignments

There are two reading assignments for this class:

Assignment #1, by the Midterm Exam

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 2, ch. 1-6, 9-17; Book 3, ch. 1-5, 11-18, 20-24
- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Part II, 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, by the Final Exam

- C. Hodge, Part III, 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 furnish a copy of your outline to each member of the class. This presentation should take about 30 minutes.

Contacting the professor

Feel free to contact the professor any time during the course if you have a question or need clarification.

- Email: battle@wrs.edu
- Phone: 253-272-0417 (office); 253-720-7586 (cell)
- Skype: johnbattle1

Grading

The final grade will be computed as follows:

Reading Assignment #1	20%
Reading Assignment #2	20%
Special Presentation	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%