

#3312 The Westminster Doctrine of Scripture
Western Reformed Seminary (www.wrs.edu)
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2009-2010

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

- Please carefully read and work through the Scriptural references in “Summary of WCF, Chapter 1: ‘Of the Holy Scripture,’” which is part of this course’s notes
- Two commentaries on Chapter 1 of the Westminster Confession of Faith (for example, those of A. A. Hodge, G. I. Williamson, John H. Gerstner, Wayne R. Spear)
- 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 year 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 during the time of the concentrated classes. The five presentations will be oral, and should include a time for questions and answers. Each one should take about thirty minutes to an hour. PowerPoint and/or printed handouts should be used.

Research topics:

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