

**LECTURER:** Steve Duby, Ph.D.

**ONLINE INSTRUCTOR:** Steve Duby, D.Min.

Contact Information: [sduby@ps.edu](mailto:sduby@ps.edu)

Technical assistance is available to online students. Please contact: [onlinesupport@ps.edu](mailto:onlinesupport@ps.edu)

**DESCRIPTION (from *Student Handbook*)**

This course introduces students to major topics in systematic theology, including the doctrines of salvation, the church, and last things. Students will consider the biblical bases for these doctrines, the development and elaboration of these doctrines in church history, and the practical implications of these doctrines for Christian life and ministry.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Articulate and defend the major doctrinal commitments of the Christian faith within the topics of salvation, the church, and last things.
2. Explain how such doctrinal commitments emerge principally from the teaching of Scripture and have been developed and refined in the context of the church’s theological tradition.
3. Articulate his/her own convictions on sub-topics in Christian doctrine that allow for diverse conclusions within the bounds of Christian orthodoxy.
4. Apply Christian doctrine to Christian life and ministry.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS**

The Bible

Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics: Volume Four – Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

<p><b>1. Reading</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1-3]</i></p>	<p>In weeks when there is a Discussion Question (DQ), the readings should be completed before students post their DQ responses. The readings and lectures will serve as the basis for exam questions.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Reading is due each lesson, per schedule on course web page.</p>
<p><b>2. Discussion Questions (DQs) [25% of grade]</b>  <i>[Outcome 1-4]</i></p>	<p>Substantive posts are expected. Grading will be based on the Discussion Question Grading Rubric (see course web page). Discussion Question answers should first be typed in a word processor, proofread, saved, and then copied into the course web page.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> <i>An initial response</i> to the Discussion Question should be posted by <i>Thursday at 11:59 PM</i> of the week in which they appear with at least <b>two responses to other students</b> due by <i>Sunday at 11:59 PM</i> of the same week.</p>
<p><b>3. Paper [25% of grade]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1-4]</i></p>	<p>1. Students will write an eight- to ten-page paper on the doctrine of justification. For this paper, students will read and assess the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification” produced by</p>

representatives of Roman Catholicism and Lutheranism. The Joint Declaration may be accessed online at [www.lutheranworld.org/jddj](http://www.lutheranworld.org/jddj) (scroll down and click “Original Document from 1999”). Students will also use the resources on reserve in the library to read and incorporate material on justification from the Roman Catholic Council of Trent and from the Lutheran Formula of Concord. The material from the Council of Trent is available on reserve in Philip Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom – Volume II: The Greek and Latin Creeds*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996), pp. 110-18. The material from the Formula of Concord is available on reserve in Philip Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom – Volume III: The Evangelical Protestant Creeds*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996), article III, pp. 114-21.

2. The goal of this assignment is for the student to discern the key differences between Roman Catholic and Protestant teaching on justification and to discern the biblical warrant and beneficial pastoral implications of the Protestant doctrine.

3. Students must break up their paper into the following sections, using these exact Roman numerals and section titles. Failure to do so will result in a massive grade reduction:

I. Introduction

II. Summary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification

III. Assessment of the Joint Declaration

IV. Biblical Warrant and Pastoral Implications of the Protestant View

V. Conclusion

4. In the Introduction (roughly half a page), tell me exactly what you’re going to do. Give me a clear preview of where you are going in the paper. Some first-person language is acceptable here (e.g., “In this paper, I will...”). In section II (2-3 pages), you will summarize the content of the Joint Declaration, which includes a preamble and five main sections. Because the online document of the Joint Declaration does not have page numbers, you do not need to cite it in footnotes (other sources must still be cited in footnotes). Simply say something like “In section 2.13 of the Joint Declaration, the authors state...”. In section III (2-3 pages), you will assess the Joint Declaration by comparing and contrasting it with what the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches actually teach about justification. What these churches actually teach is found in the Council of Trent

	<p>and Formula of Concord. In section IV (2-3 pages), you will present the biblical bases and the pastoral implications of the Protestant view of justification, which is shared by Lutherans, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Baptists, and others. In the Conclusion (roughly half a page), summarize exactly what you've just done in the paper.</p> <p>5. In addition to citing the Joint Declaration, the Council of Trent, and the Formula of Concord, you must use three other academic resources. Bavinck may be one of these sources. See the end of the syllabus for further recommendations.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Each lesson, per schedule on course web page</p>
<p><b>4. Exams [50% of grade]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1-4]</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The mid-term and final exams will be based upon the readings and lecture materials.</li> <li>2. The mid-term is worth 25% of the student's overall grade. The final exam also is worth 25% of the student's overall grade.</li> <li>3. The mid-term covers material from the first half of the class. The final exam will be cumulative, requiring students to study and review the entire body of material they have covered over the semester.</li> <li>4. The exams will consist of short-answer and essay questions.</li> </ol> <p><b>Due:</b> See course web page.</p>

**GRADING INFORMATION**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>	<b>Description</b>
A+	100-97	4.0	
A	96.99-93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92.99-90	3.7	
B+	89.99-87	3.3	
B	86.99-83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82.99-80	2.7	
C+	79.99-77	2.3	
C	76.99-73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72.99-70	1.7	
D+	69.99-67	1.3	
D	66.99-63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62.99-60	0.7	
F	59.99-0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.
S	N/A	N/A	Sufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
U	N/A	N/A	Insufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
EX	N/A	N/A	Extension. A formally approved petition for course extension.
NR	N/A	N/A	Not Received. Instructor has not yet submitted grade.
WP	N/A	N/A	Withdrew from class while passing. Not computed in GPA.
WF	N/A	0.0	Withdrew from class while failing. Computed in GPA until retake.

## **SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES**

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Academic Catalog or Student Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

## **COURSE DETAILS**

### **On-Line Course Materials**

Lectures, handouts and other course materials will be posted to <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Please note that after the course is over the student will not have access to course material on the website.

### **Participation**

Students are expected to actively participate in the online learning environment. This may include logging on multiple times per week to view material, complete quizzes or exams, and to post responses to discussion questions.

### **Online Course Weeks**

An online course “Week” corresponds to a 7-day week and runs **Monday – Sunday**. The course is based on **Phoenix, Arizona Time**. If you are in a different time zone, you are responsible for calculating the time difference and scheduling appropriately. There may be exceptions so pay close attention to the course web page for specifics.

### **Late Posts, Etc.**

Because dependability and industry are virtues of Christian character, the faculty encourages students to be faithful and timely in the completion of all course assignments. Failure to take quizzes, exams, or submit papers when they are due will result in a penalty and generally cannot be made up more than one week from their due date. Contact the instructor in cases of emergency that may warrant an extension. Procrastination is not an emergency.

### **Professor’s Other:**

### **Assignment Policies**

Assignments must be formatted and submitted according to the instructions provided in the syllabus and according to any supplemental instructions provided in class. Late assignments are subject to a grade reduction. If the student has a true emergency (e.g., severe health issue or death in the family) that will affect the student’s ability to submit an assignment on time, the student should email the professor as soon as possible.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ON JUSTIFICATION

(\* indicates availability through the library)

- \*Allen, Michael. *Justification and the Gospel: Understanding the Contexts and Controversies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
- \*Beilby, James K., and Paul Rhodes Eddy, eds. *Justification: Five Views*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011.
- \*Bird, Michael. *The Saving Righteousness of God: Studies on Paul, Justification, and the New Perspective*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster; Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2007.
- \*Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Vol. 1. Louisville: WJKP, 2006.
- \*Gathercole, Simon J. *Where Is Boasting? Early Jewish Soteriology and Paul's Response in Romans 1-5*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- \*Fesko, J. V. *Justification: Understanding the Classic Reformed Doctrine*. Phillipsburg: P & R, 2008.
- Horton, Michael S. *Justification*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.
- \*Lane, Anthony N. S. *Justification by Faith in Catholic-Protestant Dialogue: An Evangelical Assessment*. London: T & T Clark, 2002.
- \*McCormack, Bruce L., ed. *Justification in Perspective: Historical Developments and Contemporary Challenges*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.
- \*Owen, John. *The Doctrine of Justification by Faith*. In vol. 5 of *The Works of John Owen*. Ed. William H. Goold. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1965.
- \*Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*. Vol. 2. Ed. James T. Dennison. Trans. George Musgrave Giger. Phillipsburg: P & R, 1992.
- \*Westerholm, Stephen. *Justification Reconsidered: Rethinking a Pauline Theme*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.