

**Course Syllabus and Readings:
Scottish Reformation and Post-Reformation Pastoral Theology and Spirituality
(CH858 – Scottish Presbyterianism)**

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Course Objectives

The practice of pastoral theology in the Presbyterian tradition has its roots in Reformation and post-Reformation Scotland, as the shepherds of Christ's flock endeavored to return to a biblically faithful administration of the Word, sacraments, and discipline. In an age that cries out for fresh reformation in the churches, this course invites students to an encounter with the pioneers of the Scottish Presbyterian tradition to examine the practice and reception of pastoral ministry from the past in order to draw practical lessons for contemporary ministry contexts. Students will gain a comprehensive view of the theological and practical emphases of the Scottish Reformation and Post-Reformation.

Prerequisite Readings

- **Textbooks.** The two textbooks provide important background information and orientation for the course material. *These should be read and annotated prior to the course.*
 - **Margo Todd, *The Culture of Protestantism in Early Modern Scotland* (Yale, 2002).** This title represents some of the most important recent academic research on Reformation and Post-Reformation Scottish Presbyterian practice from the perspective of secular scholarship.
 - **Donald MacLeod, *Therefore the Truth I Speak: Scottish Theology 1500-1700* (Mentor, 2020).** This title provides an introduction to major Scottish Reformation and Post-Reformation theologians and theological themes that will be encountered in this course, from the perspective of Christian scholarship.

- **Primary Sources and Journal Articles** are arranged below according to each Lecture of the course. These may be downloaded as pdfs from the attached Course Folder, where they are arranged by lecture. *Please read and annotate the relevant primary sources and journal articles prior to each Lecture.* This will facilitate classroom discussion.

- **Archaic Scottish Language:** Primary sources are predominantly written in 17th century Scots English, though some have been edited to update the language. Only a few texts have footnotes defining Scottish words in contemporary English, so **students are advised to constantly refer to the online Dictionary of the Scots Language for unfamiliar archaic words, which can be found online here: <https://dsl.ac.uk/>.** Enter the word you are looking for in the "Quick Search" box and select the "Before 1700" option to define words used in the 16th-17th centuries.

Course Syllabus

1. **Prologue: History and Historiography [Lecture 1]**
 - a. **Lecture 1A: History of the Scottish Reformation and Post-Reformation.**
 - b. **Lecture 1B: Historiography.**
 - c. **Sources and Texts:**
 - i. David G. Whitla, "Telling Tales: A Survey of Covenanter Historiography," *Reformed Theological Journal* 33 (2017): 47–65.

2. **Personal Piety: Christian Experience in Scottish Presbyterianism. [Lectures 2-3]**
 - a. **Lecture 2: Personal and Family Worship.**
 - b. **Sources and Texts:**
 - i. The Westminster Directory for Family Worship (1647).
 - ii. David G. Whitla, "Wariston on the Word: Lessons on the Use and Abuse of Scripture from the Diary of a Covenanter", *Reformed Presbyterian Theological Journal* 8.1 (2021).
 - c. **Lecture 3: Dimensions of Personal Piety in Scottish Presbyterianism**
 - d. **Sources and Texts:**
 - i. William Guthrie, *Trial of a Saving Interest in Christ* (1667), pp.223-239.
 - ii. "Personal Covenant of James Nasmyth" (1688) in David G. Mullan (ed), *Protestant Piety in Early Modern Scotland SHS* 2001), 71-72.

3. **Public Means of Grace: Scottish Presbyterian Worship [Lectures 4-5]**
 - a. **Lecture 4: The Word in Worship**
 - b. **Sources and Texts:**
 - i. John Livingstone, "Remarks on Preaching and Praying in Publick" in W.K. Tweedie (ed.) *Select Biographies* (Edinburgh, 1845), 1:287-289.
 - ii. Samuel Rutherford, "The Deliverance of the Kirk of God" (Jer.50:4-5) in *Quaint Sermons of Samuel Rutherford* (1885), 152-177.
 - iii. Andrew Gray, "A Speech by Mr. Andrew Gray at Kirklistoun Before the Communion", in *The Works of Andrew Gray* (1839 ed.), 484-489.
 - iv. Matthew Vogan, "Samuel Rutherford and the Theology and Practice of Preaching" *Scottish Reformation Society Historical Journal*, 1 (2011), 13-37.
 - v. Andrew Spicer: 'Accommodating of Thame Selfis to Heir the Worde': Preaching, Pews and Reformed Worship in Scotland, 1560–1638' (*JHA* 88.291, 2003).
 - c. **Lecture 5: Other Elements of Worship**
 - d. **Sources and Texts:**
 - i. The Westminster Directory for Public Worship (1647)
 - ii. Westminster Confession of Faith XXI: Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day.
 - iii. Westminster Confession of Faith XXVI-XXIX: Of the Communion of Saints, the Sacraments, Baptism, The Lord's Supper.

- iv. Robert Bruce, *Sermons on the Sacrament*, (1910 ed.) Sermon 1
- v. Andrew Spicer, “‘What kinde of house a kirk is’: conventicles, consecrations and the concept of sacred space in post-Reformation Scotland”, in W. Coster and A. Spicer (eds), *Sacred Space in Early Modern Europe*, (Cambridge, 2005), pp. 81–103.

4. Pastoral Care: The Pastor as Shepherd [Lectures 6-7]

a. Lecture 6: Church Discipline

b. Sources and Texts:

- i. The Westminster Form of Presbyterian Church Government (1645)
- ii. Chris Langley (ed), *The Minutes of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, 1648-1659* (SHS, 2016), 252-258, 341-342. Students advised to use online dictionary: DSL: <https://dsl.ac.uk/>
- iii. Iain H. Murray, “The Churches and Christian Unity in Scottish Church History”; chapter 8 in *A Scottish Christian Heritage* (Edinburgh: Scotland: Banner of Truth 2006).

c. Lecture 7: Pastoral Training and Shepherding Care

d. Sources and Texts:

- i. John Knox, *A Letter of Wholesome Counsel* (1556) in *Select Practical Works of John Knox* (1845), 173-180 (Cf. Works, 4:129-140).
- ii. Samuel Rutherford, *Letters of Samuel Rutherford* (Edinburgh, 1904 ed), Letters # 37, 159, 262, 298 (pp. 100-101, 292-295, 512-513, 602-603).
- iii. “Walter Smith: Pastoral Letter to Janet Fimerton” in Patrick Walker, *Six Saints of the Covenant* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1901), 2:101-104.
- iv. David G. Whitla, “What Is My Present Life but a Death to Me?” Archibald Johnston of Wariston (1611–1663) and the Puritan Experience of Melancholy” *Puritan Reformed Journal* 11, 2 (2019): 92–108.

5. Polemics: The Pastor as Theologian [Lectures 8-9]

a. Lecture 8: Analysis of Select Theological Debates (I)

b. Lecture 9: Analysis of Select Theological Debates (II)

c. Sources and Texts:

- i. David Stevenson, “The Radical Party in the Kirk, 1637–45,” *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 25, no. 2 (1974): 135–165.
- ii. Matthew Vogan, “Conventicles from the First to Second Reformation in Scotland,” *Scottish Reformation Society Historical Journal* 6 (2016): 53–85.
- iii. James Walker, *Theology and Theologians of Scotland, 1560-1740* (1888), Ch.5: The Headship of Christ and Erastianism, 127-156.

6. Persecution: The Suffering Pastor [Lecture 10]

a. Persecuted Presbyterians.

b. Responses to Persecution.

c. Sources and Texts

- i. John Knox, *A Comfortable Epistle Sent to the Afflicted Church of Christ in England* (1554) in *Select Practical Works of John Knox* (1845), 149-160 (Cf. *Works*, 3:237-249).
- ii. Samuel Rutherford, *Letters of Samuel Rutherford* (Edinburgh, 1904 ed), Letters #113, 358, 362. (pp. 229-230, 692-694, 694-696, 701-702).
- iii. "Martyrs Monument, Greyfriars Churchyard" in John Howie (ed. JH Carslaw), *Scots Worthies* (Edinburgh, n.d.), 626-627.
- iv. J.H. Thompson (ed), *A Cloud of Witnesses for the Royal Prerogatives of Jesus Christ* (1871), 6-11; 483-491.
- v. John Welwood, Letters, in David G. Mullan (ed), *Protestant Piety in Early Modern Scotland* (SHS 2001), 82ff (Letters 4,5,10,11,33)
- vi. James Welwood, Pastoral letter (1665), in Patrick Walker, *Six Saints of the Covenant* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1901), 1:202-205
- vii. Richard Cameron, "Sermon on John 5:40" in *Sermons in Time of Persecution* (1880) 426-433.

CH820: Documents, Doctrines and Eras:
Scottish Reformation and Post-Reformation Pastoral Theology and Spirituality

Class Assignments

- 1. Required Reading.** All reading assignments listed in the course syllabus (textbooks, journal articles and primary sources) must be completed within **ONE MONTH of completion of lectures (Friday September 9)**. This assignment counts for 10% of your final grade. Each student will be required to submit a signed “**Required Reading Statement**” (see attached) noting the percentage of reading completed.
- 2. Short Assignment on Textbooks.** The following short assignment is also due within **ONE MONTH of completion of lectures (Friday September 9)**. This assignment counts for 20% of your final grade.

CHOOSE ONE:

- Write a 5-page academic book review of Margo Todd, *The Culture of Protestantism in Early Modern Scotland* (Yale, 2002). Be sure to include the following:
 - A summary of its content and purpose
 - Its academic value for the historian
 - Its practical value for Christian pastors
 - A discussion of its historiographical methodology
 - Illustrate the above with adequate references to the text

OR:

- Choose ONE Scottish Presbyterian leader discussed in Donald MacLeod, *Therefore the Truth I Speak: Scottish Theology, 1500-1700* (Christian Focus, 2020). Write a 5-page paper to explain his theological and practical contribution to his own church context and discuss how he speaks with particular relevance to the Chinese churches today.

- 3. Major Assignment: Research Paper.** The following 20-Page research paper is due by **Friday December 9**. This assignment counts for 70% of your final grade.

Subject: You are free to **select any topic of interest within one of the following broad subject areas** in Scottish Reformation and Post-Reformation Church History (c.1517-1688).

- Aspects of Scottish Presbyterian spirituality
- Family piety
- Psalmody
- Sabbath observance

- e. Pastoral care in the local church
- f. Church censures in the local church
- g. Preaching and preachers
- h. Presbyterian “prophecy”
- i. The theology and administration of the sacraments
- j. Covenant theology and personal covenanting
- k. Covenant theology and national covenanting
- l. Pastoral training in Presbyterianism
- m. The function of Presbyterian church courts
- n. Bishops in a Presbyterian church
- o. *De jure* Presbyterianism and its rival ecclesiologies
- p. Conventicles
- q. Relationship of church and state
- r. Establishment principle and national Presbyterianism
- s. Presbyterian responses to state persecution

You are asked to confirm the *topic* with the professor within ONE MONTH of completion of lectures (by Friday September 9).

Content

- a. The paper should begin with an introduction that articulates a **clear thesis statement that you will establish and defend** in the paper, and briefly explains **why your chosen topic is important for the Church’s faith, worship, or life in the present day**.
- b. The purpose of the paper is NOT to simply survey or summarize your topic, nor is it necessarily to present a breakthrough “discovery” or “revisionist” perspective. Rather, it should **demonstrate your ability to interact with primary and secondary sources and arrive at your own conclusions**. Avoid plagiarism and excessive dependence on other scholars’ work.
- c. The paper should demonstrate your **understanding of how the topic being analyzed fits into the general flow of Scottish Presbyterian church history**. This is primarily achieved by consideration of ideas and events that *preceded* and impacted the topic under consideration, as well as the results and effects seen in *subsequent* church history.
- d. The paper should engage with **no less than 15 sources, a mixture of primary and secondary sources**, demonstrate an ability to critically interact with scholarly work already done on the subject, and **give compelling evidence that your thesis and its various supporting arguments are significant and valid**. You are encouraged to make use of the resources supplied in your document folder in addition to other sources.
- e. The paper should demonstrate your ability to **understand and articulate the relationship between history and theology** and **make appropriate application to the church in our day**.

Format

- a. The body of the paper must be **no less than 20 pages, not to exceed 25 pages**, excluding title page and bibliography.
- b. All papers must be in **Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced, with 1" margins**.
- c. Citation of sources must be in **footnote format** with a full **bibliography**.
- d. Prior to submission, please proofread and edit to ensure that the paper is free of **plagiarism, grammatical errors and formatting inconsistencies**.

Assessment

Grades will be assessed per the relevant regulations in the PRTS catalogue.

Late work will be assessed a 5% daily deduction.

Professor contact info:

If you post your completed papers to Populi, please be sure to also email a copy to Dr. Whitla at dwhitla@rpts.edu.

Feel free to contact Dr. Whitla with any questions about the assignments.

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Required Reading Statement

I hereby declare that I have completed the following percentage of the required reading (textbooks, journal articles and primary sources) as listed in the course syllabus:

Percentage Completed: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____