

# Reformed Theology Course

## Course Description

Courses in the area of Reformed Theology are designed to provide Presbyterian Christian educators with a clear understanding of the theology of the Reformed Tradition, especially as it is expressed in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions. Courses explore the content of those confessions, the historical contexts out of which they arose, and the contemporary significance those confessions have for the life of the church today. By means of varied teaching methods and learning activities (e.g., lectures, small group exercises, discussions, and personal research), students will be able to gain a personal understanding of the Reformed theological tradition. Courses will also allow participants to gain a balanced understanding of the broad landscape of Reformed theological understandings today. It is expected that a course will, minimally, include in-depth study of the Book of Confessions and/or cover extensive reading in the works of Reformed theologians.

## Course Standards

<b>Competencies</b> <b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Theoretical Perspective</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Contextual Awareness</b>	<b>Self-Critical Awareness</b>
<b>Historical Dimension</b>	Express major features of one or more pre-21 <sup>st</sup> century Reformed theologians or confessions	Demonstrate ability to interpret historical theological themes in historical context	Show an understanding of at least two confessional expressions of the Reformed tradition in their historical context.	What would you define as your “essential tenets” in the Reformed tradition
<b>Contemporary Dimension</b>	Articulate 3-4 themes of a contemporary Reformed theological perspective or theologian	Use two or more theological themes to address contemporary issues in church or society	Analyze a dominant Reformed theological theme(s) guiding your ministry context	How is your own understanding of church and society influenced by your Reformed theological point of view?
<b>Educational Dimension</b>	Identify direct or implicit educational aspects of particular theological themes	Develop learning experiences for particular theological themes	Use one or more themes of the Reformed tradition in your educational ministry.	How does your own theological approach inform educational ministry within the Reformed tradition?

## Suggested Resources

*Book of Confessions: Study Edition*, revised. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2017.

Burgess, John P. *Confessing our Faith: The Book of Confessions for Church Leaders*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

Guthrie, Shirley C. *Christian Doctrine*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

Kerr, Hugh T., ed. *Calvin's Institutes: A New Compend*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1989.

Leith, John. *An Introduction to the Reformed Tradition: A Way of Being the Christian Community*.  
Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1980.

Rogers, Jack. *Presbyterian Creeds: A Guide to the Book of Confessions*. Louisville: Westminster John  
Knox, 1985.