

MTIOPC Spring 2010
Course Descriptions

The Westminster Standards (2 credits)

by Dr. George W. Knight, III

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to get a clear understanding of the rich heritage of the Reformation faith. The course offers a detailed analysis of the contents of the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF). The relationship between the WCF and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms is discussed. The goal is for the student to know the system of doctrine formulated in the WCF and the two catechisms, and to be able to subscribe to these standards with integrity. The method used includes reading of assigned materials, review of specific commentaries on these standards, and study of a detailed syllabus that reduces the doctrines of the Confession to a series of clear propositions. Special attention will be given to the OPC's form of subscription to the Westminster standards.

Pastoral Theology (2 credits)

by the Rev. William Shishko

This course combines personal reading, intensive training, and actual exposure to church life in an Orthodox Presbyterian congregation. The goal of the class is to help students develop a truly biblical approach to the pastoral office and its various responsibilities. Subjects to be covered include: the minister in relation to himself, the minister in relation to his family, the minister and his session, shepherding, ruling, miscellaneous duties, and the minister in the presbytery and general assembly. The intensive training period will include workshops with the church session and board to deacons. This class will be most beneficial for men who are on the threshold of pastoral ministry or for those who have recently entered the pastorate as ordained ministers. Class size is limited to six students.

Reformed Worship (1 credit)

by the Rev. Larry Wilson

The purpose of this course is to equip the student (1) to grasp the principles and ethos of biblically Reformed worship embodied in the OPC's Directory for Public Worship (DPW), (2) to plan and conduct public worship services in a manner that consciously expresses that ethos, and (3) to evaluate contemporary pressures on pastors in light of those principles. Students will survey principal aspects of public worship. A careful reading of the DPW will be augmented by selected readings that introduce the

biblical, theological, and historical roots of the provisions of the Directory and which argue differing sides of debated issues. Topics covered will include the Lord's Day, the significance of public worship, the regulative principle of worship, the elements of worship, the "dialogue" of worship, order and flow in public worship, leadership in public worship, song in public worship, admission to and administration of the sacraments, ordinations and installations, weddings, and funerals. Intensive training sessions will focus on the practice of planning and conducting public worship, both Lord's Day worship and special occasions such as ordinations and installations, weddings, and funerals.

The Form of Government (1 credit)

by the Rev. Alan D. Strange

The Form of Government course will focus on the meaning, history, and polity of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church; the nature and exercise of church government; the officers of the church; the governing assemblies and local administration; the process of licensing, ordaining, and calling ministers and other ordained officers; ways to amend the constitution; and Robert's Rules of Order.