



Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Ordination Lab Syllabus

Semester: Fall 2026

Day & Time: July 18

Mentor Supervisor: Daniel Leavengood

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Course: Ordination Lab

Room: A202

Credits: 0

Phone: 205-863-1003

Course Note: The goal of the lab will be to prepare you for the ordination process. We will look at the ordination process as a whole, starting with the requirements and moving all the way to coming before the presbytery.

Course Description: Please see the BTS Course Catalog for the official Course Description. Descriptions are designed to cover the basics of information on the course. Professors may add one to two sentences to personalize the course.

Course Objectives:

- What is Ordination? We will begin to think through the process as a whole and examine all the elements of the Ordination process. We will talk about coming under the care of the presbytery, internship requirements, preparing a sermon, and writing theological and exegetical papers.
- Test Preparation: We will consider each of the five areas you will be tested on and begin to think through how you best prepare yourself. We will focus on what we should be studying, and where we can find that information, and then practice some example questions.
- Stated Differences: We will look through the Westminster Confession of Faith and talk about common differences with the confession and how we should think through and articulate those differences.

Required Texts:

- [Preparing for Licensure and Ordination](#) by Bryan Chappell
- [On Being Presbyterian](#) by Sean Lucas
- [Westminster Confession of Faith](#)
- Current Edition of the PCA [Book of Church Order](#)
- [PCA Study Reports](#)
 - [Study Report on Sexuality](#)
 - [Study Report on Creation](#)
 - [Study Report on Divorce and Remarriage](#)

Course Requirements and Assessments:

- Much of what we will do in this lab will be done in the way of classroom exercise and participation. There will be two major assignments that will be done outside of classroom time.
- Westminster Confession of Faith Assignment: The students will be required to read through the whole Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger of Shorter Catechism. The students will be required to note any areas in which they find themselves not in agreement with anything in our standards and be ready to discuss them in class.
- The students will be given a series of example questions that they will be required to answer, and then be prepared to discuss these questions during class.

Course Schedule:

- We will meet on the following days:
 - Saturday, July 18 from 9:00- 4:00 PM
- The WCF assignment will be due on July 14th
- The Sample test questions will be due TBD

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor beforehand.

Class Policies and Procedures:

- BTS highly recommends using handwritten note-taking methods in class and keeping computer usage to a minimum.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.
- All assignments must be submitted by email by 11:59 (CDT/CST) on the due date.
- Late assignments will incur a -3 point deduction per weekday after the due date, except in cases of emergency communicated to the professor.
- Missed tests/exams may only be made up with an excused absence, preferably in advance of class. Excused absence tests/exams must be made up before the final day of the semester.

Video Conference Policies and Procedures:

- Please utilize the BTS “Best VC (Video Conference) Practices” information for the course.
- Laptops/Desktops are the preferred method of attending a video conference course. Information will be shared on the screen, so phones will be less useful.
- In Video Conference, it is preferable for the student to keep their video on (when possible) so that students and faculty may engage with one another. Extended periods of dark screen will result in follow-up and potential removal from class.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.

BTS Outcomes Evaluation

Please rank each outcome on a scale of 1-5

1: this outcome is not covered in this class

2: this outcome is only touched on in this class

3: this outcome is discussed in conjunction with class material

4: this outcome lightly assessed as part of course assessment (one assignment)

5: this outcome is fully integrated into the assessment of this course (multiple assignments)

1. Scripture: Students will effectively articulate the truth of Scripture and Scripture as truth, engaged with learning biblical knowledge and reformed principles of the supremacy of Scripture as God’s word.
2. Reformed Theology: Students will be able to engage and reproduce the primary and essential elements of Reformed Theology.
3. Local Church: Students will be engaged in applied ministry projects in the local church
4. Wisdom: Students will grow in character; increasing in their demonstration of wisdom and its fruits.
5. Discipleship: Students will be able to understand and articulate the nature and importance of discipleship—both ordinary (means of grace) and extraordinary (biblical counseling).
6. Communication: Students will grow in the efficacy of their communication (articulation, teaching/speaking, and preaching—respective to various departments) both in content knowledge and rhetorical strategies.
7. Worldview: Students will demonstrate a growing ability to apply God’s word to all spheres of life, evidenced through class discussion and other assigned assessments.
8. Leadership: Students will grow in their understanding of godly leadership and ability to lead others in service of the local church.

Outcome	Rank	Rational (one sentence)
Scripture	3	Scripture is discussed throughout the course as students examine ordination requirements, engage WCF standards, and study PCA theological positions grounded in biblical truth.
Reformed Theology	5	Reformed theology is the central focus of this course, as students work through the WCF, study the five ordination exam areas, and practice articulating and defending PCA confessional standards.

Local Church	3	The ordination process is directly tied to serving the local church, and the course discusses internship requirements, presbytery care, and pastoral readiness for ministry.
Wisdom	3	Wisdom and character are discussed in the context of preparing for ordination, including how candidates should approach stated differences with the confession and engage the presbytery.
Discipleship	2	Discipleship is only touched on in this course, as the primary focus is ordination preparation rather than discipleship methods or counseling practices.
Communication	4	Students are assessed on their ability to articulate and defend theological positions through the WCF assignment and practice exam questions, directly developing communication competencies required for ordination.
Worldview	3	A Reformed worldview is discussed throughout as students engage PCA study reports on sexuality, creation, and divorce, learning to apply confessional standards to contemporary issues.
Leadership	4	Leadership development is assessed through the WCF assignment, as students must personally evaluate their confessional commitments and demonstrate the self-awareness and integrity expected of ordained leaders in the PCA.