

COURSE SYLLABUS
English Puritan Theology, OST605, 2 hours
J.I. Packer, Ph.D.
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Instructor

Dr. J.I. Packer is the Sangwoo Youtong Chee Professor of Systematic Theology at Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia. He holds the M.A. and Ph.D degrees from Oxford University. He is the author of *Knowing God*, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, and *A Quest for Godliness*. These lectures were originally given at RTS/Jackson.

Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to the English Puritans. The subject is treated in its historical context of the 16th and 17th centuries. Included is an analysis of theological contributions, cultural and community impact, and literary output. Both personal and corporate piety are evaluated. Biographical data provides exposure to numerous Puritan figures.

Required Textbooks

Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Any complete and unabridged edition is suitable).
Packer, J. I. *A Quest for Godliness*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1990.
Ryken, Leland. *Worldly Saints*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986.
Spurgeon, Charles H. *Pictures from Pilgrim's Progress*. Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1992.
The Westminster Confession of Faith. Reprint, 1997. Glasgow: Free Presbyterian Publications. (The Free Presbyterian edition contains "The Directory of the Publick Worship of God" as an appendix, which you are required to read.)

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rtsvirtual.org>.

Recommended Textbooks

Gurnall, W. *The Christian in Complete Armour*. London: Banner of Truth, 1964.
Helm, P. *Calvin & The Calvinists*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1982.
Hindson, E. ed. *Introduction to Puritan Theology: A Reader*. Grand Rapids: Guardian Press (Baker), 1976.
Kendall, R. T. *Calvin & English Calvinism to 1649*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.
Miller, Perry. *The New England Mind I: The 17th Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1961.
Ryken, L. E. *Worldly Saints*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990.

Course Requirements

Online Student Handbook

The online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located on the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

Requirements in Brief

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

- Follow the study guide provided
- Listen to recorded lectures
- Complete the assigned readings
- Response paper
- Written project
- Mid-term exam
- Final exam

Response Paper (10%)

A response paper of five typed pages is to be turned in after listening to all the lectures and completing the reading assignments from Packer and Ryken. The paper is to be a response to the question, “What do you consider the most important lessons that today’s church could learn from the English Puritans?”

Written Project (25%)

The student is required to complete a written project concerning the text of *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, Part I. When completed, the project should be suitable for a thirteen week course of study on the *Pilgrim’s Progress* for an adult Sunday school class or small group. The project should consist of thirteen outlines for teaching such a class. One outline must be produced in manuscript form. Both outlines and manuscript must be typed.

Spurgeon’s treatment of *The Pilgrim’s Progress* in his *Pictures in Pilgrim’s Progress* is one example of how to approach such a project as this. Do not allow his work to cripple your own creativity. If you choose occasionally to borrow from Spurgeon or other sources, be sure to give proper credit. As a literary work, an analysis could be made of any or all of the following: literary structure, use of allegory, character assessments, plot, setting As a commentary on the Christian life, the project could be approached from a topical or theological perspective. Whatever method(s) you choose to use, be sure to bring out the most important biblical truths that Bunyan is trying to communicate.

Examinations (Midterm: 30%, Final: 30%)

The midterm examination will cover the first five lectures and readings. The final examination will not be cumulative. This exam will only cover lectures six through ten.

All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu/>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments . Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu).

Time Limit

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

Contact Information

Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual
2101 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 366-4853
1-800-227-2013
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu
Web site: <http://virtual.rts.edu/>

COURSE OUTLINE
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Lesson One: The Puritan Identity

Scraping off the Mud
Circumscribing the Mix
The Puritan Character:
 Spiritual Motivations
 Theological Controls
 Cultural Attitudes
The Puritan Experience:
 Pre-History (to 1559)
 History (to 1700)
 The Inward Drama

Lesson Two: Puritan Theological Concerns

Beyond the Secular Horizon
1) The Face of the Church: purity of worship, government, life
2) The Doctrine of Grace: the Augustinian renaissance; Holy Spirit
3) Ethics and Spirituality: living right, from a good conscience
4) The Christian Sabbath: the soul's market-day
5) The Christian Pastor: preacher, teacher, physician of the soul
6) The Holy Commonwealth: social and political goals
7) God's Plan for World History: the triumph of the kingdom

Lesson Three: The Bible in Puritan Theology

The Puritan confession of biblical authority (Westminster Confession I)
The Puritan explanation of biblical authority (John Owen)
The Puritan exposition of the authoritative scriptures

Lesson Four: Salvation by Grace

Decretal Calvinism:
 Beza and Perkins - the causal frame
Post-Arminianism:
 Ames and Westminster - the covenantal frame
 Baxterianism - the "political" frame

Lesson Five: Faith and Assurance

What is faith, and how does one get to it? Preparationism
What is assurance, and how does one get to it? The Spirit's witness
How does Puritan teaching on faith and assurance relate to Calvin's?

Lesson Six: The Good Fight

Regeneration and sanctification

Vivification and mortification

The Devil

Lesson Seven: Conscience

The nature of conscience

The religion of conscience

Lesson Eight: Reformed Monasticism (The Puritan Lifestyle)

The inward discipline: prayer and meditation; simplicity; dying well

The outward discipline: marriage, home, family, public spirit, and doing good; the management of wealth

The blessing of the righteous: “comfortable walking”

Lesson Nine: The Christian Minister

The role and the resources

Lesson Ten: Worship, Fellowship, Discipline in the Church

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY
English Puritan Theology
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This is a list of books with which to start if one aims at a comprehensive understanding of this complex theological and spiritual movement. No claim is made to the completeness at any point. Articles are not included, and little notice is taken of the parallel movements in Reformed theology and spirituality in Scotland, Ireland, New England, France, and the Netherlands.

I. ASPECTS OF THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. Contemporary Sources and Extracts

- Baxter, Richard. *Reliquiae Baxterianae*. 1696; Abridged as *The Autobiography of Richard Baxter*. Edited by J. M. Lloyd Thomas. London: Dent, 1974.
- Emerson, E. E. ed. *English Puritanism from John Hooper to John Milton*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1968.
- Fox, George. *Journal*. Many edds., best by J. L. Nickalls, Cambridge (Eng.): C.U.P., 1952.
- Frere, W.H. & C. E. Douglas ed. *Puritan Manifestoes (two Admonitions to Parliament, 1572)*. London: S.P.C.K., 1954 (1907).
- Hindson, E. ed. *Introduction to Puritan Theology: A Reader*. Grand Rapids: Guardian Press (Baker), 1976.
- Porter, H. C. ed. *Puritanism in Tudor England*. Columbia: University of South Carolina, 1970.
- Trinterud, L. J. ed. *Elizabethan Puritanism*. New York: O.U.P., 1971.

B. Modern Books

- Alexander, H. G. *Religion in England, 1558-1662*. London: Univ. of London Press, 1968.
- Bosher, R. S. *The Making of the Restoration Settlement = The Influence of the Laudians, 1649-1662*. London: Dacre Press, 1951.
- Clebsch, W. A. *England's Earliest Protestants*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1964.
- Collinson, P. *The Elizabethan Puritan Movement*. London: Cape, 1967.
- Cragg, G. R. *Puritanism in the Period of the Great Persecution*. Cambridge (Eng.): Cambridge Univ. Press, 1957.
- Dickens, A. G. *The English Reformation*. London: Fontana, 1967.
- Haller, W. *The Rise of Puritanism*. New York: Harper, 1938.
- Hill, Christopher. *Society and Puritanism in Pre-Revolutionary England*. London: Secker & Warburg, 1964.
- Hill, Christopher. *Puritanism & Revolution*. New York: Schocken, 1964.
- Knappen, M. M. *Tudor Puritanism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1939.
- Little, D. *Religion, Order and Law*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1970.
- McGinn, D. J. *The Admonition Controversy*. New Brunswick: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1949.

- McGrath, P. *Papists and Puritans Under Elizabeth I*. New York: Walker, 1967.
- Nuttall, G. F. *Visible Saints: The Congregational Way, 1640-1660*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1957.
- _____. *The Welsh Saints: Walter Craddock, Vavasor Powell, Morgan Lloyd*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1957.
- Porter, H. C. *Reformation and Reaction in Tudor Cambridge*. Cambridge (Eng.): C.U.P., 1958.
- Seaver, P. S. *The Puritan Lectureships*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1970.
- Liu, Tai. *Discord in Zion: The Puritan Divines and the Puritan Revolution, 1640-1660*. The Hague: Nijhoff, 1973.
- Toon, P. *Puritans and Calvinism*. Swengel, PA: Reiner, 1973.
- Walzer, M. *Revolution of the Saints*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1966.
- White, B. R. *The English Separatist Tradition*. London: O.U.P., 1971.
- _____. *Light in the North*. Devon: Paternoster Press, 1964.
- Wilson, J. F. *Pulpit in Parliament*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
- Woodhouse, A. S. P. *Puritanism and Liberty*. London: 1938.

II. ASPECTS OF PURITAN THEOLOGY AND CULTURE

A. Confessional Statements

Westminster Confession and Catechisms (Shorter and Larger), 1646. *Savoy Declaration*, 1658.

B. Modern Books

- Ball, B. W. *A Great Expectation: Eschatological Thought in English Puritans to 1660*. Leiden: Brill, 1975.
- Coolidge, J. R. *The Pauline Renaissance in England*. London: O.U.P., 1970.
- Davies, Horton. *The Worship of the English Puritans*. London: Dacre, 1948.
- Frye, R. M. *God, Man and Satan*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1960.
- George, C. H. and K. *The Protestant: Mind of the English Reformation*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1961.
- Haller, W. *Liberty and Reformation in the Puritan Revolution*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1955.
- Hill, Christopher. *AntiChrist in Seventeenth-Century Thought*. London: O.U.P., 1971.
- Hooykaas, R. *Religion and the Rise of Modern Science*. Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, 1972.
- Jordan, W. K. *The Development of Religious Toleration in England*. 4 vols. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1932-40.
- Kaufman, M. F. *The Pilgrim's Progress and Traditions in Puritan Meditation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966.
- Kendall, R. T. *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649*. Oxford: O.U.P., 1979.
- Kevan, E. F. *The Grace of Law*. London: Carey Kingsgate, 1964.
- Knott, J. R. *The Sword of the Spirit*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1980.
- Lamont, W. *Godly Rule: Politics and Religion, 1603-60*. London: MacMillan, 1967.
- Lewis, P. *The Genius of Puritanism*. Haywards Heath: Carey Pubs., 1975.
- Martin, H. *Puritanism and Richard Baxter*. London: SCM, 1954.
- Miller, Perry. *The New Mind I: The Seventeenth Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1939.

- Morgan, E. S. *The Puritan Family*. New York: Harper, 1966.
- Morgan, I. *Puritan Spirituality*. London: Epworth, 1973.
- Moss, G. L. *The Holy Pretence*. New York: Fertig, 1968.
- Murray, I. H. *The Puritan Hope*. London: Banner of Truth, 1971.
- New, J. F. H. *Anglican and Puritan, 1558-1640*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1965.
- Nuttall, G. F. *The Holy Spirit in Puritan Faith and Experience*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1947.
- _____. *The Puritan Spirit*. London: Epworth Press, 1967.
- Pettit, N. *The Heart Prepared: Grace and Conversion in Puritan Spiritual Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966.
- Scholes, P. *The Puritans and Music*. New York: Russell, 1962.
- Stannard, D. E. *The Puritan Way of Death*. New York: O.U.P, 1977.
- Stoeffler, F. E. *The Rise of Evangelical Pietism*. Leiden: Brill, 1965.
- Tawney, R. H. *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1961. (1922).
- Toon, P. ed. *Puritan Eschatology: Puritans, The Millenium and the Future of Israel*. Cambridge (Eng.): James Clarke, 1970.
- Wakefield, G. S. *Puritan Devotion*. London: Epworth, 1957.
- Watkins, O. *The Puritan Experience*. New York: Schocken, 1972.
- Wood, T. *English Casuistical Divinity During the Seventeenth Century*. London: S.P.C.K., 1952.

III. SOME MAJOR PURITAN THEOLOGIANS AND PRACTICAL WRITERS

(For a life of practical writers who made their name before 1665, cf. Richard Baxter, *A Christian Directory*, Pt. III, "Ecclesiastical Cases of Conscience," p. 174.)

A. The greatest theological and practical writers, all reprinted:

John Owen, Richard Baxter (practical works only), Thomas Goodwin, John Howe.

B. Great practical writers, reprinted wholly or in part:

William Ames, William Bridge, Thomas Brooks, John Bunyan, Jeremiah Burroughs, Stephen Charnock, David Clarkson, John Flavel, Richard Gilpin, William Gurnall, Matthew Henry, Ezekiel Hopkins, Thomas Manton, Walter Marshall, William Perkins, Edward Reynolds, Samuel Rutherford, Thomas Shepard, Richard Sibbes, George Swinnock, Robert Traill, Ralph Venning.

C. Great practical writers, not reprinted:

Robert Bolton, Richard Greenham, Thomas Hooker, John Preston, Thomas Taylor, [NB. (1981) Hookers', *The Poor Doubting Christian Drawn to Christ*, is now available (Worthington, PA: Maranatha); so is Preston's *Breastplate of Faith and Love*, (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1980)]

D. Other writers reprinted:

Thomas Cartwright. In Whitgift's *Works* (Parker Soc. reprint), and in *Cartwrightiana*. Edited by A. Peel and L.H. Carlson. London: Allen and Unwin, 1951.

Robert Browne and Robert Harrison, eds. *Peel and Carlson*. London: Allen and Unwin, 1953.

IV. SOME MODERN STUDIES, BIOGRAPHICAL AND ANALYTICAL, OR PARTICULAR PURITAN WRITERS:

Ames

M. Nethenus, H. Visscher, and K. Reuter. *William Ames*. Translated by D. Horton, Cambridge, MA: Harvard Divinity School Library, 1965.

K. Sprunger. *The Learned Dr. William Ames*. Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1972.

Baxter

F. J. Powicke. *A Life of the Rev'd Richard Baxter; The Rev'd Richard Baxter Under the Cross*. London: Cape, 1924, 1927.

G. F. Nuttall. *Richard Baxter*. London: Nelson, 1965.

J. T. Wilkinson. *Richard Baxter and Margaret Charlton: A Puritan Love Story*, London: Epworth, 1932.

Bunyan

H. Talon. *John Bunyan*. London: Rockliff, 1953.

R. L. Greaves. *John Bunyan*. Abingdon: Sutton Courtenay Press, 1969.

Thomas Cartwright

A. F. Scott Pearson. *Thomas Cartwright and Elizabethan Puritanism*. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1966 (1925).

Edward Dering

P. Collinson. *A Mirror of Elizabethan Puritanism: The Life of 'Godly Master Dering.'* London: Dr. William's Trust, 1964.

Greenham

Chapter in Knappen, *Tudor Puritanism*.

Owen

P. Toon. *God's Statesman*. Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1972.

Perkins

I. Breward. *William Perkins* (introduction and selections), Abingdon: Sutton Courtenay Press, 1970.

Preston

I. Morgan. *Prince Charles' Puritan Chaplain*. London: Allen and Unwin, 1965.

Walter Travers

S. J. Knox. *Walter Travers*. London: S.P.C.K., 1962.