

HT RSVS143 SPIRITUAL LIFE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PURITANS

Responsible for the course: Dr. John Brouwer	Timetable: Wednesday 16:00-17:30	Prescriptions: (prerequisites) All notes in English are provided	
Leader of the course: Dr. John Brouwer	Contact Hours: N: 30	Credit: 4 Credits	
jbrouwer@cantab.net Language of instruction: In English by a native speaker	Type: Seminar	Semester: Autumn 2018	Language: English
			Method of evaluation: Class participation or short reflection paper

Course description:

Are you interested in learning theological ideas and practical practices for the spiritual life? And would you like to develop basic English for the future? The seminar explores the spiritual life of the Puritans – how they viewed the Christian life and encouraged godly living in their churches. We will do this mostly in English, to improve your English.

Course content:

The Puritans were deeply spiritual Protestants. Also, they were masters at helping their congregations develop and live a godly spiritual life. From their writings we will learn how they did this. This in turn will help us in our own spiritual life and also with members of our churches today. We will look at questions like: What is the good news we want to communicate? And what are the many ways Puritans used to help people respond to the invitation of God? What roles do preaching and community fill in the godly life? How did the Puritans work to move the hearts of their church members?

To explore the spiritual life of the Puritans, we will read and discuss short sections written by important Puritans, such as John Bunyan, Richard Baxter, Richard Alleine and William Ames, and then discuss them in class. We will also read various short modern essays, which discuss specific topics.

Requirements:

Readings: in English and some also in Hungarian, copies available on the web.

Language: beginning to intermediate level English (notes are provided).

Grades: class participation or short reflection paper.

Literature:

- Alleine, Richard, *Instructions about Heartwork* (reprint, 2003).
- Ames, William, *Conscience with the Powers and Cases* (1639).
- Baxter, Richard, *Call to the Unconverted to Turn and Live* (reprint, 1953), and *The Reformed Pastor* (reprint, 1999).
- Bunyan, John, *Pilgrim's Progress* (reprint), and *Grace Abounding* (reprint, 1998).
- Brouwer, John, 'Richard Baxter's Understanding of the Relationship between Christianity and Society', *CHF Bulletin* (Winter 2003-2004).
- Cieger, J.A., 'Preaching—Puritan and Reformed', *Puritan Papers* vol. 2 (2001).
- Gibson, Alan, 'Philip Doddridge's *The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul*, *Puritan Papers* vol. 2 (2001).
- Gwyn-Thomas, J., 'The Puritan Doctrine of Christian Joy', *Puritan Papers* vol. 2 (2001).
- Hemming, G.A., 'The Puritan's Dealing with Troubled Souls', *Puritan Papers* vol. 1 (2000).
- Packer, J.I., *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life* (1990), in English and Hungarian.
- Ryken, Leland, *Worldly Saints: The Puritans as They Really Were* (1986).
- Young, W., 'The Puritan Principle of Worship', *Puritan Papers* vol. 1 (2000).