

CLARKE & CARSON NEW FACULTY FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR

What are the Biblical grounds for the professorial work of teaching and scholarship at Geneva College?

The ministry of education at Geneva College is built on a committed Christian professoriate that conducts our course of studies under the reign of our King, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.

Our curriculum, from the core in the Christian Liberal Arts to comprehensive programs in the sciences and professions, continues to depend upon our development as faculty toward a fuller working understanding that from before Creation, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge—in every field of study and discipline—are found in Christ. That is, in every aspect of wisdom and knowledge available to humanity, the Truth of Christ is already integral.

Therefore, at Geneva, the “integration of faith and life” from a “biblical worldview” is *not* a consideration of wisdom and knowledge from a Christian perspective, bias, or standpoint. Rather, integration of faith and life is the study from God’s Truth, revealed in Christ and His Word, to discover and generate temporal understanding that corresponds to God’s eternal Truth, knowledge, and wisdom—intellectual life that begins and ends with the view of the world intrinsic to God’s truth as revealed in Scripture.

DR. CALVIN L. TROUP & DR. MELINDA STEPHENS

cltroup@geneva.edu

724-847-6897

mstephen@geneva.edu

724-847-5235

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Why take Clarke & Carson? As a new professor at Geneva College, you are entering a new academic community with a distinct heritage, a distinct set of present commitments, and a distinct hope for our future as a ministry of education. Clarke & Carson invites you into the foundational grounds for faithful and fruitful educational work and provides basic coordinates for beginning to navigate the College and its culture.

1. **BIBLICAL PRESUPPOSITIONS:** Identify the axiomatic nature of biblical truth as the starting point for thought in all human thought, teaching, and research—the core of all Christian education.
2. **CONFESSIONAL GROUND:** Establish a working educational knowledge of the Historic Christian Faith as summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, the founding and controlling denomination of Geneva College.

3. INTEGRAL CHRISTIAN PEDAGOGY: Explore starting points for instructional practices that build pedagogical models that advance academic rigor *because* material is engaged through distinctively Christian thought.
4. INTEGRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP: Engage in a program of research/scholarship *from* biblical and confessional commitments (not Christian or religious issues or topics).
5. FACULTY TRAJECTORY: Establish a good working path for growth toward becoming a long-term contributing member of the Geneva faculty.

Texts

AUTHOR	TEXT	PUBLISHER	ISBN
Bain, Ken	<i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i>	Harvard University Press	0674013255
Bavink, Herman	<i>Christian Worldview</i>	Crossway	1433563193
Calvin, John	<i>Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life</i>	Baker Books	0801065286
Carson, David	<i>Pro Christo et Patria</i>	The Donning Company Publishers	1578640067
Garber, Steven	<i>Visions of Vocation</i>	Intervarsity Press	0830836666
Holmes, Arthur	<i>The Idea of a Christian College</i>	Wm B Eerdmans Publishing Co.	0802802583
Perkins, John	<i>One Blood</i>	Moody Publishers	0802423973
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America	<i>The Westminster Confession of Faith and Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church</i>		
Williams, Thaddeus	<i>Confronting Injustice without Compromising Truth</i>	Zondervan Academic	0310119480

COURSE POLICIES

Class Sessions: The course will be conducted as a seminar. We will meet monthly through the regular academic calendar. All participants are expected to bring completed reading response material.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

CLARKE & CARSON IS PIVOTAL. *Make this faculty development seminar a priority.* Establish brutally realistic weekly goals to complete the reading and responses within established, non-negotiable time slots in your schedule. The plan is demanding, but necessary if you are to achieve real development.

WORK WITH YOUR CHAIR/MENTOR. Arrange regular meetings with your Department Chair or mentor (30 minutes or so) to discuss emerging issues of campus culture and assist in your learning process working with Geneva students, colleagues, and culture.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reader Response Reports: Reading is central to long-term learning in the course. We lead with content; therefore, the reading is crucial. The class is built on a word & deed, substance & style, content & form framework *à la* Literacy.

- a. Please consult, “How to Mark a Book,” by Mortimer Adler. Read with a pencil or pen in hand and either write in your books or keep notes as you write.
- b. We will interact with the books with the assumption that all class members are familiar with the texts on a “first-read” basis—not mastered, but engaged. We will be working *from* these texts, not critiquing them. That is, we’re engaging the authors as additional teachers for our course (see *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler).

Please prepare the following for each book to be submitted on the day the book is assigned in class.

FOR EACH BOOK ASSIGNED

1. Abstract (100 words): Summarize the author’s *project* in the book.
2. Pivot Points: Identify one or two pivot points on which the argument of the book turns. (Not a literary transition, but a crucial point in the case.) Note the location and briefly state what makes it pivotal.
3. Provocations: What are three thought-provoking statements, paragraphs, passages in the book. Draft the provocation as an open question for class consideration.

You’ll need hard copy of your responses for class purposes, to share with colleagues.

Unless otherwise identified, all meetings are Mondays at 11:15 – 12:15 PM – Locations identified.

DATE (Location)	TOPIC (Leader)	TEXT
Thursday, August 17 12 PM – 5 PM	Orientation (Stephens)	<i>A Guide for New Employees</i> <i>Pro Christo et Patria</i> History of Beaver Falls (YouTube)
September 4 (Pres. Office)	Spiritual Heritage (Stephens/Troup)	Mission, Vision and Values <i>Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life</i>
September 25 (SCCR)	Pedagogy (Stephens)	<i>What the Best College Teachers do?</i>
October 9 (Pres. Office)	Confessional Ground (Stephens/Troup)	<i>The Westminster Confession of Faith and Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church</i>
October 30 (SCCR)	Student Success (with Swank/Pyle)	
November 6 (Pres. Office)	Confessional Ground (Stephens/Troup)	<i>RPCNA Papers on Human Sexuality and Gender Identity</i>
November 13 (SCCR)	Semester Closing Comments (Stephens)	Student Evaluations/Final Grades/Continuation Letters etc.
January	Biblical Worldview	<i>Christian Worldview</i>
January	Advising (with Bill Starke)	
February	The Christian College Tradition (Stephens/Troup)	<i>The Idea of a Christian College</i>
February	Calling & Vocation (with Autrey/Swank)	
March	Core Values: (Stephens/Troup)	<i>One Blood</i> <i>Confronting Injustice Without Compromising Truth</i>
March	Discipleship (with Swank/Wilhelm)	
April	Core Values: (Stephens/Troup)	<i>Visions of Vocation</i>
April	Looking Ahead (Stephens)	

