CH/TH669: Soteriology in Christian History
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte
Dr. Don Fairbairn – Spring 2015

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Schedule: The assignments for this course will extend throughout the spring semester, from Jan 20 through May 9. The class meetings will be on Tuesdays, Jan. 20 – Apr. 7, 6:30 – 9:30 PM (no meeting on Jan. 27 or Mar. 10).

Office Hours: I will be in the office and available for drop-in meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. I will be in the office all day on Wednesdays, but most Wednesdays will be filled with meetings. I can also be available on Friday afternoons prior to weekend classes by appointment.

Catalog Course Description: An examination of the various ways the Christian Church of the last 20 centuries has expressed the salvation believers have in Christ. Students are encouraged to learn from past expressions of soteriology in order to formulate a theology of salvation that is comprehensive, consistent, and powerful for preaching and ministry today.

Relation to Curriculum: This is an elective course that can satisfy the requirement for a CT elective in the M.Div. and M.A.C.T. programs. It has no formal prerequisites, but I recommend that students complete TH501 and TH502 prior to taking this course.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to help students appreciate the ways the Christian Church has expressed our salvation, and to give students the opportunity to evaluate these expressions biblically and to utilize them appropriately in ministry. In keeping with Gordon-Conwell’s mission statement, I intend that upon completing this course, you will:

1. Understand the various frameworks within which Christians in different times and places have expressed salvation (article 2 of the mission statement).
2. Grasp the significance of context in any expression of salvation (articles 2, 6).
3. Appreciate the breadth and the depth of what Christian salvation includes, and in doing so foster a deeper relationship with Christ (article 4).
4. Gain experience in evaluating various expressions of salvation in light of Scripture (article 1)
5. Critique, refine, and augment your own expression of salvation in light of other expressions considered in the course, as part of a strategy to minister the gospel more effectively in contemporary society (articles 3, 5, 6).
**Course Requirements:** Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments. The successful completion of these assignments will require each student to spend at least 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and outside of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments. More specific descriptions of the assignments are given later in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading the documents for class discussions</td>
<td>65 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class lecture/discussion</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critique of your own preliminary understanding of salvation</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Cyril of Jerusalem, Augustine, John of Damascus, Anselm, and Aquinas</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Schleiermacher, and Machen</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refined statement of your understanding of salvation</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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**Required Textbooks and Materials:** The reading for this course comes from primary sources throughout the history of Christian theology. Some of these readings are available in several formats, both in print and on-line. You may want to wait until the first class meeting before you make decisions about what you want to buy, what you want to read in the library, and what you want to read on-line. But note that you MUST have Yarnold’s edition of Cyril of Jerusalem (or a photocopy of it) in hand by that first class meeting.

Books that all students must buy or photocopy in the library, and the page numbers we will read. These should be available in the bookstore.


  Also available for purchase at [http://www.amazon.com/Martin-Luther-Selections-His-Writings/dp/0385098766/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Martin-Luther-Selections-His-Writings/dp/0385098766/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&sr=8-1)

  Also available for purchase at [http://www.amazon.com/Tour-Summa-Paul-J-Glenn/dp/0895550814/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1328562954&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Tour-Summa-Paul-J-Glenn/dp/0895550814/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1328562954&sr=8-1)

  Also available for purchase at [http://www.amazon.com/Cyril-Jerusalem-Early-Church-Fathers/dp/0415199042/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1415723949&sr=8-1&keywords=yarnold%2C+cyril+of+jerusalem](http://www.amazon.com/Cyril-Jerusalem-Early-Church-Fathers/dp/0415199042/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1415723949&sr=8-1&keywords=yarnold%2C+cyril+of+jerusalem)
Other works that all students must read, but not necessarily buy. These are not in the bookstore, but they should be on reserve in the library. Here are some options on other ways to find them:

Augustine, *The Enchiridion on Faith, Hope, and Love* (entire)
You can get it on-line: 
http://www.leaderu.com/cyber/books/augenchiridion/enchiridiontoc.html

John of Damascus, *The Orthodox Faith* (entire)
You can get it on-line: http://www.orthodox.net/fathers/exactidx.html OR http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf209.iii.iv.i.i.html

Augsburg Confession (entire)
You can get it on-line: http://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/AugsburgConfession.htm

Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Bk 1, ch 13; Bk 2, ch 1-2, 12-14; Bk 3, ch 1-2
You can get it on-line: http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes/

Second Helvetic Confession (entire)
You can get it on-line: http://www.creeds.net/helvetic/index.htm

Methodist Articles of Religion (entire)
You can get it on-line: http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/creeds3.v.vi.html

John Wesley, *Sermons 141, 1, 110, 2, 40, 4, 5, 16, 18, 45, 13, 43, 59, 85, 89*

I suggest you read this in the library: pp. 52-76, 385-413, 431-8, 738-51

Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism*
You can buy it or get it on-line: http://reformedaudio.org/audio/machen/Machen%20Christianity%20&%20Liberalism.pdf.
Course Assignments:

1. **Reading (20 points):** You must complete ~2000 pages of reading according to the schedule at the end of this syllabus. This reading is taken from major theologians and confessional documents from all periods in Christian history. Discussion of this reading will be the major learning activity in class, and thus it is crucial that you complete each reading assignment prior to the class meeting when it will be discussed.

   By Tuesday, April 7, you must upload a reading report to the Sakai site, indicating how much of this required reading you have completed.

2. **Critique of your own expression of salvation (20 points):** In class on Jan. 20, you will write a preliminary statement of your own understanding of Christian salvation. After the initial lecture “Soteriology in Christian History: The Big Picture,” you must reflect on your preliminary statement in light of the categories and issues presented in that lecture. You must write a 4-6 page paper critiquing your statement, suggesting ways in which your own expression of salvation needs further development, etc. This critique will forge an initial direction for the refinement of your own soteriology under the tutelage of the theologians you will read in this course.

   You must upload this paper to the Sakai site by Tuesday, January 27. (There will be no class meeting that day and thus no new reading due, so you will have time to do this reflection and write this paper.)

3. **Evaluative papers (20 points each):** You must write two evaluative papers (6-8 pages each) in which you assess the soteriological thought of the theologians you are reading and discussing in the course.

   The first evaluative paper will cover Cyril of Jerusalem, Augustine, John of Damascus, Anselm, and Aquinas, and you must upload it to the Sakai site by Tuesday, March 10. (We will not meet on that Tuesday, so you will not have new reading for class discussion due at the same time.)

   The second evaluative paper will cover Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Schleiermacher, and Machen, and you must upload it to the Sakai site by Tuesday, April 14 (the first Tuesday after the end of the class meetings).

   The two evaluative papers should deal with all five of the theologians under their purview and should address issues such as the following:
   - Evaluation of the theologians in light of categories and frameworks given in lecture on Jan. 20
   - Explanation of major similarities between these theologians and your own expression of salvation
   - Explanation of major differences between these theologians and your own expression of salvation
   - Explanation of most biblical/helpful aspects of the soteriologies of these theologians
   - Explanation of the most unbiblical/dangerous aspects of the soteriologies of these theologians
4. **Refined statement of your own understanding of salvation (20 points):** After the completion of all classes and all other written assignments, you must re-consider what you have learned about Christian salvation through the course and write a final paper of 7-10 pages. You must upload this paper to the Sakai site by Tuesday, May 5. This paper should include the following:

- Summary of your way of expressing salvation prior to the course and the initial ways you thought this expression needed to be modified (from your first paper)
- Explanation of ways the soteriology of the theologians studied has prompted you to modify your expression of salvation
- Explanation of ways the soteriology of the theologians studied has prompted you to augment your expression of salvation
- Statement of your comprehensive expression of salvation
- Suggestions for ways specific elements of this expression can be used fruitfully in preaching, teaching, and other forms of ministry

**Grading Scale:** The point values listed above mean that the total number of points available for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60. A grade of A+ will be given very rarely, when the student’s work is truly exceptional. (At Gordon-Conwell, a grade of A+ and a grade of A are both counted the same way in calculating the student’s GPA. Thus, a GPA above 4.0 is not possible.)

**Late work:** All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Work turned in later than Saturday, May 9 (the end of the spring semester) will normally require that an extension be approved by the Registrar’s Office. If you anticipate a problem, contact me as soon as possible.

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance and participation are a central part of this course. Students who must miss a class period should notify me in advance to justify their absence. If a student has more than one unexcused absence from class, he/she will receive a penalty of three points per additional unexcused absence on his/her final grade.

**Document Formatting and Citation Style Requirements:** All written assignments should be submitted as MS-Word or PDF files. (If you use a word processor other than MS-Word, convert the file to a PDF before submitting it.) Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting on the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

**Syllabus Addendum:** For other Seminary policies, refer to the attached Syllabus Addendum.
Class Schedule and Assignment Due Dates:

All dates below are TUESDAYS unless otherwise noted.

Jan 20  Soteriology in Christian History: The Big Picture

Jan. 27  NO CLASS MEETING. Critique of your preliminary expression of salvation is due.

Feb. 3  Cyril of Jerusalem – 4th Century
   Cyril, Selections from the *Catecheses* [Yarnold, ed., *Cyril of Jerusalem*, pp. 79-187]

Feb. 10  Augustine of Hippo – 4th/5th Centuries
   *The Enchiridion on Faith, Hope, and Love*, entire

Feb. 17  John of Damascus – 8th Century
   *The Orthodox Faith*, entire

Feb. 24  Anselm of Canterbury – 11th Century

Mar. 3  Thomas Aquinas – 13th Century
   *Summa Theologiae*, Summaries of Selections
   [Glenn, ed., *A Tour of the Summa*, pp. 3-184, 311-69]

Mar. 10  NO CLASS MEETING. First evaluative paper is due.

Mar. 17  Martin Luther and German Lutheranism – 16th Century
   *Augsburg Confession*, entire

Mar. 24  John Calvin and Swiss Calvinism – 16th Century
   *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Bk. 1, Ch. 13; Bk. 2, Chs. 1-2, 12-14; Bk. 3, Chs. 1-2
   *Second Helvetic Confession*, entire
Mar. 31  John Wesley and English Methodism – 18th Century
    Sermons 141, 1, 110, 2, 40, 4, 5, 16, 18, 45, 13, 43, 59, 85, 89
    Methodist Articles of Religion, entire

Apr. 7  Friedrich Schleiermacher and Gresham Machen – 19th and 20th Centuries
    Schleiermacher, The Christian Faith, sections 11-14, 94-7, 101, 170 [pp. 52-76, 385-413, 431-8, 738-51]
    Machen, Christianity and Liberalism, entire

Apr. 7  Reading report is due.

Apr. 14  Second evaluative paper is due.

May 5   Final paper is due.

May 9   (Saturday) All late work is due.

Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.
Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required in this case. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the stated date. Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.