TH 502 — THEOLOGY SURVEY 2

COURSE SYLLABUS

SPRING 2012

Instructor

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Office Hours: T 2:00–5:30; TH 5:00–6:30; Discussion Session TH 9:45–10:45

Course Description: A study of the person and work of Christ, predestination, conversion, justification, sanctification, and the work of the Holy Spirit; perseverance; the nature and mission of the church; sacraments; eschatology. For M.A. students only. Prerequisite: TH 501.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will have:

- Developed your knowledge of the essential content of the doctrinal topics covered in this second half of the theology survey course; continuing to focus on the testimony of Holy Scripture and their systematic inter-relationships; and with reference to contemporary issues, their expression in our Christian heritage, and their application to all of Christian life and worship.

- Become more familiar with the orthodox view of the person of Jesus Christ, both in his eternal and incarnational states; and with the work of Jesus Christ, emphasizing his earthly ministry, and especially his work of atonement.

- Sharpened your understanding of the key issues and viewpoints in the doctrine of salvation, with a focus on the work of the Holy Spirit, and the doctrines of justification and sanctification.

- Expanded your view of God’s plan for his people in the nature and present function of the Church and sacraments, and in the personal and general ‘last things’ things yet to come.

- Gained a deeper appreciation of your own theological heritage and your place in the community of faith that transcends the boundaries of time and location; and a clearer vision and intellectual context for a lifetime of theological study that is expressed in continuing personal growth, and well-informed and articulate ministry.

Required Texts


Choice of Two (2) Texts from the Following:


Course Requirements

**Reading Response Essay**

2,000-word max (6–7 pages). This as an essay responding to the whole of the course required reading. Please note that 2–3 pages of the essay must discuss the student’s choice of two texts from the list above. The Reading Response Essay will be evaluated on: 1) thoroughness, conciseness, and clarity of thought; 2) demonstrated significant, thoughtful, critical engagement with the reading; and 3) the quality of writing and presentation. The Reading Response Essay is **due May 7 by 4:00pm**.

NOTE: The Reading Response Essay must be a response to the course required reading, rather than merely a summary or explication of the reading. Students should seek to analyze the reading as a whole, reflecting especially on key themes, arguments, issues, criticisms, and/or points that are of particular personal interest. The following examples of general critical questions may help guide your engagement with the text and the formulation of your response:

- What stands out to me? (Reflecting on interest)
- What surprises me? (Reflecting on distance)
- What puzzles me? (Reflecting on learning opportunities)
- What connections do I make? (Reflecting on integration)
- What implications are there? (Reflecting on application)

**Essay Exam (Take-Home)**

3,000-word max (no more than 10 pages). This take-home essay exam will consist of integrative essay questions requiring students to draw on both the lectures and the course reading. You may use class notes and texts as you answer the questions (though each student’s exam must clearly reflect their own thoughts).

You may simply number your answers to correspond to the questions on the exam handout (available on CAMS). Answers to the exam questions will be evaluated on: 1) thoroughness, conciseness, and clarity of thought; 2) demonstrated significant, thoughtful understanding of the key terms, concepts, and issues addressed in this class, and the biblical passages relevant to them; and 3) the quality of writing, and presentation. The Essay Exam is **due May 7 by 4:00pm**.
Participation

You are expected to be faithful to your calling as a student through preparation, attendance, and involvement in the course. Significant learning will take place in the context of the classroom community. Assigned reading outside of class is meant to supplement the lectures and discussions and will provide a necessary aid for learning the material. You will have an opportunity to account for your attendance and completed reading on the Completed Reading Form available on CAMS.

The Completed Reading Form is due May 7 by 4:00pm.

Important Information Concerning Written Assignments

- Written assignments should be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman-type font, double spaced, 1 inch margins, and with a cover page that clearly states your campus mailbox number. Students should make consistent use of a style manual of their choice.

- The preferred means of submitting assignments is in hard copy through campus mail (Box #223), or slipped under/deposited in the box in front of my office door (GL108). Please submit assignments as an email attachment only when absolutely necessary, and do not assume the instructor has received an emailed assignment until a verification is sent in response.

Final written work submitted on May 7 should include an Essay Exam, Reading Response Essay, and Completed Reading Form.

- It is the GCTS Registrar’s policy that no written work may be accepted by the professor after 4:00 pm on May 7 without an extension granted by the Registrar’s office.

Grading

The relative weight of the course requirements will be distributed as follows:

- Essay Exam 50%
- Reading Response Essay 35%
- Completed Reading Form 15%

Plagiarism

Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found on the Indiana University website listed below. This document has the official recognition of the Gordon-Conwell faculty and provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare your papers/exams. Website address: http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html.

Personal Recorders and Computers

Recording of lectures is normally not permitted. Exceptions are made on an individual basis and is generally granted to students for whom English is a second language. It is always agreed that tape recordings are for personal use only, will not be distributed without prior permission from the instructor, and will be erased at the end of the course.

Students are permitted to use laptop computers during class for note-taking and course related purposes only. Students who cause a distraction to the instructor and to fellow students by abusing this privilege will be asked to withdraw from the course.
Course Topics and Schedule

ONE — Course Introduction; Introduction to Christology
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: ch. 24

TWO — Biblical Witness to the Identity of Jesus Christ
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: ch. 25
Kärkkäinen, *Christology*: Part 1

THREE — The Chalcedonian Tradition
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: ch. 26
Kärkkäinen, *Christology*: Part 2; Boyd and Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 6

FOUR — The Life of Jesus Christ: Humiliation and Exaltation
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: ch. 27
Kärkkäinen, *Christology*: Part 3
(READING WEEK: St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*: complete)

FIVE — The Work of Jesus Christ: Prophet, Priest, and King
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: ch. 28
Kärkkäinen, *Christology*: Part 4; Boyd and Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 7

SIX — The Holy Spirit
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: chs. 29–30
Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: chs. 1–4, 10; Boyd and Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 14

SEVEN — Salvation: Anthropological Grace
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: chs. 31–33
Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: chs. 5–6; Boyd and Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 8
John Wesley and George Whitefield, “Controversy Concerning the Doctrines of Election and Predestination” (Handout)

EIGHT — Salvation: Christological Grace
Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: chs. 7–8; Boyd and Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: chs. 9–10
(READING WEEK: John Webster, *Holiness*: complete)

NINE — The Church: Nature and Task

TEN — The Church: Word and Sacrament
Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: ch. 11; Boyd and Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 11

ELEVEN — Last Things
Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*: chs. 39–42
Boyd and Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: chs. 16–17

TWELVE — Course Review

IMPORTANT DATES:

2/23; 3/29 — Reading Weeks (see reading assignments above)
5/7 — Last day to submit written work (4/27 for May graduates)

Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the contents of this course syllabus as necessary.