I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

TH 607 is the third course in the Systematic Theology sequence of core courses taught in the Gordon-Conwell curriculum. Here, attention shall be given to the doctrines of salvation, the Holy Spirit, the church, sacraments and eschatology. The purpose of the course is to explore the biblical foundations of these doctrines; to understand them in the context of their historical development; and to understand their implications for the life of the Christian believer as well as for the contemporary problems of church and society.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete the assigned reading from the required texts listed below. In addition the student shall prepare a personal confession of faith which shall be roughly 5-10 pages in length (double spaced, 3000 word limit). The final requirement shall consist of sustaining a final exam (take home). The final exam shall be passed out on the last day of class (Nov 29). Due dates for all written assignments shall be Dec 21. All requests for extensions must be submitted directly to the Registrar’s Office.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Christopher J.H. Wright, Salvation Belongs to Our God: Celebrating the Bible's Central Story (IVP 2006)
2. Either:
3. Either:
4. Either:
   a. Anthony Hoekema, The Bible and the Future (Eerdmans)
5. A SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY OF YOUR CHOICE

V. EVALUATION
The personal confession of faith shall constitute 50 percent of the final grade and the final exam shall constitute the other 50 percent of the final grade. The required reading shall nudge a person over the edge (one way or the other) if their grade is borderline. Completion of the required reading "nudges" one's grade upward if it is borderline. Failure to complete the required reading "nudges" one's grade downward if it is borderline. The required reading is either "completed" or "not completed". No credit is given in the final grade evaluation for "almost completed".

VI. WARNING ON 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. In order to save paper, we’ve provided you with the website address: http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html. Please consider this carefully.

VII. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.

VIII. INTERNET USAGE
Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.
TH 607 - Outline of Course Topics
Dr. Richard Lints

WEEK ONE - INTRODUCTION AND CONVERSION
   a. Introduction to the Course
   b. Conversion
   c. Regeneration and Repentance

WEEK TWO - SANCTIFICATION AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
   a. Justification and Sanctification
   b. Adoption
   c. The Person of the Holy Spirit

WEEK THREE - THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
   a. Work of the Holy Spirit in Scripture
   b. Baptism in the Spirit
   c. Fruits of the Spirit
   d. Christian Character

WEEK FOUR - THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
   d. Signs and Wonders
   d. Gifts and the Miraculous

WEEK FIVE - FRUIT OF SPIRIT / THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH
   a. The fruit of the Spirit
   b. The Church in Scripture
   c. Israel and the Church

WEEK SIX - THE MINISTRY / UNITY OF THE CHURCH
   a. The Images of the Church
   b. The government of the Church
   c. Church and Culture

WEEK SEVEN - THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH
   a. The nature of sacraments
   c. Baptism
   d. The Lord's Supper

WEEK EIGHT - THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH/ESCHATOLOGY
   a. The Nature of Worship
   b. Eschatology

WEEK NINE - ESCHATOLOGY
   a. Realized Eschatology
   b. Millenial views
   c. The nature of the Kingdom
   d. Summary and Review
I. EXPLANATION

The confession shall be **5-10 pages in length (Double Spaced, 3000 word limit)**. It shall cover the broad range of topics which have been discussed in Systematic Theology I, II, and III (see below). The emphasis in the confession should be on clarity and brevity. It is vital that you attempt to spell out your position as clearly as possible. This is not to be a defense of your beliefs. It is to be statement of you beliefs. You may cite the Biblical text where appropriate but again recall that you are not being asked for a defense (Biblical or otherwise) in this statement.

II. Range of Topics to be Covered:

A. Theological Introduction - background and tradition through which you understand your faith

B. Doctrine of Scripture
   a. Revelation
   b. Inspiration
   c. Canon
   d. Inerrancy

C. Doctrine of God
   a. Attributes
   b. Trinity

D. Creation
   a. Purpose of Creation
   b. Theology of Creation

E. Anthropology
   a. Creation of Man/Woman
   b. The Fall
   c. Original Sin

F. The Person and Work of Christ
   a. Person of Christ/Two Natures
   b. The Mission of Christ
   c. The Atonement

G. Salvation
   a. regeneration
   b. justification/sanctification
   c. perseverance

H. The Person/Work-Holy Spirit
   a. The Personhood of Spirit
   b. The Fruits/Gifts of Spirit

I. The Church
   a. The Nature of the Church
   b. Church Government

J. The Sacraments
   a. Baptism
   b. The Lord's Supper

K. Eschatology

III. Special Note: This confession should be seen as an exercise to help clarify your own confessional stance vis-a-vis your denomination, your mission agency etc. Please use whatever specific format would be most helpful in your relations with that church body you may be dealing with in the present or at some time in the future. There may be a topic (or topics) which need to be covered in greater depth than others or a topic which requires attention in your specific context but which is not specifically mentioned in the above list. Please include these. Arrange your Confession of Faith so that it will best suit your needs in the context of the church body in which you are a part or in which you will most likely become a part.
Instructions - This is a take home exam. You will have three hours from the time you open up the exam until you complete it. Answer three (3) out the following six (6) essay questions. Please attempt to be clear and concise. Bibles are permitted in the exam. Therefore, you should cite the Biblical material where appropriate and also the material from the required reading. You will have three hours to complete the exam which means that you should spend approximately 1 hour on each question. If English is not your first language, you may take one additional hour to complete the exam. The exam questions are then to be typed as is, and turned in. Please make sure that the typed-versions are double-spaced using at least a 12 pt. font. Each of the essays will count as 1/3 of the exam mark. Please remember to put your box number on the front page of your exam. You may email your exam to me (RLints@gcts.edu). If you email it to me, please request confirmation that I’ve received it cleanly.

Grading Scale: 93-100=A, 90-92=A-; 88-89=B+; 83-87=B; 80-82=B-; 78-79=C+; 73-77=C; 70-72=C-; 68-69=D+; 63-67=D; 62-60=D-; 59 and below = F.

1. REGENERATION AND CONVERSION - Explain the relationship between regeneration and conversion. Where do faith and repentance fit into this scheme? What is the work of the Holy Spirit in this process?

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT - Who is the Holy Spirit? Relate the work of the Holy Spirit to the work of Christ. Why is it that the Spirit cannot come until Christ leaves (John 14-16)? What is different about the Spirit in the Old Testament and in the New Testament?

3. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT - Examine two of the lists of the gifts in the New Testament. How are the gifts to function within the context of the church? Is there anything in these two passages (or elsewhere) to suggest that the miraculous gifts have ceased? Why or why not? How might the gifts of the Spirit (either miraculous or non-miraculous) be used in such a manner as not to be divisive in the church today?

4. THE CHURCH - What does the apostle's creed mean when it says that the church is to be one, holy, apostolic, and catholic? In what ways ought the evangelical seek to make the contemporary church manifest these characteristics?

5. BAPTISM - What are the essential differences between paedo-baptism and believer-baptism? Examine this question in relationship to the Biblical notion of the covenant. What is the relationship between the New Covenant and the Old Covenant?

6. ESCHATOLOGY - How do you understand the nature of the kingdom introduced in the New Testament? Why is it a central concept in the ministry of Jesus? How is the kingdom related to the 'parousia'? What difference does it make to us today to grasp the significance of the kingdom in the New Testament?

7. Have you completed the required reading?
Bibliography – Systematic Theologies
Richard Lints

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Key -
BE – Broadly evangelical
CH - Charismatic
ER - Evangelical Reformed
EW - Evangelical Wesleyan
EA – Evangelical Anglican
LP - Liberal Protestant
LA - Liberal Anglican
D - Dispensational
F - Feminist
EB - Evangelical Baptist
RC - Roman Catholic
EE - Ecumenical Evangelical
L - Lutheran
W - Wesleyan
LR - Liberal Reformed