TH 610 – Justification: Contexts and Controversies
Spring Term 2010 - Monday Afternoons 1:15PM – 4:15PM
Office Hours – Tuesdays 9-12, Wednesdays 9-12.
Dr. Richard Lints (Email – rlints@gcts.edu)

I. Course Description
This course is designed to examine the doctrine of justification in its Biblical contexts and in the context of the history of theology. Particular attention will be paid to the shape of soteriology spelled out across the Canon of Scripture, and the peculiar emphases of the Pauline material in the New Testament. It is important to relate the theme of justification to the other Biblical images of salvation such as adoption, redemption, and atonement as well to the significant Canon ordering terms such as covenant and kingdom.

Much recent controversial has swelled over the evangelical articulation of the doctrine from a variety of quarters. Much of the debate rehearses long standing church historical discussions about the nature of salvation and these will be considered in the course, as well as the recent revisions of the doctrine in the contemporary climate.

The doctrine of justification is an absolutely crucial dimension of soteriology in the Protestant tradition. It has been the central vehicle for articulating the Gospel as an act of Divine grace without remainder. It has also been a church dividing doctrine and one which has received renewed attention in recent ecumenical projects. The course will consider the doctrinal questions in light of recent Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox discussions.

II. Course Requirements
1. Required Reading All 11 items listed under “Required Reading” are to be completed prior to the end of the semester.

2. Book reviews on 6 of the required books/articles on the day they are to be discussed. The reviews are to be 1-2 pages and are to outline a central contribution of the book or article.

3. A presentation in-class on one of the assigned topics (see outline below). The core of the presentation should consist in outlining the central contribution of the passage or figure(s) for the theological discussion of justification. The presentations shall last 5-10 minutes per student and each student shall be liable to answer questions from the class relevant to his or her topic. A written outline shall accompany the presentation. If you do not participate in one of the presentations, you are required to turn in a 5-7 expositional essay on a major New Testament text related to the doctrine of justification.

4. A final paper (10 to 15 pages in length) related to a central topic in the class. This should include research in the secondary literature on the topic and/or figure. The paper is due on the last day written work can be turned in.

5. Extra Credit: One point each up to a total of 4 points may be gained by turning in an extra book review(s). These book reviews are to be 1-2 pages on any of the texts listed below in the “Extra Credit” section.
III. Required Reading:
Christopher J. Wright., Salvation Belongs to our God: Celebrating the Bible's Central Story. IVP Academic, 2007.


Collection of Articles on CAMS:
   Richard Lints, “Mapping Modern Soteriology”
   Robert Gundry, “The NonImputation of Christ’s Righteousness”
   D.A. Carson, “The Vindication of Imputation”
   Simon Gathercole, “Does Faith Mean Faithfulness?”
   Richard Bauckham, “Interpreting James in Context”
   Kevin Vanhoozer, “Wrighting the Wrongs of the Reformation”

Lutheran/Roman Catholic Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification - (On CAMS)
Evangelicals and Catholics Together, I and II (On CAMS)

IV. Extra Credit: One point up to a total of 4 points may be gained by turning in an extra book review (one page) on any of the following texts, to be read in their entirety. A review of any particular essay from any of the following collection of essays will count fully as one review.
   Clark, R. Scott, ed., Covenant and Justification P&R, 2007
   Kang, Paul Chulhong, Justification: The Imputation of Christ’s Righteousness from Reformation Theology to the American Great Awakening and the Korean Revivals. Peter Lang, 2006
McCormack, Bruce, “Participation in God, Yes, Deification, No: Two Modern Protestant Responses to an Ancient Question” in *Denkwürdiges Geheimnis: Beiträge zur Gotteslehre*, eds., Ingolf Dalferth, Johannes Fischer and Hans-Peter Groshans. Mohr Siebeck, 2004 347-374


V. Evaluation - The final paper shall constitute the 80% of the final grade. Book reviews shall each count for 2 points if turned in on time and one point if turned in late. Class presentation shall count as 6 points. Required Reading, if completed, shall count as 4 points. Extra Credit can earn up to 4 points.

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.

VII. 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.
COURSE OUTLINE  Spring Term 2011

Outline of Course

1. Week One - Introduction – What’s at Stake? (January 31)
   Why Now?  Why this? Why is it important?
   Is Justification, “The Doctrine on which the Church Stands or Falls?”

2. Week Two - Theological Method – Canon and Context (Feb 7)
   The Canonical Shape of Doctrine
   Doctrinal Language: Metaphor and Analogy
   The Language of Salvation: Doctrine and Discourse
     **Soteriologies: Types and Traditions**
     Participationist: Eastern Orthodox / Revisionist Lutherans
     Forensic: Protestant and Roman Catholic
     Transformationist: Liberal Theology / Liberation Theology
   Required Reading:
     Richard Lints, “Mapping Modern Soteriology” (on CAMS)

3. Week Three - The Canonical Shape of Justification (Feb 14)
   Old Testament Contexts
     Creation and Covenant
     Adam, Abraham and Moses
   Law and Gospel
   Covenant Theology
   The Gospel in the Gospels
   Required Reading:
     Christopher Wright, *Salvation Belongs to Our God*
   Recommended Reading:
     T. David Gordon, “Confusion About the Law in Paul” (On CAMS)
   Student Presentations:
     1. Genesis 15:1-6
     2. Deuteronomy 9:1-12

4. Week Four – Counted Righteous In Christ - NT Texts (Feb 28)
   The Gospel
   Justification and Righteousness
   Faith and Works
   Imputation and Infusion
   Required Reading:
     Robert Gundry, “The NonImputation of Christ’s Righteousness” (CAMS)
     D.A. Carson, “The Vindication of Imputation” (On CAMS)
   Recommended Reading
     Michael Bird, “Incorporated Righteousness: A Response to the Recent Evangelical Discussion Concerning the Imputation of Christ’s
Student Presentations:
1. Romans 1:16-17
2. Romans 2: 6-11
3. Romans 3:21-31
4. Romans 5:12-20

5. Week Five – Living by Faith - NT Texts (March 7)
   Faith and Faithfulness
   Judgment/Vindication
   Initial/Future Judgment
   James and Paul on Justification

Required Reading:
Simon Gathercole, “Does Faith Mean Faithfulness?” (On CAMS)
Richard Bauckham, Interpreting James in Context (On CAMS)

Student Presentations:
1. James 2:14-26
2. Titus 3:1-11
3. Rev 20:11-15

6. Week Six - The Protestant Consensus (March 14)
   Luther – Augsburg Confession (On CAMS)
   Calvin – Heidelberg Catechism / Westminster Confession (On CAMS)
   Anglican – 39 Articles (On CAMS)
   Congregational – Savoy Declaration (Same as Westminster Confession on Justification)
   Wesley – Articles of Religion / Confession of Faith (On CAMS)
   Baptist – Baptist Faith and Message (On CAMS)
   Evangelical – The Gospel: An Evangelical Celebration (On CAMS)
   GCTS – The GCTS Statement of Faith (On GCTS Website)

Required Reading: McGrath, Iustia Dei
Recommended Reading – Your denomination/church’s confession of faith
   Carl Trueman, “Simul peccator et Justus: Martin Luther and Justification” (On CAMS)
   Todd Billings, United to God Through Christ: Assessing Calvin on the Question of Deification” (On CAMS)

7. Week Seven – The Ecumenical Dialogues on Justification (March 28)
   Lutheran / Roman Catholic Joint Declaration
   Evangelical / Roman Catholic (Evangelicals and Catholics Together)

Required Reading: Joint Declaration / ECT – On CAMS
Recommended Reading: Henri Blocher, “The Lutheran-Catholic Declaration on Justification” (On CAMS)
   Avery Dulles, “Two Languages of Salvation: The Lutheran-Catholic Joint Declaration” (On CAMS)
   The New Catholic Catechism (Brief Sections on CAMS)
Student Presentations:
1. Joint Declaration – Lutheran Side
2. Joint Declaration – Roman Catholic Side
3. ECT – Evangelical Side
4. ECT – Roman Catholic Side

8. Week Eight - The New Perspective (April 4)
The History of the New Perspective
Major Figures/Authors
Second Temple Judaism
Jewish Legalism / Nationalism
Justification as a badge
Enduring Covenant of Grace
N.T. Wright

Required Reading: N.T. Wright, Justification
Recommended Reading:
Michael Horton, “Engaging N.T. Wright and John Piper” (On Cams)
Simon Gathercole, “The Doctrine of Justification in Paul and Beyond: Some Proposals?” (On CAMS)

Student Presentations:
1. History of the New Perspective
2. Key Claims of the New Perspective
3. Criticism’s of the New Perspective

New Finnish Interpretation of Luther
Barth and Torrance on Calvin
Vanhoozer on N.T. Wright
The Gospel, The Atonement and Union with Christ

Required Reading –
Vanhoozer, “Wrighting the Wrongs of the Reformation” (On CAMS)

Recommended Reading:
Michael Bird, “Justification as Forensic Declaration and Covenant Membership” (On CAMS)

10. Concluding Comments (April 18)

In Class Presentation Topics:
Monday February 14 (Week Three)
1. Genesis 15:1-6
2. Deuteronomy 9:1-12
3. Jeremiah 31:31-34 New

Monday February 28 (Week Four)
1. Romans 1:16-17
2. Romans 2: 6-11
3. Romans 3:21-31
4. Romans 5:12-20
5. Romans 8:28-35 (especially 30 + 33) New

**Monday March 7 (Week Five)**
1. James 2:14-26
2. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 – (especially 21) New
3. Titus 3:1-11
4. Rev 20:11-15

**Monday March 28 (Week Seven)**
1. Joint Declaration – Lutheran Side
2. Joint Declaration – Roman Catholic Side
3. ECT – Evangelical Side
4. ECT – Roman Catholic Side

**Monday April 4 (Week Eight)**
1. History of the New Perspective
2. History of the New Perspective (New)
3. Key Claims of the New Perspective
4. Criticism’s of the New Perspective
5. Criticism’s of the New Perspective (New)