TH 616 - Anthropology: Preserving the Person
Syllabus – Spring 2012
March 2-3, March 23-24, April 13-14
Dr. Richard Lints – email address: Rlints@gcts.edu

I. Course Description
The crisis in our culture has much to do with the crisis in our view of who we are as human persons. It seems almost self-evident today to say that our culture has lost a theological mooring of our identity as creatures of God. This course is designed both to examine a biblical/theological framework for human identity and to relate this to the "minimal self" which has appeared in modern times. Of special concern are the implications of our view of personhood upon the life and practice of the church in the modern world.

II. Required Reading
   Following required essays: Wilken, Grenz, Jones/Yarhouse, Kelsey, Lints,
   Second essay by Horton
   ISBN - 0802828930
Keller, Tim, Counterfeit Gods (New York: Dutton, 2009)
   ISBN - 1594485496
Borgman, Albert, Power Failure: Christianity in the Culture of Technology (Brazos, 2003)
   ISBN – 1587430584
Sizioulas, John Being as Communion (St. Vladamir's Seminary Press, 1997)
   ISBN - 0881410292
Volf, Miroslav, Exclusion and Embrace (Abingdon, 1996)
   ISBN - 0687002826

II. Course Requirements
1. Book reviews (1-2 pages) of each required book on the day they are to be discussed. (See course outline schedule) The reviews are to outline the central contribution of the author in the material. There are a total of 5 book reviews due. Each book review turned in on time will count as 2 points. Reviews turned in late shall count as 1 point. Reviews not turned in shall count as 0 points. PLEASE NOTE: FIRST TWO READING REPORTS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE COURSE ON MARCH 2.

2. A presentation in-class on one of the approved topics (see accompanying sheet). The core of the presentation should consist in outlining the central contribution of the figure(s) to an understanding of the self in the modern context. The presentations shall last 30-40 minutes 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. The presentation shall be in lieu of the written book review due that day. Participation in a presentation shall count as 5 points. If you do not participate in a presentation, you are required to write a
7 page book review on one of the required readings. This shall count as 5 points in lieu of the presentation.

3. A final paper (10 to 15 pages in length, double-space, 4500 word limit) related to one of the class topics. This should include insights gained from the class discussion and from research in the secondary literature on the topic and/or figure. The paper is due on April 30. This assignment shall count as 85% of the final grade

III. Reading Report Schedule

1. Lints (Essays by Lints and Horton) – Reading Report Due March 2
2. Keller – Reading Report due March 2
3. Borgmann, Reading Report Due – March 23
4. Volf – Reading Report – April 13
5. Sizioulas – Reading Report – due April 13

IV. Presentations:
1. Technology and the Self (Albert Borgmann) – March 24
2. The Consumer Self – March 24
3. The Communal Self (Miroslav Volf) – April 14

V. 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.

VI. 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.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE (AND READING REPORT SCHEDULE)

Weekend One – Biblical Anthropology (March 2-3)
1. Theological Method
2. Imago Dei
3. The Fall
Lints Reading Report Due March 2
Keller Reading Report Due March 2

Weekend Two – Anthropology in Historical Perspective (March 23-24)
1. Augustine and the Pelagian Controversy
2. The Rise and Fall of the Self in the Enlightenment
3. The Technological Self
   Borgmann, Reading Report Due – March 23
   Presentation – March 24
4. The Consumer Self
   Presentation – March 24

Weekend Three - The Self After Postmodernity (April 13-14)
1. The Communal Self
   Volf, Reading Report Due April 13
   Presentation: April 21
2. The Reconciled Self
   Sizouls Reading Report Due April 13
3. The Perfect Image