I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

If God is sovereign, is the human individual free? How does one relate predestination and human moral responsibility? How is prayer and evangelism impacted by election? The course examines the Biblical, historical, philosophical and theological background to these and other related issues. This is designed to put the discussion of such issues as the Divine Decrees, election, predestination, free will, and moral responsibility into a Biblical/Theological framework through which the student may formulate and/or clarify his/ her own position in this area.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Written Requirements


  Historical Paper - This paper (5-7 pages, double spaced, no more than 2000 words) shall engage an historical figure of importance to the discussion of divine sovereignty and human responsibility. You should deal with primary sources in the paper, providing historical context and description of the central arguments of the figure. That paper is due MONDAY NOVEMBER 14.

  Theological Reflection Paper - The final paper (7-10 pages, double spaced no more than 3000 words) shall be a personal reflection relating sovereignty and responsibility. It shall be due on FRIDAY Dec 16. All written assignments should be double-spaced, 12 point font.

Required Reading - Completion of the required reading (see list below) will count as 5% of the final grade (5 points if you complete it, 0 points if you do not complete it). You must submit a note to me prior to the last day written work can be turned in to receive credit for completing the Required Reading.

Extra Credit - Student Presentations – Students may receive extra credit by participating in an in-class presentation. The presentations will be related to one of the major historical figures/controversies listed below. This will be a team presentation and should last 30 minutes maximum. Participation on a panel discussion will result in an automatic extra 5 points.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. D. A. Carson - Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility (Baker)
5. Thomas Schriener and Bruce Ware, eds., *Still Sovereign: Contemporary Perspectives*. (Baker) (ISBN – 0801022320)

**IV. EVALUATION**

The brief exegesis papers shall count as 10% of the grade. They will not be graded. You will receive 5 points for each passage summary if it is turned in on time and is satisfactory. You will receive 2 points if it is turned in late and is satisfactory. The historical paper shall constitute 25% of the final. It will be a fully graded assignment. The reflection paper shall constitute 60% of the final grade. Completion of the required reading (see list above) will count as 5% of the final grade (5 points if you complete it, 0 points if you do not complete it). An extra 5 points may be earned by participating in one of the in-class presentations.

**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](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.

**TH 675 - COURSE OUTLINE**

Week One – Sept 14

*Introduction*

Theological Method
Terms of the Controversy
Meeting of Teams for Historical Topic Presentations
Week Two – Sept 21
A Biblical Theology of Sovereignty/Responsibility
Redemptive History and the Plan of God

Week Three – Sept 28
O.T. Passages
a. The Fall - Genesis 3:1-7
b. The Patriarchs - Genesis 45-50 (esp 50:17-21)
c. Pharoah - Exodus 9:27-10:12
d. History of Israel - Joshua 24:14 -22
f. The Psalms - Psalms 105:1-7,23-25
g. Prophets - Isaiah 10:5-9 and Isaiah 14:24-27
h. Wisdom Literature - Proverbs 16:1-10
i. Job - Job 38:1-7

Old Testament and Redemptive History
The Meaning of the Fall
Israel – Exodus and Exile
Messianic Predestination

Week Four – Oct 5
N.T. Passages
b. Johannine Literature - John 3:16-21
c. Acts (Stephen's speech) - Acts 7:51-53
d. Paul and Romans - Romans 8:26-30
e. Paul and Romans - Romans 9:14-18
f. Paul and the Philippians - Phil. 2:12-15
g. Paul and the Ephesians - Ephesians 2:4-10
h. James - James 1:12-18
i. Peter - 2 Peter 3:8-13 (I Timothy 2:1-7)

New Testament and Redemptive History
Jesus as the God/Man
The Holy Spirit and the New Creation
Conversion and Christian Character

Week Five – Oct 19
Biblical Notions of Freedom
Sin and Freedom
The Gospel and Freedom

Week Six – Oct 26
Student Presentations: Church Historical Controversies
1. Augustine and Pelagius
2. Luther and Erasmus
Week Seven – Nov 2

Student Presentation: Church Historical Controversies
Arminius and the Council of Dordt

Student Presentation: Church Historical Controversies
John Wesley and George Whitefield

Week Eight – Nov 16

Contemporary Issues
Philosophical Discussions
Theories of Human Action
Different notions of freedom
Theological Discussions
Theories of Divine Action
Evil and Suffering

Week Nine – Nov 23

Contemporary Evangelical Positions:
Peterson/Williams, Why I am not an Arminian
Walls/Dongell, Why I am not a Calvinist

Week 10 – Nov 30

Pastoral Issues

Week 11 – Dec 7

Discussion / Review

TH 675- Student Presentations

Historical Episodes
Wednesday Oct 26
1. Augustine/Pelagius
2. Luther/Erasmus
Wednesday Nov 2
3. Arminius/Dordt
4. Wesley/Whitefield

Supplement to Required Reading List

Histories and Cultures of Theological Traditions

Calvinism / Puritanism

George, Timothy, Theology of the Reformers. Broadman 1988


**Lutheranism**


**Anglicanism**


**Arminianism / Methodism**


