COURSE SYLLABUS

TH 502—Theology Survey II
Patrick T. Smith, Course Instructor
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
South Hamilton Campus
Spring Semester 2010
Mondays, 9:15 AM-12:15 PM
Phone: 978-468-4120
Email: ptsmith@gcts.edu

Course Description

This course is 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; the sacraments; eschatology. (For M.A. students only)

Required Course Textbooks


Tennent, Timothy C. Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way we Think About and Discuss Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.


Learning Outcomes

The student who successfully completes this course should have the ability:
1. To understand the importance and necessity of doctrine for Christian life and community.
2. To effectively read, understand, learn from and engage texts in theological studies.
3. To appreciate afresh the art of scripture meditation on key biblical passages that pertain to the doctrines 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; the sacraments; eschatology.
4. To have a deeper appreciation for theology as it relates to preparation for ministry in the context of the local church, parachurch ministries and the broader contemporary culture.
Course Requirements

1. **Assigned Readings**—some of the reading material is covered in class. However, there are elements that will not be brought out in class but are still essential to gaining an understanding of the material and successfully completing the course. Therefore, the reading provides a rich and necessary component of the learning experience.

   a. **Textbook Reading**—The students will be responsible for reading the assigned sections of the course textbooks by the assigned dates stated below.

   b. **Reading Handouts**—students are also responsible for reading all handouts, essays, and articles reserved by the instructor.

   c. **Additional Readings**—students are to read an additional 200 pages from standard theological texts suitable for a seminary context. (If you’re not sure about appropriateness of the readings please consult the course instructor). **NOTE**: This additional reading should be done this semester and not reading from a prior semester or something you’ve read in-depth before. The library has a number of works that can be consulted to complete this part of the course requirements.

   Students are to indicate in writing how much of the assigned reading was completed. Students are also to provide a log of the title(s) and page numbers of the additional 200 pages of theological reading from the select list. Please include the dates the assignments were completed. This is to be turned in by the last day of the semester, **May 3, 2010**.

2. **Scripture Meditation**—a much-neglected spiritual discipline of the Christian life is Scripture meditation. Essentially Scripture meditation involves: (1) a continuous process of remembering and musing over Scripture’s teaching, and (2) a reassessment and a reshaping of one’s life in light of that teaching. [This description of the nature of Scripture meditation comes from Dr. Bruce Ware.]

   In this course, students are encouraged to grow in the spiritual discipline by engaging their minds and hearts in consistent Scripture meditation. Students are to submit a total of **two** reflection papers over the semester to be turned in at the beginning of the designated class session. The assignment is to read thoughtfully and prayerfully the assigned passages of Scripture once a day, two times a week, for five weeks. At the end of each five-week section, each student will write, in **two (2) pages**, his or her personal reflections on these passages, focusing especially on how his or her life has been challenged or needs to be challenged by these texts of Scripture. This exercise is not to be an exegetical paper; instead it should focus on the practical application of the text to one’s personal life and ministry.
The following passages are assigned for meditation and reflection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctrines of Christ &amp; Salvation</th>
<th>Doctrines of the Holy Spirit, the Church and Last Things</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews 1:1-2:12</td>
<td>Romans 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 1:1-2:10</td>
<td>2 Thessalonians 1:3-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reflection Paper (1) Due: WEEK 5
Reflection Paper (2) Due: WEEK 10*

The papers are to be typed, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, double-spaced, black ink, neatly formatted, stapled (no binders or folders), and free of any spelling and grammatical errors on WHITE paper. The papers will be graded on their clarity and faithfulness to the assigned topic.

3. **Mid-Term Exam**—each student enrolled in the course for credit is to take a mid-term examination over the material covered in the first part of the course.

4. **Final Exam**—each student enrolled in the course for credit is to take a final examination over the material covered in second part of the course.

**Course Grading**

The student’s grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Report</th>
<th>10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Meditation Papers (2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-96  <em>Work of exceptional quality</em></td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>95-93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-86</td>
<td><em>Work of commendable quality</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>85-83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>82-80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79-76</td>
<td><em>Work of acceptable but minimal quality</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>75-73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>72-70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-66</td>
<td><em>Substandard and barely passing work</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>65-63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>62-below</td>
<td><em>Failure</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading Rubric: After all the requirements of the course have been completed, the instructor will use the following rubric for the assignment of grades, based on the overall performance of the class. The grades assigned will represent the instructor’s interpretation of the following standard:

A = Outstanding mastery of the subject: excellence is evident in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; unusual ability to retain, analyze and synthesize the material; with a positive attitude making productive contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

B = Superior mastery of the subject: sincere effort in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; ability to master the essential aspects of the material; with a mostly consistent attitude in making contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

C = Basic mastery of the subject: inconsistent effort in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; engagement with the material but difficulty in grasping some of its aspects; with occasional contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

D = Inadequate mastery of the subject.

F = Failure: course must be repeated.

Warning on Plagiarism: Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found on the Indiana University website http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/plagiarism.html. This document has the official recognition of the Gordon-Conwell faculty and provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare for your assignments. If a student is caught plagiarizing, the student will receive the consequences of this act according to the process established by the seminary.

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.

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 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Doctrine of Christ (Part 1): Studying the Historical Jesus</td>
<td>Background Reading: Erickson, Chs. 32-34; Tennent, Ch. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>February 1, 2010</td>
<td>Doctrine of Christ (Part 2): His Person &amp; His Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>February 8, 2010</td>
<td>Doctrine of Christ (Part 3): His Person &amp; His Work (cont.) The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit: His Person &amp; His Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Week #1</strong></td>
<td><em>February 15-19, 2010</em></td>
<td><strong>Read Ahead or Catch-Up</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>February 22, 2010</td>
<td>The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit: His Person &amp; His Work (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>March 1, 2010</td>
<td>The Doctrine of Salvation (Part 1): God’s Plan &amp; Subjective Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUE: Scripture Meditation Paper (1)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students Receive Mid-Term Exam Questions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>March 8, 2010</td>
<td>The Doctrine of Salvation (Part 2): Objective Applications, Progress, and Perfecting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUE: Mid-Term Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>March 15, 2010</td>
<td>The Doctrine of the Church (Part 1): The Universal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Week #2</strong></td>
<td><em>March 22-26, 2010</em></td>
<td><strong>Read Ahead or Catch-Up</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> We will not meet the following week on <em>March 29, 2010</em>. We will meet again on April 5, 2010.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>April 5, 2010</td>
<td>The Doctrine of the Church (Part 2): The Local Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>April 12, 2010</td>
<td>The Doctrine of Last Things (Part 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>April 19, 2010</td>
<td>The Doctrine of Last Things (Part 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUE: Scripture Meditation Paper (2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students Receive Final Exam Questions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>TH 502—Theology Survey II Final Exam</td>
<td><strong>DUE: Final Exam, April 26, 2010 by 4:00 PM</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR ADDITIONAL READING

Prolegomena/ Theological Method


Concerning Theology Proper:


**Concerning Theological Anthropology and Sin:**


Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids:


**Representative Systematic Theologies**


Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley and others. Four volumes. T. & T. Clark, 1956–75. (Neo-Orthodox)


Bloesch, Donald G. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. Hendrickson, 2005. (Evangelical)*


---

(* = Introductory. I am indebted to Professor Peter Anders for the categorization scheme.)


Grenz, Stanley J. A Theology for the Community of God. Broadman/Holman, 1994. (Neo-Evangelical)*


