Course Description

In this course we will be covering the doctrines of the person and work of Christ, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, atonement, salvation, the church, sacraments, and the Christian hope.

The overarching theme of TH502 is the reconciling work of the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit, resulting in the formation of the church as a historical-eschatological reality spanning creation and eschaton. While TH501 discussed the doctrine of the Trinity and then began to lay the bases of a Christian anthropology (creation, image of God, fall), TH502 focuses on the Trinitarian restoration of the fallen creation, leading up to its eschatological consummation.

Everything hangs on two principles. First, we need a proper understanding of Christology. This course will be devoting two weeks to this topic, since the current Christological discussion requires some familiarity with the early development of the doctrine.

Second, we also need a robustly Trinitarian Pneumatology, including an understanding of what may be called a Christological-Pneumatological synthesis. Having a proper understanding of this synthesis is a necessary condition of a balanced soteriology, ecclesiology, and finally eschatology. These topics are to be grounded in Christology and Pneumatology.

Methodologically, this course will have a strong emphasis on engaging theology in a comparative fashion. We can only cherish our own traditions once we understand them to be in conversation with other major Christian traditions. Consequently, particular attention will be paid to the way in which Catholics and Eastern-Orthodox believers have shaped their own doctrinal traditions. At the conclusion of this course you will both appreciate more deeply your own tradition, as well as gain a sense of the richness and diversity of Christianity in general.

Gordon-Conwell Mission

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:

1. To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. (Article 2)

Relation to Curriculum

TH 501 is a pre-requisite of TH 502.
and Christian life;
3. Summarize the coherence between Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology;
4. Relate the doctrine of the Trinity to soteriology and ecclesiology;
5. Distinguish the key differences between Protestantism, Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy in matters of salvation;
6. Compare the major theories of the atonement and explain their relevance for pastoral care.

Lesson Topics

The following are a listing of the topics in this course.

- **Module 1: Christology, the doctrine of the person of Christ** (weeks 1 - 4)
  - Lesson 1: Introduction to Christology
  - Lesson 2: Patristic Christology up to Chalcedon
  - Lesson 3: Chalcedon and the Communication of Properties
  - Lesson 4: Alternative Christological Models
- **Module 2: Pneumatology, the doctrine of the person of the Holy Spirit** (weeks 5 - 6)
  - Lesson 5: The Person of the Holy Spirit
  - Lesson 6: The Work of the Holy Spirit
- **Module 3: Objective Soteriology, the doctrine of the work of Christ** (weeks 7 - 8)
  - Lesson 7: Ransom Theory of the Atonement
  - Lesson 8: Satisfaction, Penal Substitution, and Moral Example Theories
- **Module 4: Applied Soteriology, the doctrine of salvation** (weeks 9 - 10)
  - Lesson 9: Justification and Sanctification
  - Lesson 10: Union with Christ
- **Module 5: Ecclesiology, the doctrine of the church** (weeks 11 - 12)
  - Lesson 11: The Church
  - Lesson 12: The Sacraments
- **Module 6: Eschatology, the doctrine of the last things** (weeks 13 - 14)
  - Lesson 13: The Last Things
  - Lesson 14: Course Wrap-up

Required Materials


In addition to these required texts, there will be various articles and excerpts from books provided for you in the relevant modules.

Course Requirements

Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The following chart indicates how various course elements proportionately relate to the overall course grade. The successful completion of these activities will require each student to spend approximately 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and out of class. Descriptions of the assignments are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four Statement of Faith papers</td>
<td>28% total (7% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three quizzes</td>
<td>30% total (10% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six discussion forum posts (w/ 2 responses each)</td>
<td>42% total (7% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>P/F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrated presentations</td>
<td>P/F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Learning Activities
Part A: Gathering and Learning Information
The two learning activities in this part all work together to help you identify and absorb the information you need to handle the theological doctrines of the course appropriately.

Readings
You should start each week by reading from the required textbooks, as listed. The schedule for this reading is listed in the modules and in the Course Schedule. Keep in mind that the reading required for this course is heavy and will require a substantial and disciplined commitment on your part. Falling behind in your reading based on our current schedule will be hard to recover from.

Narrated Presentations (lectures)
After completing your reading, you will then view the narrated presentations (lectures). Most of the lectures will not last more than an hour, although there will be a few exceptions. While they do cover some of the material from the required textbooks, they are meant to complete and not simply to repeat the information you gathered there.

Part B: Interacting, Analyzing, and Developing your own Theological Position
I have included several activities where you actively process the information gathered from the readings and the lectures.

Discussion Forum postings
The Discussion Forum assignments will encourage you to apply some heady theological material to practical problems of ministry. Forum posts should be not more than 600 words, and should represent a substantial argument in response to the forum prompts, adequately pulling from and referencing lectures, readings, Scripture, and other related sources. In addition to your initial posting for each thread, you will also be required to respond to at least two other students with similarly robust argumentation. Responses should be not more than 400 words. You are welcome (and indeed encouraged) to respond to your classmates' comments on your thread, but such responses will not count toward your two response goal. The purpose of this assignment is to generate solid reflection on given topics in consultation with your peers, so you are encouraged to be as dialogical as possible. See the Discussion Forum rubric for a basic set of assignment expectations.

Statement of Faith Paper in four parts
Finally, in this class you are going to write a comprehensive statement of faith, covering all the material that you interacted with in TH501 and TH502. This will be a four-part project, spread over the duration of this class. Each statement of faith is different. Below are my expectations and requirements.

- Each part of your paper has to be around 6 pages.
- You need to demonstrate an understanding of the respective doctrines, as formulated by Christian orthodoxy.
- You need to explain the biblical basis for these doctrines.
- You also need to demonstrate an awareness of the major contemporary objections to these formulations. You will also have to formulate a defense of your understanding of these doctrines in light of these current objections. While not all objections can be either identified or adequately dealt with, it will be sufficient if you choose what you regard as being the two most compelling ones. Should you happen to agree with any of these objections to the classic formulation of the doctrines, you are expected to defend your own position.
- The defense of your theological position needs to be biblically grounded, theologically informed, and logical.
- Your paper does not need to interact with additional reading. However, you need to demonstrate awareness of important figures associated with the objections you are discussing.

Each part of your statement of faith project will need to exhibit the following structure (see instructions above too)

1. Exposition of the classical/orthodox understanding of the doctrine
2. The Biblical basis for the classical/orthodox understanding
3. Two recent objections to some aspect of the classical doctrine
4. Defense of your position (either in agreement, or disagreement with classical doctrine)

See also the Statement of Faith rubric for grading standards and the heading “Document Formatting and Submission” for formatting and submissions standards.

Part C: Testing your Knowledge

Quizzes are the only objective testing component in this class. You will be tested on the basis of specified entries in Elwell’s Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, as well as the narrated presentations.

Below is a table of your assignments/tests for each week of the class.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Pages of Reading</th>
<th>Videos to Watch*</th>
<th>Forums</th>
<th>Quizzes</th>
<th>Papers</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Statement of Faith 4</td>
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</tbody>
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* does not include 5 minute introductory videos at the beginning of lessons 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13.

Download digital version of this chart [here](https://sakai.gcts.edu/portal/tool/5055ec5b-7a03-423a-9767-5c309a9443a6/printFriendly).

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Course Policies

Grading Policy

"A" means "conspicuous excellence;" "B" means "exceeding the minimum;" "C" means "satisfactory" work; "D" means "passing" but "unsatisfactory;" and "F" means "course has been failed."

Grading Scale

Grading Scale (point values and definitions of letter grades can be found in the "Grading Scale" section of the Gordon-Conwell Student Handbook):

- A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7;
- C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0

Proctored Exams

Per faculty-issued academic policy, all quizzes in this course will be proctored. You must select a proctor who 1) has an official position within an academic institution (library, school, etc), 2) has access to a computer with an internet connection you can use, and 3) is willing to sit with you as you take the quiz. Click on the "Proctor Registration" link in your Sakai tool list to the left to access the form and submit it at least two business days in advance. Failure to submit this form will prevent you from taking the quiz on time. Once we've received the form and approved your proctor, he or she will be sent an additional form with instructions. When it is time to take the quiz, your proctor will need to enter a code in the Test & Quizzes tool in Sakai to open it for you.

Instructor Feedback

I will attempt to reply to questions or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays. I will provide feedback on assignments within one week of submission. I will post grades in the grade book within two weeks of submission.

Document Formatting and Submission

Formatting preferences and citation style: Please use the latest version of Turabian as the style guide for all writing assignments. Format the doctrinal papers with 1" margins, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and footnotes (rather than endnotes). Please submit papers as Word documents (.doc, docx) or PDFs (.pdf).

File naming convention for assignments: Papers should be submitted electronically and labeled with first initial, last name, assignment, mmddyear. Example: jsmithDoctrinalPaper1092212.

Late Work

All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Work turned in later than
Monday, August 25 (the last day of this course) will normally require that an extension be approved by the Registration Office at your campus. If you anticipate a problem, contact me as soon as possible.

Netiquette
Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: http://www.albion.com/netiquette.

Additional Seminary Policies

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Grades are posted on line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.