Course Description

This course is a continuation of TH 504. Here, attention shall be given to the way God relates to the world (the doctrines of creation and providence), the nature of the human person and his/her fallen condition (the doctrines of personhood and sin), and finally, attention shall be given to the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is the aim of the course to see these loci of theology in their relationship to the context of one’s faith.
and practice as well as to the historical context out of which these convictions arise.

**Gordon-Conwell Mission**

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:

- **Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.** Theological education, which is properly done within and for the Church, ought to function with rigor and academic integrity. The seminary, therefore, must provide an environment within which teaching and learning can best occur and encourage high levels of scholarly competence and research in its faculty.

**Course Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. **Articulate** the relevance of the Theology of Creation for today’s Christian context.
2. **Formulate** a Theology of Ministry based on a biblical hamartiology.
3. **Illustrate** the significance of Original Sin’s impact to Creation.
4. **Develop** a model for the Person of Christ and the Work of Christ.
5. Using the understanding of Christology, **outline** how the Theology of Creation leads to Theology of Atonement.

**Lesson Topics**

Lectures entail the following topics:

- **Lesson 1: Introduction and Method**
  - Week 1
- **Lesson 2: Creation**
  - Weeks 2-4
- **Lesson 3: Providence**
  - Week 5
- **Lesson 4: Identity**
  - Weeks 6-7

**Study Week**

- Week 8

- **Lesson 5: Sin**
  - Weeks 9-10
- **Lesson 6: Jesus**
  - Weeks 11-12
- **Lesson 7: Christ - Union/Work**
  - Weeks 13-14

**Required Materials**

- Cornelius Plantinga, NOT THE WAY IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE (Eerdmans) (ISBN – 0802842186)
- A SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY – of your own choosing
Recommended Text:
- Mike Wilkerson, REDEMPTION: FREED BY JESUS FROM THE IDOLS WE WORSHIP AND THE WOUNDS WE CARRY. (Crossway, 2011)

You must read the required textbooks in their entirety. The schedule for the reading is listed in the individual lessons. You can also refer to the Course Schedule.

Please note that reading load varies considerably from week to week. You may want to use light reading weeks to get ahead on future reading. Your Reading and Lecture Viewing Blogs should reflect readings that were due for those weeks and not what you may have read ahead.

Course Requirements - Learning Activities
Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below.

I. Reading and Lecture Viewing Report
You are expected to complete the relevant reading in preparation for each lecture and forum discussions. The “Weekly Reading Schedule” details the reading that is due each week. Please refer to the Lessons tool or Course Schedule for the “Weekly Reading Schedule”. You will submit the report using the Assignments tool. The form can also be found in the Resources tool. The report is due 11:55PM ET the Monday following week 14.

II. Forums
Group Discussion
There will be 5 forum discussions throughout this course. You will use the Forum Tool to respond to a series of prompts. In addition to posting your thoughts to the prompts, you will be asked to engage with your fellow students and be required to respond to at least one (1) other student’s post. Initial posts is to be 300-400 words long. Response posts is to be 200-300 words long.
Topics:
- Creation:
- Providence:
- Identity:
- Theodicy:
- Christology:

III. Exams
There will be two exams (Mid-Term during week 8 and Final during week 14). These exams will be short essay exams. You will have three hours from the time you start the exam until you complete it. The format of each exam will consist of 6 topic of which you will choose 3. Please attempt to be clear and concise with your answers to these topics. Bibles are permitted in the exam, but neither personal notes nor the other readings. You are not permitted to have your notes accessible for this exam. You may have no other "windows" open on your computer during the time which you take the exam. You should refer to the Biblical material where appropriate and also material from the required reading. You will have three hours to complete the exam, which means that you should spend approximately one hour on each question.

All exams are proctored. Please find proctor policy below.

IV. Capstone Project
In this final assignment, you will apply what you have learned during this course and produce materials that may be useful to your
ministry or future goals.

You have three options for this project.

**Option #1: Research Paper**
You are required to write one 12-15 page research paper. Your paper will cover one topic that was covered in the class. Do not be too broad with your thesis. Stay focused on one topic. Your paper is not “an opinion paper,” but should be consistent with the type of academic rigor one expects at a university-hosted conference. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate, with a bibliography of all sources used for the study, etc.). Those who have not had much experience in writing research papers may want to consult a reliable style manual like Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). Any recognized style is acceptable to the instructor so long as it is used consistently throughout the paper. Approach this Research Paper option as if you were expecting it to be published.

**Option #2: Bible Study or Preaching Series**
Identify a target audience. (Adult Sunday school, Junior High Bible Study, Women’s Prayer group, etc.) With your target audience in mind, develop a curriculum or preaching series to teach on any topics discussed in the course. The minimum length of the study is 8 weeks with each teaching time/sermon being around 15-20 minutes (for the study, this is your direct teaching and not the planned group work. That can be longer). You will need to develop all component parts to the series. This includes materials for the audience, materials for the teacher/preacher and teaching/preaching aids. Be creative in how you engage your audience. You can develop these materials using PowerPoint, PDFs, video, web sites, bulletins, etc. but most importantly, remember to design a proper course manual/preaching manuscripts. What is your Big Idea? How do you want these objectives to be met? What does a success completion of your material look like? What application point is your audience going to remember?

**Option #3: Missional Outreach**
How do you communicate the story of Creation to Redemption (and all the parts in between) to another people group?

1. Identify a people group. (Muslim, Buddhist, Wiccan, agnostic, atheist, etc.)
2. Develop 5-10 engaging questions for open discussion. These questions should reflect in-depth research on the characteristics of their worldview on the various topics we have studied in the course.
3. Interview a person from chosen people group. You are not witnessing or sharing your faith, your emphasis is listening, not speaking. Take this time for open discussion on the various topics. Limit your interview to under an hour. Capture a video or audio recording of the interview.
4. Write up a 5-7 page report based on your discussion. This should include your reflections and any conclusions you made on the relationship between Christianity and your chosen people group. Citations are expected. You should defend your conclusions using course content and your chosen people group research.
5. Submit your report, a typed copy of your questions, and the recording of the interview.

In week 2, you will need to submit your choice of options and your initial idea. This is just your initial idea, if you would like to change your option or idea, please contact the instructor.

In week 8, you will need to check-in with a progress report of your Capstone project.

The completed project is due the Monday following week 14.
Grading Policy
Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading and Lecture Viewing Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forums (5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam - Midterm</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam - Final</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capstone Assignment</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<td>C</td>
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“A” means “conspicuous excellence in both content and style; “B” means “exceeding the minimum in both content and style; “C” means “satisfactory” work; “D” means “passing, but unsatisfactory,” and “F” means “course has been failed.”

Any work submitted after the due date will result with a penalty of 10% for everyday.

Grading Rubrics can be found in the “Grading Rubrics” folder in “Resources”.

Final Note: Your work is expected to reflect graduate level quality. You are highly encouraged to “proof read” all submitted writing.

Other Course Policies
**Proctored Exams**  
All exams in this course will be proctored. Your proctor must be someone who works for a church or volunteers for a church in an officially recognized capacity (pastor, elder, ministry leader, office administrator, etc.), a library or a school. Your proctor cannot be a member of your family or a current Gordon-Conwell student. Your proctor should be present throughout the time you are taking the exam.

The student will need to identify a suitable proctor and submit his/her name and email address to the Semlink office via the proctor registration form before every exam. The Semlink office will then email your proctor login information for your exam so he/she can help you login at the time when you take the exam. Please submit your proctor information to the Semlink office at least 2 business days before you plan to take the exam. Check with libraries in advance for special summer and holiday hours.

**Instructor Feedback**  
The instructor will attempt to answer questions or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding Sundays. I will attempt to provide feedback on assignments and post grades in the gradebook within two weeks of submission.

**Document Formatting and Submission**  
Papers are to follow the appropriate format for their discipline (APA for Psych; SBL for Biblical Studies; Chicago for all others):

"[Papers] should be submitted as attached files in PDF format. Assignments should be double-spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting on the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted. Emailed-copies will not be accepted.”

**VeriCite**  
A tool called VeriCite has been added to Sakai to check for plagiarism. If you find that a part of your assignment has scored highly in VeriCite’s review (these sections will be highlighted in red), that means your content is very similar to content in another source and is probably a quote or paraphrase that should be cited. Please use this as a tool to make sure you have cited everything you need in your assignment. Not everything this service highlights will be a violation, so use your best judgment.

**Late Work**  
Any work submitted after the due date will result with a penalty of 10% for everyday.

In the event that illness (or similar matter) prevents you from doing any work at all during the entire week, i.e., you couldn’t do any other work in any of your classes, work a job, attend meetings, serve in ministries, etc., you can request an extension from the course instructor. (Note: a request does not mean an automatic extension.)

Requests for extension because of travelling (for work, weddings, ministry, or any other reason [other than medical emergency]) will not be considered. Please do not ask.

Requests for extension because of a “heavy week” (at work, school, personal) will not be considered. Please do not ask.

If you need an extension for any work due on the last day of schedule (Monday following Week 14), you will need to work with the Registration Office of your campus of record.

**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](http://www.albion.com/netiquette).
Additional Seminary Policies
For additional seminary policies that may pertain to this course, please refer to the Syllabus Addendum.