Syllabus: MC601H

MC601H: CCCC Denominational Standards with Rev. Nicholas Granitsas

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Papers

Four short (1-2 pages typed) reflection papers on the following:

- The Statement of Faith
- The Code of Ethics for Ministers
- Any two of the CCCC's key documents and/or position papers (all but four are in the yearbook)

The main paper for the course will be an ordination paper. This paper should follow the guidelines laid out in "When You Consider Ordination" (see Appendix) except that the paper for this course should be 12-15 pages rather than the 10-25 pages stated in the booklet.

Reading Requirement

A. All students will be required to read four books and one document:

- Cambridge Platform (This appears in a number of versions).

B. 1,400 or more additional pages of reading on Congregationalism, chosen by the student, and a reading report with brief annotations will also be required.

Mock Ordination Council

All students will be required to participate in a mock ordination council. This requirement is aimed to help prepare students for their actual ordination councils and to facilitate the participation of a local congregation in the preparation of its members for ministry.

- The mock council should take place in the context of the student's home church or of a church in which the student is currently involved.
- At least five members/participants in this church are needed to make up the mock council, and students are encouraged to have a larger group than this in order to more closely approximate an actual ordination council. This group should include both pastors and lay people. If the church has only one pastor, then one or more pastors from outside the church should be included.
- The student should submit copies of his/her ordination paper to the members of the mock council prior to the event so that they can review the paper and prepare questions for the student.
Ideally, a member of the mock council will have participated in ordination councils in the past and will know how to conduct a mock version. If there is not someone participating in the mock council who is thus qualified, please put the leader of the council in touch with Rev. Granitsas, who will be happy to explain protocol and give suggestions for an effective mock council.

- The council should not exceed 90 minutes.
- Following the council, the student should write a one-page reflection paper on his/her experience.
- A mock council that was recorded in an on-campus Denominational Standards class is included and a sample ordination paper is included in the appendix.

Interactivity

As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses. The purpose of Semlink interactivity is to enhance learning by providing an online environment for students to engage meaningfully and substantively with professors, teaching fellows, and other students in order to achieve an enriching and academically challenging distance learning experience.

There are two interactivity requirements for this course:

1. **An online discussion forum**: converse with other students and with instructors on the Semlink forum. You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.

2. **Email-based conversation** with your Semlink teaching fellow. You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter. Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To begin your interactivity (and for more details about this requirement), see the Interactivity section under Modules. This section will explain in more detail what is expected for this requirement.

**If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.**

Workbook

As you listen to the lectures, you can answer the questions in the accompanying workbook. The workbook is provided as a resource for your study. The questions have been designed to help you to learn and process the information in this course. The completed workbook will also serve as an outline of the course for your future reference.

You may find it helpful to stop the tape of the lecture at various times to consider the questions and answer them more fully. This is highly encouraged. You may also wish to take additional notes in the margins of the workbook or in the other spaces provided. You are not required to turn in your workbook.

**Note:** Again, remember to indicate the completion of the Required Reading on the “Snapshot of Course” page found at the beginning of the Course Requirements. The “Snapshot” is to be turned in by the course due date.

Bibliography

[MC601H_Bibliography.pdf](https://sakai.gcts.edu/xsl-portal/tool/d6764b92-b0e3-4eee-abbd-759a57e68790)

Course Outline

This outline includes a suggested (not required) reading schedule. Please feel free to work through the reading as best suits your schedule and learning style. Also, keep in mind the 1,400 pages of additional reading on Congregationalism that are a required part of this course.

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<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<th>Lecture</th>
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| 1       | Introduction to the Course  
Early History of Congregationalism | The Cambridge Platform  
Kohl, pp 1-33 |
| 2       | History and Influence of the Congregational Movement | Kohl, pp 35-64  
Rouner, pp 1-36 |
| 3       | Congregational History in the 19th through 21st Centuries | Rouner, pp 37-82  
Modern Day Pilgrims, pp v-39 (prefaces and section 1) |
| 4       | CCCC Organization  
The CCCC Statement of Faith | Rouner, pp 83-121  
Modern Day Pilgrims, pp 41-100 (section 2) |
| 5       | The Code of Ethics for Ministers  
The Code of Ethics for Churches | Rouner, pp 122-168  
Modern Day Pilgrims, pp 101-170 (section 3) |
| 6       | Position Papers, Part 1:  
- Homosexuality  
- Pornography  
- Euthanasia and Assited Suicide  
- The Nature of Our Fellowship | Rouner, pp 169-177  
Modern Day Pilgrims, pp 171-226 (section 4)  
The Yearbook of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference |
| 7       | Position Papers, Part 2:  
- Abortion  
- Ministerial Standing of Women  
- Guidelines Regarding Ministers Who Are Divorced  
- The Charismatic Movement  
- Racial Reconciliation | Modern Day Pilgrims, pp 227-324 (sections 5 and 6) |