

Syllabus

Course Description

This course examines the following doctrines of Christian theology: the person and work of Christ, and the various stages and aspects of the Christian life – inclusive of election, justification, sanctification, and glorification – the Holy Spirit, the church, her identity as the bride, her mission and evangelism, the teleological consummation of all things, and the eschatological triumph of God’s grace and full manifestation of the glory of the Triune God. Since it is a continuation of Theology Survey I, TH501 (or its equivalent) is a prerequisite for this course.

Course Objective

This course raises and endeavors to answer the following, inter alia, questions.

1. How do the above doctrines relate to the emergent “systems” of theological thought of the students?
2. In what way do these views on the person and work of Jesus Christ, our justification, sanctification, and glorification, affect our faith and praxis in the church and in the world? How does our understanding of the Holy Spirit affect our ministries within the body of Christ, and what dare we hope for?
3. What are some issues addressed in the course which needs further reflection and exploration?

Course Requirements

I. Required Reading

You are expected to read the following books in preparation for each lecture and for the final exam. The reading will not count toward your final grade, however.

Bavinck, Herman. *Our Reasonable Faith*. Portland: Wipf & Stock, 2001.

Dawn, Marva. *A Royal “Waste” of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being Church for the World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. Parts I, II, III, IV, VI.

Ferguson, Sinclair. *The Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1996.

Grenz, Stanley. *The Millennial Maze: Sorting Out Evangelical Options*. Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1992.

Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955.

II. Book Review

The book review counts for 25% of your final grade. Choose one or more books from the required reading list to review. Your review should summarize the basic thrust of the book(s), point out some strengths, and some areas for improvement, and how this ties to a greater appropriation of the goal of theology, which is a more passionate proclamation and living-out of the gospel message of reconciliation. Your paper should be 3-4 pages in length, SINGLE SPACED.

III. Credo

The credo counts for 25% of your final grade. The credo is your own summative theological formulation, a personal confession to begin with, and hopefully the foundation of your theology as reflected on and practiced over the past few years, especially while you've been in theological training at Gordon-Conwell. You can use the Apostles' Creed, or the Athanasian Creed as a model, and be sure to include the following:

- a. Nature of the Triune God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
- b. Your doctrine of the Trinity
- c. Your doctrine of Creation
- d. Your theological anthropology, inclusive of the Fall of humanity, introduction and proliferation of sin, etc.
- e. Your doctrine(s) of grace: Election, nature of faith, Justification, Sanctification, among others
- f. Your ecclesiology
- g. Your eschatology

IV. Final Examination

The final examination counts for 50% of your final grade. The final examination will evaluate your ability to articulate and apply the contours of Christian doctrine covered in the course. It consists of three major essay questions and six shorter essay questions.

IV. Interaction

Purpose

- To enhance distance learning by encouraging and providing a context for students to meet

and interact with other students taking similar courses and with their course instructors as they work through their Semlink materials. Only Semlink students taking a course for credit are required to complete the interactive component of the course. Non-credit students who are taking Semlink classes for personal enrichment are encouraged to contact the Semlink office (see the contact information section below) ifthey want to participate in these discussions.

- 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.
- It is highly recommended that you spread out your completion of the interactivity requirements outlined below over the six months you have to complete the course, rather than attempting to complete them all at once or very near your due date. By spreading out your completion of the requirements, you will be able to benefit fully from your interaction with other students and receive feedback from the course teaching fellow.

Requirements

The interaction requirement for Semlink courses is to be fulfilled in two ways:

- 1) **An online discussion forum:** converse with other students and with instructors.
 - Integration questions will be posted by the team of Semlink teaching fellows. These questions are designed to encourage you to analyze, synthesize, and apply what you are learning in your course in a cross-curricular environment. You will be interacting with other students who are taking this course and related courses.
 - Discussions may be based on current events, culture, literature, case studies, and scripture.
 - You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. For example, if you were taking “The Church to the Reformation,” you would be required to participate in the Church History integration discussions four times during the six months you have to complete the course.
 - You may also submit an integration question for your course to your Semlink teaching fellow (see contact information section below). If your question is selected for use, it may fulfill one of your four required interactions in the discussion forums.
 - 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.
 - Please note that there are many ongoing discussions on the Semlink website. While

you are welcome to participate in any of these discussions, only participation in the discussions listed for your course will be given course credit.

- 2) **Email-based conversation** with a Semlink teaching fellow.
 - Together with the lecturing professor and/or mentoring professor, the Semlink teaching fellows have written a conversation starter, designed to tie together some of the overarching themes raised in the course.
 - The conversation starter will be posted on the Semlink website. You will go to the Semlink website, navigate to your course homepage (see below), and submit your first response to the question via email. The submission will be read and responded to by your Semlink teaching fellow, who will take the conversation further based on your original thoughts and comments.
 - 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 find the website and specific interactivity details for your course:

- 1) Log on to the Semlink website (www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/semlink) and enter the section for “Current Students.”
- 2) Select your course from the menu, and go to the homepage for your course. This page contains links to the specific interactivity requirements for your course and other Semlink resources.
- 3) If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the Semlink office (see the contact information section below) and alternative arrangements will be made.

Please Note: In the case of any differences between the specific interactivity requirements given for this course on the website and the information given in this workbook, the website takes precedence.

Evaluation of Submissions

- You will not be assigned a letter grade for your participation in Semlink interactivity, but completion of your interactivity requirements is required to receive credit for your course. **If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.**
- Your submissions will be evaluated as complete or incomplete based on quality of thought and clarity of expression (see the general guidelines described below and the specific guidelines found on your course home page on the Semlink website).

- In the event of an unacceptable response, you will be informed and given the opportunity to expand or re-submit your thoughts, provided that your final submissions are made before the course due date. Submissions made after the course due date will be subject to penalty.

General Guidelines for Submissions

- Proper grammar and punctuation are required (no webspoken).
- Your response should demonstrate original thought and interaction with the issues being addressed, including a coherent flow of thought or argument. Please answer the questions fully and specifically.

If this requirement is not completed by the date on which your final assignment for the course is submitted to our office, the final assignment will be held and will not be submitted to the professor for grading until the interactivity requirement is complete. Therefore, there will be no final grade given for the course until the interactivity requirement is fulfilled. Once this requirement is completed, the professor will receive and grade the final assignment and you will be given a final grade for the course. If you have not completed all interactivity requirements within ONE MONTH after the end date of the course, you will automatically fail the course with no exceptions.

VI. 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.

Grading

Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

Final examination	50%
Credo	25%
Book review	25%
Required reading	completion required
Interactivity	completion required

Course Outline

Lecture	Topics	Suggested Reading Schedule
1	The covenant of grace as the basis of our redemption	Bavinck: preface, chapters 1–6, 14
2	The necessity of the incarnation of Christ	Bavinck: chapters 7–13
3	The full humanity and deity of Christ	Bavinck: chapters 15–16
4	The significance of Jesus' dual nature and the work of Christ	Bavinck: chapters 17–18
5	The nature, necessity, and wonder of the atonement	Murray: Part I, chapters 1–2
6	The extent of the atonement and other questions on Christology	Murray: Part I, chapters 3–5
7	Union with Christ, election, predestination, and calling	Murray: Part II, chapters 1–3, 9
8	Calling and justification by faith alone	Bavinck: chapters 20–21 Murray: Part II, chapters 4–5
9	Adoption and sanctification	Bavinck: chapter 22 Murray: Part II, chapters 6–7
10	The person and work of the Holy Spirit, part I	Ferguson: chapters 1–4
11	The person and work of the Holy Spirit, part II;	Ferguson: chapters 5–8

Lecture	Topics	Suggested Reading Schedule
12	The gifts of the Spirit; Introduction to ecclesiology	Bavinck: chapters 19, 23 Ferguson: chapters 10–11
13	Ecclesiology continued: the church as alternative society	Dawn: chapters 1–7
14	Ecclesiology continued, worship, and the sacraments	Dawn: chapters 8–17
15	The sacrament of baptism	Dawn: chapters 13–22 Ferguson: chapter 9
16	The Lord's Supper	Dawn: chapters 23–31
17	Eschatology, part I	Bavinck: chapter 24 Murray: Part II, chapters 8, 10 Grenz: preface, chapters 1–2
18	Eschatology, part II	Grenz: chapters 3–8

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I arrange to take my exam?

1. Contact the Semlink office via email (semlink.office@gcts.edu) or phone (978-646-4144 or 1-877-736-5465, toll free). Please allow at least 48 hours to process your exam request as well as additional time for mailing to destination. If you are a student at the Hamilton campus, your exam will be sent to Goddard Library.
3. If you are a student at CUME, Charlotte, or off-campus, you will need to find a proctor and provide proctor contact information when requesting your exam.
 - a. Your proctor should be a church official, an education official, or a librarian. Your proctor cannot be a GCTS student or a family member.
 - b. Your exam will be sent directly to your proctor, so you must provide a mailing address for him or her.
 - c. Your proctor will be responsible for mailing your exam to the Semlink address provided in the contact information section. **Please provide your proctor with an envelope with pre-paid postage for this purpose. The proctor must mail the exam so that it is postmarked by the course due date in order to avoid late penalty. Any work postmarked after the due date will be considered late.**

How do I send in written work?

1. All course work is due by the course due date.
2. Course materials should be sent to the Semlink office address provided in the contact information section.
3. Any course work that is mailed to the Semlink office must be postmarked by your due date to avoid penalty.
4. Please include the address to which you would like your work sent. For Hamilton students, please use your campus box number.

How do I request an extension?

1. For Hamilton, Charlotte, or CUME students, extensions should be requested through your home campus' registration office.
2. For off-campus students, extensions should be requested through the Semlink office.
3. Extension requests must be made in writing and must be submitted on or before the due date of your course. Your extension request should include the unavoidable/avoidable circumstances that have prevented you from completing

your course and the amount of time lost due to those circumstances. You should also state what work you have completed and what is still unfinished. Please state for which course work you are seeking an extension.

4. Off-campus students who have not matriculated onto a campus should submit extension requests with a \$25 processing fee per course.
5. Generally, extension requests based on avoidable circumstances are granted with a grade penalty.
6. Extensions cannot be granted after the due date.
7. You cannot withdraw from a course after receiving an extension.

How do I withdraw from a course?

1. You can withdraw from your course up to the due date.
2. For Hamilton, Charlotte, and CUME students, requests to withdraw must be in writing and are to be submitted to your home campus registration office.
3. For off-campus students, requests to withdraw must be in writing and are to be submitted to the Semlink office.
4. Should you withdraw from the course, the tuition refund policy is as follows:
 - a. 100% up to 15 days, 50% up to 30 days, no refund after 30 days.
 - b. Material cost is non-refundable.
 - c. Courses dropped prior to the 15 day deadline will not appear on your transcript. A “W” (withdrawn) will appear on transcripts for courses dropped after 15 days.

What is the penalty for late work?

All course work submitted to the Semlink office after the due date will be assessed a grade penalty. On-campus students should contact their home campus’ registration office for more information on the specific grade penalty that will be applied. Off-campus students should contact the Semlink office.

When is my course due?

1. Your course due date can be found on the confirmation sheet sent to you separately. We highly recommend that you make this sheet a part of your course materials.
2. Your course is due six months after your start date which is based on the date you registered for the course allowing time for preparation of the course materials by the Semlink office and shipping the materials to you.
3. Graduating seniors should note that during their final semester the due date for Semlink courses will be the due date for course work for seniors.

Contact Information

At Semlink, there are a number of different offices working together as a team in order to care for you as a student. Please read the following descriptions and contact the appropriate office when questions arise.

For Questions About:

Course materials
Administrative issues
Exam requirements
Registration information
Extensions
Due dates

If you're unsure whom to call

Contact:**The Semlink Office**

The Semlink office handles your registration, course materials, and exams. They also handle extensions and other administrative issues. If you are unsure whom to call, the Semlink office will be able to direct you.

Phone: 978-646-4144 or 1-877-736-5465 (toll free)

Fax: 978-646-4565

Email: semlink.office@gcts.edu

Address: Semlink Office

130 Essex Street

S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p. m. Monday-Friday

For Questions About:

Ordering textbooks

Contact:**The Gordon-Conwell BookCentre**

The BookCentre stocks the required textbooks for every course and carries many other books as well.

Phone: 1-888-252-4287 (toll free) or 978-646-4017

Email: books@gcts.edu

Website: www.gordonconwell.edu/bookcentre

For Questions About:

Interactivity requirements

Contact:**The Semlink Teaching Fellows**

The Semlink teaching fellows have been selected for demonstrated proficiency in a particular subject area. The teaching fellows work closely with the mentoring professor to help you to interact at a deeper level with the course content and to provide you with opportunities to interact with other students and instructors in an area related to this course.

Email: semlink.theology@gcts.edu

Website: www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/semlink

For Questions About:

Course content

Suggested supplemental reading

Contact:**The Mentoring Professor**

The mentoring professor grades your course-work, sets the course syllabus, and can answer questions about the course content. Please contact the mentoring professor only with the above type of questions.

Name: Dr. Paul Lim

Email: Paul.Lim@vanderbilt.edu

Address: Dr. Paul Lim

c/o Semlink

130 Essex Street

S. Hamilton, MA 01982

