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Snapshot of Course Requirements

TH607-A requires timely completion of the following five course requirements:

1. Required Reading
2. Confession of Faith (50% of your grade)
3. Final Examination (50% of your grade)
4. Interactivity (required for course grade to be submitted to registration office)
5. Course Checkout/Reading Report (after you have finished all course requirements above, see Interactivity Module)

Course Description and Purpose

Systematic Theology III is the third course in the Systematic Theology sequence of core courses taught in the Gordon-Conwell curriculum. In this course, attention is given to the doctrines of salvation, the Holy Spirit, the church, sacraments and eschatology. The purpose of the course is to explore the biblical foundations of these doctrines, to understand them in the context of their historical development, and to understand their implications for the life of the Christian believer as well as for the contemporary problems of church and society.

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete the assigned reading from the required texts listed below. In addition, students must prepare a personal confession of faith, roughly 5-10 pages in length (double spaced, 3000-word limit). The last requirement consists of taking a final exam. See "Frequently Asked Questions" on page xi for information on scheduling your exam.

I. Required Texts

Each student is required to read five texts for this course. You need to read at least one text from each of the five sections listed below. You have several choices in each section, but in total you should read at least one text from each of the sections below:

Section One: The Doctrine of Salvation


Section Two: The Holy Spirit
Section Three: The Church


Section Four: Eschatology


Section Five: Your Tradition

You are to read a systematic theology text (preferably from your own theological or church tradition). You need only read the sections of this text that pertain to our course: The doctrine of salvation, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Eschatology.

II. Confession of Faith

The confession shall be 5-10 pages in length (double spaced, 3000-word limit). It shall cover the broad range of topics which have been discussed in Systematic Theology I, II, and III (see below). The emphasis in the confession should be on clarity and brevity. It is vital that you attempt to spell out your position as clearly as possible. This is not to be a defense of your beliefs; rather, it is to be a statement of your beliefs, and it is to be primarily in your own words. You may cite biblical texts where appropriate but remember that you are not being asked for a defense (biblical or otherwise) in this statement.

Range of topics to be covered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Background and tradition through which you understand your faith</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctrine of Scripture</td>
<td>Revelation&lt;br&gt;Inspiration&lt;br&gt;Canon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctrine of God</td>
<td>Attributes&lt;br&gt;Trinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation</td>
<td>Purpose of creation&lt;br&gt;Theology of creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Creation of man/woman&lt;br&gt;The fall&lt;br&gt;Original Sin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Person and Work of Christ</td>
<td>Person of Christ (two natures)&lt;br&gt;The mission of Christ&lt;br&gt;The atonement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation</td>
<td>Regeneration&lt;br&gt;Justification/sanctification&lt;br&gt;Perseverance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Person/Work of the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>The personhood of the Spirit&lt;br&gt;The fruit/gifts of the Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Church</td>
<td>The nature of the Church&lt;br&gt;Church government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sacraments</td>
<td>Baptism&lt;br&gt;The Lord’s Supper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eschatology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Note: This confession should be seen as an exercise to help clarify your own confessional stance vis-à-vis your denomination, your mission agency, etc. Please use whatever specific format would be most helpful in your ministry in the church at present or in the future. There may be a topic (or topics) that needs to be covered in greater depth than others or a topic that requires attention in your specific context but that is not specifically mentioned in the above list. Please include these. Arrange your confession of faith so that it will best suit your needs in the context of the church body of which you are a part or will most likely become a part.
III. Final Examination

You will have three hours to complete the final exam and will be asked to answer three (3) essay questions out of six (6) provided. Sample final exam instructions and questions can be found under "Resources." Please attempt to be clear and concise in answering each essay question. Bibles are the only notes permitted during the exam. You may have a concordance but not a study Bible, and you should cite biblical material and also material from the required reading where appropriate. You should spend approximately one hour on each question, since the allotted time to complete the exam is three hours. If English is not your first language, you may take one additional hour to complete the exam. Each of the essays will count as 1/3 of the final exam score.

There are two ways you may take an exam for this course:

1. **Electronically** (preferred method): To take an exam electronically, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools).
   - Select the exam you plan to take. You must provide proctor information (including your proctor's email address) to the Semlink office prior to taking your exam. You cannot login to and/or take an exam without a proctor present.
   - Before taking your exam, your proctor will review important information with you and will then log you into the exam when you are ready to begin. Your proctor must remain present throughout the duration of the exam. You may use your own computer (e.g. a laptop) or a computer provided by your proctor.
   - Ensure you have a reliable internet connection.

2. **Paper-based Exam**: To take your exam by paper, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools). Select the exam you plan to take (it will include "paper exam" in the title).
   - The exam will be available in PDF format. You will need to provide proctor information in order to access your exam (including your proctor's email address).
   - Your proctor will need to print your exam.
   - When you have completed your exam, your proctor may either 1) scan and upload your exam to Sakai, 2) email a scanned copy to the Semlink office; 3) mail to the address provided.

If you plan to take an exam in one of the **GCTS libraries**, you do not need to request your exam through the Semlink office. You may take the exam any time provided the library is open and able to accommodate your request. Library computers can be used to take the exam, but are limited and not always available at all times of day. Use of your own laptop computer is highly recommended. Check with the library also for special summer and holiday hours, or other changes to their schedule that may affect your ability to take your exam. Boston/CUME, Charlotte, and Jacksonville students may need to contact the library to set up a time to take an exam.

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Submitting Assignments

Assignments can be submitted electronically through the Drop Box tool in Sakai. On the left menu, under "Project Tools," select "Drop Box." To add a file, click “Add” and upload from there.

Some guidelines for this process:

- Paper submissions should be in either .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
- Submitting your work through drop box is considered a formal (and final) submission. Nothing further will be needed on your part.
- All submissions are time/date stamped and will be retrieved by the Semlink office and routed to your professor for grading.
- Assignments may be returned to you electronically, in most cases through your Sakai drop box or via email. If your assignment was graded by hand, it will be scanned and delivered to you as a PDF file.
- Remember to use a full heading, including your name, professor, course, and date.

Please let the Semlink office know if you have any further questions about electronic submission. semlink@gordonconwell.edu or 978-646-4144.

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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:

**List**
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.**

**Grading**

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

- **Personal Confession of Faith** 50%
- **Final Exam** 50%
- **Interaction** Completion Required

The reading requirement tips the scale (up or down) if the final grade is borderline.

**Course Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Suggested Reading</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nature of Theology</td>
<td>Salvation Holy Spirit Church Eschatology Your Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Murray, pp. 9-78 or Wright, Preface - ch. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Regeneration and Repentance</td>
<td>Murray, pp. 79-140 or Wright, chs. 3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sanctification and the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Murray, pp. 141-181 or Wright, ch. 6 - Conclusion Grudem, chs. 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Work of the Holy Spirit; Gifts of the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Grudem, chs. 5-9 or Gaffin, chs. 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gifts of the Holy Spirit (continued)</td>
<td>Grudem, chs. 10-14 or Gaffin, chs. 4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gifts of the Holy Spirit (cont); Nature of the Church</td>
<td>Clowney, chs. 1-5 or Karkkainen, Introduction and Part I Beale, chs. 1-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nature of the Church (cont); Unity of the Church</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Unity of the Church (cont)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sacraments of the Church</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sacraments of the Church (cont); Eschatology</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>