DE 5530 | THE THEOLOGY OF JONATHAN EDWARDS

3 sem. hrs.

I. Course Description

This course examines the theology of Jonathan Edwards in detail. Taking a topical approach, the course covers Edwards's teachings regarding all the major points of Systematic Theology with particular emphasis on Edwards's unique theological contributions.

II. Course Objectives

A. To familiarize the student with the life and ministry of Jonathan Edwards.

B. To acquaint the student with some of the primary debates among historians regarding the teachings of Edwards.

C. To explore with the student the details of Edwards's teachings on the major points of Systematic Theology.

D. To lead the student to an appreciation of Edwards's unique contribution to the Church of Jesus Christ.

E. To bring the student to see and embrace the beauty and glory of the God whom Edwards loved.

III. Course Materials

A. Required


The following required materials are included on the CD-Rom from the Institute of Theological Studies (ChristianCourses.com):


B. Recommended Reading


**C. Collateral Reading**


Hopkins, Samuel. The Life and Character of the Late Reverend Mr. Jonathan Edwards, President of the College of New Jersey. Boston: S. Kneeland, 1765.


**IV. Course Requirements**

A. The student must listen carefully to all of the 24 audio lectures by Dr. John H. Gerstner.
B. The student must complete all of the required readings. **NOTE:** The student should complete the readings assigned in conjunction with a particular lecture before listening to that lecture.

C. The student must complete at least 250 pages of reading outside of the assigned required reading. These can be taken from the Bibliography under Collateral Reading or Recommended Reading. The student must report on a separate sheet indicating title of the book, author, publisher, date of publication, and pages read.

D. The student must turn in written answers to the questions in this Programmed Syllabus. This should be done in typewritten form. He/she should also make careful use of the Study Guide prepared by Richard Case but need not submit written responses unless specified to do so in the syllabus.

E. The student is required to participate in the online discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

F. Research Paper. The student must complete a written project. This project may be either a traditional research paper or a direct application of Edwards's teachings to a specific, practical ministry situation. The paper must be a least twenty pages in length, it must be typed and double-spaced, and it must contain appropriate bibliographical notations.

1. Example of the former would be: (a) "Edwards's Understanding of the Role of Good Works in Justification," (b) "Edwards's Interpretation of the Nature of the Lord's Supper," (c) "Edwards on Free Will," or (d) "The Relations Among Reason, Passion, and Affection in Edwardsean Psychology."

2. Examples of the latter would be: (a) an analysis of how individuals are examined for membership in a local church and an evaluation of those procedures according to Edwards's *Treatise on Religious Affections*; (b) Edward's views on revival as compared to various contemporary teachings on the subject; (c) the relevance of Edward's epistemological assumptions in a postmodern age; (d) an analysis of how some-one who is inquiring about becoming a Christian should be counseled according to the teachings of Edwards.

3. In either of the above written projects, the student's paper must be typed following is to within the guidelines of the *TIU Style and Format Guide* which can be found in the DE Resources area of TriNet or on Trinity's Library website.

G. The student will be required to take a three-hour closed book final examination.
V. Grading System

A. Final Examination 35%
B. Written Project 40%
C. Written Answers to all questions 20%
D. TriNet Discussion Questions 5%

NOTE: The student must turn in, with his written project, a sheet of paper on which is written a pledge that all the required readings and 250 pages of recommended and collateral readings have been completed. Failure to turn in such a statement will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter.

All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the icon within your TriNet course labeled with your course tutor’s name. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).