Course Syllabus

Course Description: This course begins with the study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Focus then shifts to the doctrine of the church. Topics include the nature, mission, function, organization, and ordinances of the church, the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in ministry, and the relation of Israel to the church. The course concludes with a treatment of the Last Things in relation to individuals (including the intermediate state and the resurrection of the body) and in relation to the following corporate groups: the church, Israel, and the nations. This course meets one ST General Comprehensive requirement for MA students. Auditors are not permitted in General Comp courses unless they have taken previous undergraduate course work in the subject or are not intending to complete the MA program.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Continue to develop the ability to think, interact, and respond in the area of systematic theology begun in the earlier courses in this department.

2. Engage the doctrine of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The lectures and readings are designed to facilitate both a growing knowledge of these doctrines, and a growing desire to be yielded to the Holy Spirit.

3. Come to a clearer understanding of the nature of the church, its inception, its role in the plan of God, and its internal organization. The intent here is that believers would act on such understanding through personal and ministerial strategizing in line with what the Church is and what the Church should be doing.

4. More effectively study the relevant passages in Scripture in order to reflect upon some important topics in eschatology. The goal is not only to indulge in theological reflection, but also to examine and evaluate how believers should think and minister in light of the biblical and systematic treatments on these topics.
Course Texts:

Required Texts:

Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church.* Crossway (978-1-58134-661-9)


Helpful Texts: (See the last sheet in this syllabus)

Course Requirements:

1. **Reading**—All the assigned reading must be done by the **time of your last paper (December 21, 2015).** You will have an opportunity to report your percentage of finished reading when you send in your last paper. Failure to complete the reading will affect your grade as follows:

   1-50 pages unread: reduction of final grade by 1/3 (eg. A- to B).
   Over 100 pages unread: reduction of final grade by a **whole** grade.

2. **Mid-term and Final Exams**—The **midterm** will be given **Friday, November 6**. It will cover material in lecture up to a point that your instructor will designate. Generally, the reading material will not be a required part of the test, unless I incorporate material from the readings in the lectures. **The same can be said for the final.**

   The **Final Exam** will be a take home exam. I will give it out on the last day of class **(Saturday, December 5).** The exam must be completed and postmarked by **Monday, December 14.** It will be **non-cumulative.** My address:

   Bruce L. Fields
   Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
   2065 Half Day Road
   Deerfield, IL 60015
   (bfields@tiu.edu)
3. An interactive paper on Two Views on Women in Ministry. It should be 4-5 pages in length on 8 1/2 x 11 paper. The paper should be typed and double spaced in 12 font. *It is due Saturday, December 5.

**Note:** The first two pages should be a summary what you see as unique aspects of the thought of each presenter. The remaining pages should discuss your personal convictions on the matter of women in ministry and the primary reasons why you have the conviction that you do.

4. **Second Paper Options:**

   - A paper, 4-5 pages long, defending **either** a particular tribulational view, **or** a particular millennial view. It should be typed, double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11" paper in 12 font. The paper and the reading report are due **Monday, December 21** (Must be postmarked by this date).

   - A paper on your understanding of the relationship between the Church and the State (Government). You will attempt a biblical/theological case for your view. **Use whatever resources you find helpful.**

     The length, typing characteristics, and **due date** are the same as noted above.

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**Course Outline, Scripture References and Readings:**

**1A. The Holy Spirit**

1B. The Person of the Holy Spirit  
   Biblical Text: John 14:16-18  
   Reading: Cole, *He Who Gives Life*, pp. 23-91

2B. The Work of the Holy Spirit  
   Biblical Text: John 14:26; 16:5-15  
   Reading: Cole, *He Who Gives Life*, pp. 95-284
The Church and Last Things

Introduction:

A. The Relationship between Ecclesiology and Eschatology

B. Some implications of this Relationship

2A. **Ecclesiology (The Biblical Study of the Church)**

   Introductory Statements and Issues

   1B. The Nature of the Church (1 Tim. 3:15; John 10:14-16; I Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 5:23).

      **Reading:** Allison, pp. 27-59; 103-157

   2B. The Inception of the Church (Acts 2; Eph. 1)

      **Reading:** Allison, pp. 61-100

   3B. The Church in the Plan of God (Romans 11; Eph. 1:6, 14; I Pet. 1:10-12).

      **Reading:** Allison, pp. 161-201

   4B. The Organization of the Church (The Pastoral Epistles).

      **Reading:** Allison, pp. 205-471

3A. **Eschatology (The Biblical Study of Things related to the Future)**

   Introductory Statements and Issues

   1B. The Hermeneutics of Eschatology

   2B. Individual Eschatology (I Cor. 15)

   3B. General Eschatology

      **Reading:** Bock; pp. 277-309

   1C. The Second Coming (Mt. 26:64; Acts 1:10-11; 2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 19:11-21).
2C. Millennialism (Rev. 20:4-6)

Reading: Bock; pp. 13-276

3C. The Rapture Problem (Mt. 24-25; Dan. 9:27; I Thes. 4:13-18)

Reading: The Rapture. Archer, Feinberg, Moo. (All)

4C. The Closing Events (Rev. 20-22)

Assignment Worths:

Midterm - 80 pts.
Papers 30 pts. (each)
Final Exam 120 pts.

Total: 260 pts.

Determination of Final Grades:

100% - 92% = A
91% - 90% = A-
89% - 88% = B+
87% - 82% = B
81% - 80% = B-
Helpful Texts:

1A. Holy Spirit

Thiselton, Anthony C. The Holy Spirit in Biblical Teaching, through the Centuries and Today. Eerdmans

2A. Ecclesiology

Bridge, Donald and Phypers, David. The Water that Divides. IVP.
Clouse, Robert and Bonnidel. Women in Ministry. IVP
Clowney, Edmund, P. The Church. IVP
Radmacher, Earl. The Nature of the Church.
Volf, Miroslav. After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity. Eerdmans

3A. Eschatology

Clouse, Robert G. Ed. The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views. IVP.
Grenz, Stanley J. The Millennial Maze. IVP
Hoekema, Anthony, The Bible and the Future. Eerdmans
Ladd, George E. Crucial Questions About the Kingdom of God. Eerdmans.
McClain, Alva J. The Greatness of the Kingdom. BMH Books.