Christian Doctrine II
TH 412
Spring 2011: Tuesday, 2:00-5:00 pm, Mt. Olive Room
Professor: David Erickson
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Course Description

This course is a continuation of Christian Doctrine I. Fields of examination include Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. Emphasis is given to acquiring an understanding of God’s redemptive purposes as revealed in the Bible.

Course Purpose

Knowledge of the teachings of Scripture is essential for those involved in Christian ministry and is beneficial to the spiritual growth of any believer. Utilizing the text of Scripture, the teaching of men about the Scriptures, and human reason, this course will help you gain theological understanding on a more advanced level and the ability to further your theological knowledge.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course the student should:

1) Objective: Demonstrate a general knowledge of the topics covered in Christian Doctrine II (Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology and eschatology).
   Acquisition: The student will complete weekly reading assignments and participate in weekly class discussions and lectures.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation, the writing of reflection papers, and questions on the exams.

2) Objective: Comprehend Baptist ecclesiology, understand its importance, and distinguish between the ecclesiology of Baptists and Evangelicals.
   Acquisition: The student will attend lectures, complete weekly reading assignments, and read Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation and the completion of a critical book review that successfully meets the criteria in the grading rubric.

3) Objective: Engage in personal theological reflection that leads to the personal appropriation and rejection of various theological doctrines.
   Acquisition: The student will complete weekly reading assignments and participate in weekly class discussions and lectures.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by the completion of a personal statement of faith.

Course Texts


Most textbooks for Seminary classes are available for purchase at Marie’s Christian Book & Gift Center, 597 S. Ragsdale, Jacksonville.

**Course Requirements**

1. **Exams**
   There will be two (2) exams, a mid-term and a final. Exams will test the student’s comprehension of the assigned readings, class discussions, and lectures. Taking good notes will be critical to success on the exams. The mid-term is worth 20% and the final is worth 15% of the overall grade for the course. The final is not comprehensive.

2. **Book Review**
   On April 5 submit a book review on *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches.* A book review is five (5) pages, double-spaced, and includes: a brief introduction, possibly with biographical information on the author (1 page or less), a summary of the book’s contents (3 pages), critical reflection on the book (1 pages), and a brief conclusion (1 paragraph). A book review should include full bibliographic information for the book under review at the top of the first page. Quotations from or references to the book being reviewed should be noted with parenthetical page citations. See the sample book review in the Syllabi section of the website for additional guidance. The book review will be graded according to the rubric attached to this syllabus. The book review is worth 20% of the final grade.

3. **Statement of Faith**
   By the end of the course prepare a personal statement of faith covering Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. This statement should be the result of your personal theological reflection and must be presented in a series of affirmations. If you have not reached a conclusion on a minor doctrinal point you may omit it or you may affirm both sides of your currently unresolved antinomy. Every affirmation must be supported by relevant Scripture(s) and you may not reference or quote any source besides Scripture. The statement of faith must be at least two single-spaced pages. For examples of statements of faith you are encouraged to consult the First London Confession of Faith (1644), the Somerset Confession (1656), the Second London Confession of Faith (1677), the Orthodox Creed (1678), the New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833), the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association (1905), the Doctrinal Statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (1983), and the Baptist Faith and Message (2000). These are available online or in William Lumpkin, *Baptist Confessions of Faith.*
   When crafting a statement of faith, precision is vitally important. Be sure you say exactly what you mean. The best way to do this is to work on this assignment periodically during the semester and then refine it as the deadline approaches. To encourage this a rough draft of relevant sections must be submitted on the dates indicated on the schedule. An electronic copy of the final draft of your personal statement of faith must be emailed to
the professor by midnight on May 10. This is a pass/fail capstone assignment. Students who do not submit a statement of faith that meets the stated requirements will not pass the course.

4. **Reflection Papers**

Every week (excepting exam days) bring to class a one (1) page single-spaced reflection paper from the week’s reading. A reflection paper should include the following: a summation of the main points in the weekly reading (simply reproducing the headings from the chapter is not acceptable), a reaction to or reflection on the reading, and two or three questions about the reading. The reading reflections may be in the form of paragraphs, an outline, or bullet points. Reflection papers must be written in proper English. These papers are worth 10% of the final grade. The lowest scoring paper will be dropped in the calculation of your final grade.

5. **Recitation**

Every student should come to class prepared to intelligently discuss the assigned reading. Class discussion forms a critical part of the learning experience and good discussion can only occur when both the students and professor prepare for it. You are expected to be able to summarize and discuss the main ideas from the reading, as well as to interpret relevant Scripture passages. Students may “pass” on class discussion one time without penalty. Unexcused absences automatically count as a “pass.”

**Course Grades**

- Mid-Term Exam 20%
- Final Exam 15%
- Book Review 20%
- Statement of Faith 25%
- Reflection Papers 10%
- Recitation 10%

The seminary’s standardized grading scale will be followed in assigning final grades:

- A  91-100%
- B  81-90%
- C  71-80%
- D  61-70%
- F  0-61%

**Course Policies**

1. **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend every class session. **More than one unexcused absence will result in grade reduction.** Under certain circumstances, such as the severe illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member or your own illness, injury, or death, every effort will be made to accommodate you, provided you contact the professor to explain your situation. Additionally, it is recognized that many of you are engaged in professional Christian ministry, which will sometimes intrude on your academic life. The professor will try to accommodate the needs of your people as you attempt to balance the requirements of ministry and study.

Personal electronic devices (computers, cell phones) may be used in class for taking notes only. Using the internet, texting, or taking phone calls during class is strictly prohibited.
unless given explicit permission to do so. A violation of this rule may result in expulsion from class or the prohibition of electronic devices in the classroom.

2. **Deadlines**
   You are expected to adhere to all deadlines without fail. **Late work is automatically worth zero points.** You have been informed of the various due dates well in advance and are expected to meet them regardless of personal impediments that may arise immediately before something is due. Deadlines are a fact of life. You can choose to plan ahead so that you meet them, or you can be content with the mediocrity of last-minute work. Either way, you still have to be on time.

3. **Grammar and Style**
   Major papers and book reviews are expected to employ proper English grammar and must conform to the standards in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (on issues that Turabian does not address, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed.). **Papers that have more than three grammatical errors or more than two style errors will be returned to the student for correction.** The student must then resubmit a grammatically sound and stylistically proper paper. The grade of the paper will be reduced 10 percentage points every day after their paper has been returned until an adequate paper is produced. Students are encouraged to consult with the professor before submitting their paper to ensure that it will not be returned.

4. **Academic Integrity**
   The sanctity of truth is central to those who believe in a God who cannot lie and who forbids false witness. Academic honesty is the application in the academic world of the sanctity of truth. A student who submits work as part of the requirements for a course thereby asserts that the student personally has done that work and that it has not been submitted for credit in any other course without permission. Unless credit is explicitly given to sources, the student is asserting that the words and/or the thoughts are the student's own original work. Academic dishonesty is falling short of these standards. It includes, but is not limited to: cheating, submitting work which was prepared by another person, not giving credit on papers to sources, and submitting without approval work originally prepared by the student for another course.

5. **Special Needs**
   Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the professor at the beginning of the course in order for special arrangements to be considered.

6. **Syllabus Disclaimer**
   During the course of the term the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary. All such modifications will occur during a regularly scheduled class meeting.
TH 412 Schedule
Spring 2011

January 25  Introduction

February 1  The Person of Christ, Akin 480-520, 535-544
February 8  The Work of Christ, Akin 545-572, 580-602
February 15 The Person of the Holy Spirit, Akin 604-626

March 1  Salvation, Akin 686-705
Due: Rough draft of personal statement of faith (Christology, pneumatology)
March 8  Salvation, Akin 705-745
March 15 Salvation, Akin 745-764
March 22 Mid-Term Exam
March 19 Ecclesiology, Akin 766-816, 838-856
Due: Rough draft of personal statement of faith (soteriology)
April 5  Ecclesiology
Due: Book Review of Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches
April 12 Spring Break
April 19 Eschatology, Akin 858-892
April 26 Eschatology, Akin 892-934
May 3  Final Exam
Due: Rough draft of personal statement of faith (ecclesiology, eschatology)
May 10 Submit Personal Statement of Faith