

BRS 231-01 CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
Spring 2008

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Syllabus Revised: 1.7.2007	Email: jmoore@tiu.edu
View the class web page through Moodle, using the password brs231.	For an appointment call Joanna at x8042

Course Description

A study of the major doctrines of Christianity as taught in the Bible, with some emphasis on the development of doctrines in the history of the church and the various options held by the Christian community. Credit 3 hrs. *Catalog*.

Course Objectives

The course will enable students to:

- identify the major doctrines of the Christian faith
- explain major biblical passages relevant to various doctrines
- recognize the points of view of major Christian thinkers in the history of the church
- state major developments, options, and views held by the Christian community
- live their Christian faith

Course Texts

Required:

Bible, any version though *Today's New International Version* or the *New Living Translation* is preferred. The *TNIV Life Application Bible* or *TNIV Study Bible*, or a similar study Bible would be helpful.

McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics* 2nd edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008. ISBN 9781405167543. Please obtain the second edition! A well written introduction to theology. You will enjoy this read. Note particularly the glossary and dictionary of theologians in the back of this volume (188-205). (Pages 144-164 may be read for extra credit.)

McKnight, Scot. *Embracing Grace: A Gospel for All of Us*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete, 2005. ISBN: 1557254532. A superb, easily readable, overview of the biblical message of the gospel for all of us! Written by a former TEDS professor, who is now on faculty at North Park. (The entire book will be read.)

Oswalt, John. *Called to Be Holy: A Biblical Perspective*. Nappanee, IN: Evangel Publishing House, 1999. ISBN 0916035921. This volume focuses upon Christian living, and how to live a transformed life that pleases God. It is written by a former TEDS professor. (Pages 65-95 may be read for extra credit.)

Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1980. ISBN: 0802811981. Reading in entirety required. (The entire book will be read.)

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995. ISBN: 0802842186. The "best" book on sin available. Written by a Calvin Theological Seminary professor. (Pages 96-120 will be read for extra credit.)

Suggested:

Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.

Helpful for a clearer understanding of Calvinism:

Mouw, Richard J. *Calvinism in the Las Vegas Airport: Making Connections in Today's World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. ISBN 0310231973.

Peterson, Robert A., and Michael D. Williams. *Why I Am Not an Arminian..* Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 2004. ISBN 0830832483.

Helpful for a clearer understanding of Wesleyan-Arminianism:

Walls, Jerry L., and Joseph R. Dongell. *Why I Am Not a Calvinist*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 2004. ISBN 0830832491.

Wynkoop, Mildred Bangs. *Foundations of Wesleyan-Arminian Theology*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill, 1972. 0834102544.

Strongly Recommended – familiarity with one of the following:

**Hacker, Diana. *The Pocket Style Manual*. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford Books, 2003.

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. Longman, 2000.

Williams, Joseph M. *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*. Reprint ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well*. 15th anniversary ed. HarperResource, 2001.

or a similar volume on style and writing

Additional Course Materials

Additional required course materials are found on the University Intranet course Moodle web page.. Ability to use computers, including the Internet, is expected in this course. Testing will be online via Moodle, so do familiarize yourself with Moodle testing before the test date.

Course Format, Outline, and Bibliography

The class sessions will generally be conducted in lecture-type style, due primarily to the size of the class. However, comments and questions are expected and will serve to both demonstrate the student's preparedness and clarify the subject matter at hand for the entire class. Some alternative class formats may be used.

The course sessions will follow a general course outline distributed early in the course. While the intent is to generally follow the outline, the instructor welcomes specific suggestions for refinement from participants early in the course.

Early in the course the instructor will make available on the web page a bibliography reflecting a breadth of Christian theological compendiums, many of which have been consulted for the development of the course, or may be referred to as the course progresses.

Course Expectations

1. **Attendance** – Classroom lectures, and discussions are all part of the learning experience--many cannot be "made up" when one is absent. In the case of absences, students are expected to submit assignments on time, obtain notes from classmates, and are responsible for the content, handouts, and assignments of the missed class session.

Attendance will be marked regularly. Absences for *any* reason exceeding three class sessions will influence the final course grade (approximately a 2% final grade reduction for *each* absence beyond three). These three absences should be reserved for such events as adding the course late, University events such as sports, and other outings, or student sickness or emergencies (thus, there is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences). Seven or more absences will result in automatic failure of the course. Tardiness or the need to leave class early of more than five minutes is considered an absence.

2. **Participation** – Participation includes attendance, reading and other preparation, engagement in class sessions, class comments, and discussion participation. In cases where participation is strong, all benefits will be given in the calculation of the final course grade.

3. **Course Reading** – The required text reading for each session is noted at the end of the syllabus. Reading should be completed carefully for comprehension and understanding. Readers should especially note key names, terms, and phrases in the text. None-required optional reading may be completed for extra credit toward the final course grade, and is generally an extension of a class topic.

Reading reports will be submitted three times during the semester. See details below.

4. **Assignments** – Course assignments are due at the time stated, and will be collected at the beginning of the class period. The instructor will not beg or badger students for papers - timely submission is your responsibility. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade (-10%) per calendar day when submitted after the class period due. Late assignments in excess of three calendar days will receive one-half the normal credit. No assignments will be accepted past the announced date at the end of the semester (Tuesday April 29). Plan ahead and avoid last minute surprises.

Written Assignments One major writing assignment in three parts, with the possibility of other announced smaller assignments, will be given throughout the semester. Written assignments should be typed and follow an acceptable writing style manual including complete sentences, paragraphs, double-spaced, neatness, proper spelling and punctuation, appropriate citations, etc. These components will be a portion of the written assignment grade and generally count as approximately 1/3 of the written assignment grade.

"I Believe" Paper

The "I Believe" paper is in three parts:

Part 1: is due Tuesday January 29 and is to be a first draft outline which is a personal statement of your present beliefs on each of the following topics: knowing God, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, creation, humanity, sin, salvation, Christian living, the church, and end times. Each topical section should be clearly identified separately and be followed by approximately *five* bulleted statements (8-12 words) reflecting your present beliefs on each topic. Your statements will not be exhaustive, nor do they need to represent significant research in an attempt to "get it right." You may use your Bible, referencing as appropriate for Part 1; however, other outside resources should not be consulted. Grading will be on the basis of completeness and clarity, in addition to presentation. Further details will be explained in class. This first draft outline will serve to inform Parts 2 and 3 below. *Retain a copy of this paper before you submit it as it will be kept by the instructor until near the end of the semester.*

Part 2: is due on Tuesday April 29 and is to be a final redraft of your paper. This paper should be completed by revisiting each of the assigned topics, redrafting and refining them with 7-12 bulleted points followed by a one or two sentence explanation of each point (dedicated to each of the eleven topics). It is expected that Part 2 of your paper will incorporate insights learned during the semester from readings, class presentations, and discussions. Participants are encouraged to draft each section of this paper as the semester progresses, making revisions and refinements on Part 1 as each respective topic is covered in the reading and in class, thus enabling the final paper to be completed as the due date nears. Text reading and reflection will inform topics not yet covered in the final week of the course. Grading will be on the basis of completeness, clarity, and evidence of growth in understanding, in addition to presentation. Participants desiring their paper returned must include their campus box number, and/or a SASE.

Part 3: is due on Tuesday April 29 and is to be submitted with Part 2. Part 3 is a required 2-3 full page personal reflection paper describing how your understanding of Christian doctrine has developed during the semester. What have you learned? How has your thinking been refined? What changes have occurred? What weaknesses do you recognize that need further development? What areas do you wish to read further?

5. **Exams** – Three exams will be given during the course of the semester on the announced dates (two in lieu of the

regular class period, the third in lieu of the exam period in finals week). The exams will be on the topics covered to date as announced in class, readings, handouts, and class sessions. The exam format will be both objective and essay. Exams will be given online using Moodle.

All participants are required to take Exams 1 and 2 on the announced dates. Participants maintaining a 90% (A-) or better average on the first two exams (objective sections only) are automatically exempt from the third exam, or may take the third exam and drop the lowest of the three exams for their final exam grade.

Exam #1 will include an essay question related to Thielicke's volume.

Exam #2 will include an essay question TBD.

Exam #3 may include essay questions as announced.

Participants are advised to prepare for each exam by giving careful attention to the vocabulary and concepts present on the course outline, used in class, and in the handouts and texts including key words, phrases, names, lists, etc. including relevant Bible passages and "great quotes."

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities *may* be given on occasion. Participants with evident high participation levels in the course experience can expect all benefits to be given. Additional non-required reading in the course texts as indicated on the reading report will also count toward extra credit. Other opportunities may be present, or suggestions will also be received by the instructor. Extra credit may result in up to a 5% increase in the final course grade at the discretion of the instructor.

The following are some additional opportunities for extra credit as cited in books on the course bibliography. Each extra credit reading should be reported on your regularly submitted reading report when completed, unless indicated otherwise.

(1) Read Calvin, *Institutes*, Book III, Chapter VI "The Life of the Christian" and Chapter VII "The Sum of the Christian Life," pp. 689-701. Don't become bogged-down in reading this selection.

(2) Read Calvin, *Institutes*, Book III, Chapter XIV "The Beginning of Justification," pp. 768-788. Don't become bogged-down in reading this selection.

(3) Read Wesley, *Works* (14 vol), Volume V, Sermon XVIII "The Marks of the New Birth" pp. 212-223, and Volume VI, Sermon XLV "The New Birth" pp. 65-77. Don't become bogged-down in reading this selection.

(4) Read Wesley, *Works* (14 vol), Volume XI, "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection," pp. 366-446. Don't become bogged-down in reading this selection.

(5) Read *Ancient Christian Commentary: Romans*, Romans 7-8, pp. 174-243. Don't become bogged-down in reading this rather lengthy selection.

(6) Select and read carefully six short essays (all in the same chapter) of McGrath, *The Christian Reader*. Identify which essays you read when reported. This item may be repeated up to three times selecting from different chapters of McGrath.

(7) Select *one* of the following volumes which *least* represents your perspective (if a Calvinist choose *Why I Am Not a Calvinist*; if an Arminian choose *Why I Am Not an Arminian*). Select and read approximately 50 pages. What is there about the emphases of the viewpoint opposite yours that is important to acknowledge? Submit a 1-2 page reflection paper on your reading. This extra credit counts for double points.

(8) Select and read approximately 50 pages (skim reading) from *one* (additional volumes may be selected for additional credit) of the following volumes noted on the bibliography. Submit a 1-2 page reflection paper on your reading. This extra credit counts for double points.

Aulen, *Christus Victor*.
 McGrath, *Doubting*.
 Oden, *Justification Reader*.
 Torrance, *Worship*.

Wolterstorff, *Lament*.

(9) Select one of the following video/CD-ROMs and view it with at least two other individuals in the class. Spend a minimum of 30 minutes *after* the video discussing it, and making at least 8-10 bulleted observations/reactions (one page) to the video as a group. Submit your typed observations (one submission with all group member's names) to the instructor.

Luther. 2003 (The theater movie from 2003, *not an older version*.) Available in the library on reserve.

The Radicals. Date? A movie on the Anabaptists. Available in the library on reserve.

Incident Weather or Instructor Emergency

In the event of either, participants should progress with their reading and course preparation in the case of the first emergency absence. If a second instructor absence or more are required, participants should check the BRS 231 Moodle web page for possible additional assignments due.

Final Course Grades

Final course grades are final and not subject to revision unless a mechanical error has occurred. Final grades are not changed "after the fact" or because a participant "didn't think my grade could be that low." Participants will receive the grade they earn with A's and F's given as appropriate. Be aware that regular faithful preparation in this course is necessary from the beginning - the course is not designed so you may "pull your grade out at the end." The instructor is available to discuss a participant's grade and class performance at any time.

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Participation – 15%

Course Reading – 15%

"I Believe" Paper – 35%

Three (or two) Exams – 35%

Attendance Adjustment – as needed approximately 2% off for *each* absence beyond three

Grading Scale

Grades will be calculated using the following grading scale.

100 = A+

93-99 = A

90-92 = A-

88-89 = B+

83-87 = B

80-82 = B-

78-79 = C+

73-77 = C

70-72 = C-

68-69 = D+

63-67 = D

< 63 = F

Course Outline for BRS 231 Christian Doctrine

The following is the general course outline for BRS 231 with the anticipated number of sessions devoted to each major topic section. It is not met to be exhaustive or comprehensive, nor will it serve to arbitrarily dictate our course progression, but it will give participants an idea of the course content and direction. If you have specific suggestions of additional topics you wish to cover, please contact the instructor early in the course.

Key Ideas and Terms (partial listing)

Course Introduction (2)	The new creation
Syllabus	
Texts	The Doctrine of Sin (3)
Bibliography	Harmartiology
Ethos of the class – how can we learn together about God and His ways?	Definition of sin
Scriptures and devotionals	The origin of sin
	The consequences of sin
First Things (2)	The Doctrine of Salvation (3)
Prolegomena	Soteriology
Definitions	Atonement: propitiation, expiation
Types of theology	Aspects of salvation
Limits of theology	Grace: prevenient, common
Limits of this course	Faith
How do we approach doctrine	Effectual calling and election
Theology in the church must unite, not divide	Justification: imputation, impartation
	Confession
The Mystery of God Revealed (2)	Repentance/conversion
Revelation	Regeneration/new birth
Mystery	Perseverance
General	Eternal security
Special	<i>Ordus salutis</i>
Progressive	
The Bible: inerrancy, infallibility, inspiration, authority, apocryphal literature	Christian Living (2)
	Sanctification
	Works
	Christian perfection
	Fruit of the Spirit
	Glorification
The Trinity (3)	The Church (1)
God the Father	Ecclesiology
God's character: omniscience, omnipresence, immutable, holy, just/righteous	The nature of the church
Providence and sovereignty	The sacraments of the church
	Gifts of the Spirit in the church
	The church in society
	The church and the Kingdom
Jesus the Son--Christology	Last Things (2)
Incarnation	Eschatology
Seven "I ams" of Christ	Rapture
Humanity and deity	Tribulation
Life/death/resurrection/ascension	The second advent/coming
Inaugurator of the Kingdom	Watch and Pray
The New Covenant/Testament	Resurrection
	The Millennium: pre-,post-,a-
	Re-creation
	Judgment
	Heaven
	Hell
	<i>Eschaton</i>
The Holy Spirit--Pneumatology	Course Wrap-up and Catch Up (2)
OT examples	Final comments
Pentecost	Class evaluation
Present Work	
Creation (1)	
Cosmology	
Perfect creation	
Prelude to perfect re-creation and redemption	
The fall	
Theodicy	
Humankind (2)	
Anthropology	
<i>Imago dei</i>	
The plan of God	

Required Course Reading and Reports

Reading for each class period is approximately 30-40 pages, sometimes a bit more, sometimes a bit less. Readings are generally broken into weekly sections, with the expectation that readings will be completed during the week assigned. The reading content will generally precede the discussion of that topic in the class. Suggested reading strategy: 1) jump right in and plan to stay ahead a bit on the reading if possible; 2) read the text readings first; 3) then read web and handouts noted.

Reading Reports

To the right of each reading selection, including WEB and HOs, mark the date the reading was completed. For complete credit, readings should be completed during the weekly sessions stated below.

Three reading reports are due during the semester. The first two are due on the date of Exam #1 and #2 (it is suggested you submit them the class period before or the class period after), and the third report is due on Tues April 29.

Submit the relevant sheet, or partial sheet, below, or a good copy for credit. Ensure you include your name.

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Reading Report 1 - Name:
<p>LE = <i>Little Exercise</i> TB = <i>Theology Basics</i> EG = <i>Embracing Grace</i> NBS = <i>Not the Way</i> CH = <i>Called to Be Holy</i></p>
<p>R 1/10 & T 1/15 & R 1/17 Readings Topic: Approaching Doctrinal Study</p> <p>Little Exercise vii-41 (whole book)</p> <p>TB vii-xxviii Introductory materials</p> <p>TB 1-19 Faith</p> <p>WEB 1. Personal Intros WEB 2a. Apostle's Creed WEB 2b. Nicene Creed WEB 2c. Chalcedonian Creed WEB 3. Caillet on too much</p>
<p>T 1/22 & R 1/24 Readings Topic: The Trinity</p> <p>TB 20-38 God</p> <p>TB 102-122 Trinity</p> <p>WEB 7a. Classic Arguments WEB 7b. Names and Titles WEB 7c. Theodicy</p> <p>HO 24 A Biblical Presentation of the Trinity HO 20 Definitions of the Attributes of God HO 31 The Person of Christ HO 35 Biblical Teaching on the Holy Spirit</p>

<p>T 1/29 & 1/31 Readings Topic: The Trinity cont.</p> <p>** T 1/29 "I Believe" Part 1 DUE</p> <p>TB 61-80 Jesus</p> <p>EG ix-36 The gospel and eikons</p> <p>WEB 5a. On revelation WEB 5b. Problem Inerrancy WEB 5c. Multiple Intent</p>
<p>T 2/5 & R 2/7 Readings Topic: Creation</p> <p>TB 39-60 Creation</p> <p>EG 37-63 The story of the eikon</p>
<p>T 2/12 & R 2/14 Readings Topic: The Corruption of Shalom</p> <p>NBS ix-77 The corruption of shalom</p>
<p>T 2/19 - Exam #1</p> <p>*Reading Report #1 DUE</p>

Reading Report 2 - Name:
<p>R 2/21 & T 2/26 Readings Topic: The "Character" of Sin</p> <p>NBS 78-95 Sin the Parasite</p> <p>Xtra Credit Optional - NBS 96-120</p> <p>NBS 121-149 The folly and addiction of sin</p>
<p>T 3/11 & R 3/13 & T 3/18 Readings Topic: Postures on Sin; Salvation</p> <p>NBS 150-199 Attack and flight</p> <p>TB 81-101 Salvation</p> <p>EG 64-106 The gospel story</p>
<p>R 3/27 Readings Topic: The Gospel for All</p> <p>EG 107-176 The gospel for all</p>
<p>T 4/1 - Exam #2</p> <p>**Reading Report #2 DUE</p>

Reading Report 3 - Name:
<p>R 4/3 & T 4/8 & R 4/10 Readings Topic: Christian Living</p> <p>CH 1-63, 97-102 The OT and holiness</p> <p>Xtra Credit Optional - CH 65-95</p> <p>WEB 16a. Aquinas on Grace WEB 16b. C Wesley on Salvation WEB 16c. Calvin on Redemption WEB 16d. Scriptures on the Atonement</p> <p>WEB 11a. Augustine and Pelagius WEB 11b. Augustine and Arminius WEB 11c. Remonstrants and Calvinists WEB 11d. Wesley on Gospel Calvinism WEB 11e. Wesleyan on Being Arminian</p> <p>WEB 16e. Calvin, Beza, Westminster on Predestination WEB 16f. Plan of Redemption: Calvin and Wesley WEB 22a. Fruit and Gifts WEB 22b. Romans Bible Overview</p> <p>HO 37 The Work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation HO 38 Four Groupings of the Spiritual Gifts HO 39 Summary of Spiritual Gifts</p>
<p>T 4/15 & R 4/17 Readings Topic: The Church</p> <p>TB 123-143 The church</p> <p>Xtra Credit Optional - TB 144-164</p> <p>CH 103-147 The NT and holiness</p> <p>WEB 25. Catholicity in the Church</p> <p>HO 74 Analogies of Christ and the Church HO 76 Functional Qualifications of Elders and Deacons HO 80 Four Views on the Lord's Supper</p>

<p>T 4/22 & R 4/24 Readings Topic: Last Things</p> <p>TB 165-187 Heaven</p> <p>CH 149-199 Holy Living</p> <p>WEB 26a. Millennial Views by Bence WEB 26b. Millennial Views Chart</p> <p>HO 87 Views Concerning Last Things HO 89 Eternal Punishment HO 43 & HO 44 on Angels and Demons</p>
<p>T 4/29 & R 5/1 No required reading</p> <p><i>**4/29 Reading Report #3 DUE</i> <i>**4/29 "I Believe" Pts 2 & 3 DUE</i> <i>**4/29 All late assignments & extra credit final submission date</i></p>
<p>Exam #3 (during Exam Week)</p>