



Grace Communion Seminary

TH503: The Holy Spirit, the Church & Eschatology

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Gary W. Deddo, Ph.D.

Course Description

This course covers the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the Christian understanding of the Church, and Christian teaching about biblical eschatology. We will give special attention to the personal nature of the Holy Spirit as a divine member of the Trinity and his ongoing and essential ministry in Christian life and ministry. The foundation, nature and vocation of the church will be explored as well as Christian hope here and now but ultimately in the victory over evil and death and the full manifestation of the new heavens and earth.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 145 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required Texts

Bloesch, Donald G. *The Last Things: Resurrection, Judgment, Glory*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006. 336 pages.

- Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-0830814176
- Paperback ISBN: 978-0830827572
- Approximate price: \$13.00 used, \$27.00 new.
- Click [here](#) to search for lowest price on bookfinder.

Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 1992. 944 pages. ISBN: 978-0061449710

- Approximate price: \$18.00 used, \$23.00 new, \$17.00 Kindle

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community & The Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996. ISBN: 978-0830818952. Approximate price: \$6.00 used, \$9.00 new. 130 pages.

Torrance, Thomas F. *The Mediation of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: Helmers & Howard, 1992. ISBN: 0-939443-50-3. Approximate price: \$8.00 used, \$13.00 new. 144 pages.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest online price use www.bookfinder.com/

Recommended Texts

- Barth, Karl. *Christ and Adam*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 1956, 2004. ISBN: 1-59244-639-6. Approximate price: \$12. 82 pages.
- Bock, Darrell, and Stanley Gundry, editors. *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999. ISBN: 0310201438. Approximate price: \$15. 336 pages.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI, Eerdmans, 1995. ISBN: 978-0802808295. Approximate price: \$15. 200 pages.
- Okholm, Dennis, and Timothy Phillips. *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996. ISBN: 0310212766. Approximate price: \$13. 288 pages.

GCS Mission Statement

“*Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.*” We are committed to equip the saints for pastoral ministry through quality graduate-level distance education programs in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies informed by Incarnational Trinitarian faith.

Student Learning Outcomes

GCS Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): Grace Communion Seminary has five core learning outcomes for its students. This course serves largely to support GCS SLO 2: Reason from a sound theological basis as new covenant Christians centered in Trinitarian Incarnational faith.

Course Student Learning Outcomes for TH503

This course will enable to the student to:

Outcome 1: Describe and the major theological themes of the Holy Spirit, the Church and Eschatology and their inter-relationships as presented in the lectures and readings (Gained through assigned readings, video recordings and class lectures and accounted for in the Reading Notebook, the Online Forums and Two Research Papers and Final Exam.)

Outcome 2: Identify key biblical teaching that informs an understanding of the Holy Spirit, the Church and Eschatology and explain how those biblical teachings contribute to an incarnational and trinitarian theology. (Gained through readings, video recordings and class lectures and accounted for in the Reading Notebook and two Research Papers and Final Exam)

Outcome 3: analyze and critique the theological arguments made in the assigned readings in the light of Scripture, relevant ecumenical creeds of the church and contemporary expressions of evangelical theology. (Gained through readings and class lectures and accounted for in the Reading Notebook, the Online Forums, Two Research Papers and Final Exam.)

Outcome 4: Illustrate and explain how an incarnational and trinitarian theological understanding of the Holy Spirit, the Church and Eschatology can contribute to Christian ministry of preaching, teaching and to the personal lives of members of the Body of Christ in its local and global expressions. (Through the Forums, Reading Notebook, and Final Exam.)

Required Assignments

- 1. Read (or listen to, as appropriate) the lectures.** Lectures will be posted in writing, video, or audio each Monday for the first ten weeks of the course. This will take about 2 hours per week. See the *Academic Catalog* for study suggestions
- 2. Read the textbooks and assigned articles.** They total about 800 pages, about 80 pages each week. That should take about 7 hours a week to read. *Stay ahead of the reading as posted in the syllabus*, because reading the texts is essential to the course.
- 3. View videos and handouts as assigned each week.** These total 5 hours of viewing/reading over ten weeks. Most weeks will take less than 1/2 hour a week.
- 4. Participate in the online Forum discussions.** In classroom courses, part of the learning process takes place through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on two discussion forums: 1) the *Instructor's Forum* and 2) the *Student's Forum*. Each week, you must post at least one reply of your own to each of the Instructor's questions. In the Student's Forum you must post one question or comment of your own on the week's topic and also reply to at least one other student's question or comment *This participation is required* and counts for 25 percent of the final grade. It should take about 1.5 hours per week.
- 5. Research Paper 1:** Write a minimum 1400 to maximum 2000-word paper (double-spaced in 12-point type, not including footnotes or bibliography) about the person and work of the Holy Spirit and the incarnational and trinitarian implications for understanding human spiritual transformation.
 - Write this paper considering *all* assigned reading related to the Holy Spirit and with special reference to and citations from *The Mediation of Christ* by T.F. Torrance, pages 99-126, and *Classic Christianity* by Thomas Oden, chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6 and Scripture.
 - From un-assigned reading, read an additional 40 pages from sources listed in Secondary Reading or in Course Bibliography. Make use of them by referencing/quoting them in the paper and listing them in Works Cited.

- c. Write the paper to me, the instructor. Assume the instructor's knowledge of background material not directly needed for addressing the assigned topic.
- d. Do not use long quotations from the texts cited or Scripture. Use key words or phrases in quotation marks taken from them, and the reference to make and back up your point. Make sure you use Scripture in a way that takes into account the context in which the reference is found.
- e. Do not use full bibliographic references in footnotes. Author's name, book title and page number are sufficient. Indicate in a footnote at the first Scripture reference the default version of the Bible you will be using throughout. Note exceptions in the body of the text, e.g. (1 Cor 13:1, NRSV).
- f. Include at the end of the paper a Works Cited section which should include full bibliographical information of all sources cited.
- g. This paper is due at the end of week 5 and counts for 20 percent of the final grade.
- h. For a guide to formatting your papers, see "How to Format a GCS Paper," posted at <http://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=23>.

6. Research Paper 2: Write a minimum 1400 to maximum 2000-word paper (double-spaced, using font size 12, not including footnotes or bibliography) on the nature and purpose of the Church and the place of participation in the local church in the life of the someone incorporated into the Body of Christ. Indicate key implications of a sound Incarnational and Trinitarian theology (that points to the reality of the Trinity and the Incarnation and the fundamental relationship of the Church to Christ's atoning work) for understanding the purpose and priorities of the Church as a whole and some key implications for a local congregation.

- a. Write this paper considering **all** reading assigned for this this class related to the Church, with special reference to and citations from *The Mediation of Christ*, pages 73-98, *Classic Christianity* by Thomas Oden, chapters 7 and 8, and *Worship, Community & The Triune God of Grace*, pages 1-41 and 70-94 and Scripture.
- b. From un-assigned reading, read an additional 40 pages from sources listed in Secondary Reading or in Course Bibliography. Make use of them by quoting/referencing them in the paper and listing them in Works Cited.
- c. Write the paper to me, the instructor. Assume the instructor's knowledge of background material not directly needed for addressing the assigned topic.
- d. Do not use long quotations from the texts cited or Scripture. Use key words or phrases in quotation marks taken from them, and the reference to make and back up your point. Make sure you use Scripture in a way that takes into account the context in which the reference is found.
- e. Do not use full bibliographic references in footnotes. Author's name, book title and page number are sufficient. Indicate in a footnote at the first Scripture reference the default version of the Bible you will be using throughout. Note exceptions in the body of the text, e.g. (1 Cor 13:1, NRSV).
- f. Include at the end of the paper a Works Cited section which should include full bibliographical information of all sources cited.
- g. This paper is due Sunday midnight, at the end of week 11, and counts for 20 percent of the final grade.

- h. For a guide to formatting your papers, see “How to Format a GCS Paper,” posted at <http://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=23>.

7. **Final Exam:** The final exam counts for 35% of the final grade. The four-hour exam will be weighted toward the topic of Eschatology. *It will be taken during the 12th week of the course, after all other assignments are due and should have been turned in.*

Estimated hours and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours*	Percentage of grade
Lectures (220 pages + video)	20	required
Forum discussions and responses (20)	15	25
Reading textbooks and “On Reserve” reading (800 pages)	64	required
Videos/articles/handouts as assigned	5	required
Writing Paper 1: The Holy Spirit	14	20
Writing Paper 2: The Church	14	20
Preparation for and taking of Final Exam	12	35
Total – about 12 hours each week	144	100

Course Schedule: TH503

Week	Read/View/Listen as appropriate	Assignment Due
1. The Holy Spirit: Person and Work	Oden: pp. 513-560, Book Three, Chs. 1 & 2 Lecture 1: Who is God?: Theology, The Spirit and Trinity Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
2. The Holy Spirit: Person and Work, cont.	Oden: 623-690, Chs. 5 & 6 Lecture 2: Jesus Reveals the Spirit Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation

3. The Holy Spirit: Atonement and Transformation	JBT: 12-41 TFT: 99-126 GWD: Holy Spirit in TFT's Theology Lecture 3: The Holy Spirit Handouts (2) Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
4. The Holy Spirit: Transformation and the Christian Life	TFT: 1-72 Lecture 4: The Holy Spirit Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
5. The Church: Foundations and Formation	Oden: 691-766, Chs. 7 and 8 Lecture 5: Church and Ministry, Pt 1 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation First Paper 1 due end of Wk 5
6. The Church: Worship/Sacraments/Sharing in Christ's Mediation: Our Response	TFT: 73-98 JBT: 69-94 Lecture 6: Church and Ministry, Pt 2 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
7. The Church: Ministry and Witness	JBT: 43-68, 95-120 GWD: Jesus' Paradigm, 1-19 Lecture 7: Church and Ministry, Pt 3 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
8. Eschatology: Biblical Foundation and Overview	Oden: 767-822, Chs. 9 & 10 Bloesch, Chs. 1 & 2, 16 pp. Lecture 8: Kingdom of God, Pt 1 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
9. Eschatology: Sorting out the Options	Oden: 823-840, Ch. 11 Bloesch, Chs. 7 & 11 TFT, Universalism, 9 pp. Lecture 9: Kingdom of God, Pt 2 Videos/articles as assigned Handout: God, Providence, Evil	Forum participation
10. Eschatology: Our Ultimate Hope	Bloesch, Ch. 12 Lecture 10: Kingdom of God, Pt 3	Forum participation
11-12. Second Paper Due, Final Exam	Study and Take Final Exam	Second Paper 2 Due, Wk 11 Final Exam Due, Wk 12