



## **SHORT SYLLABUS**

### **CM510 Polity of Grace Communion International**

**Instructor: Greg Williams, D. Min.**

(Instructor may be contacted through GCS course website)

#### **Course description**

This course is designed to help students understand denominational life and polity within Grace Communion International. We will give the student an overview of the church's history, its leaders, and its theological journey. The primary objective of the class is to help the student get a better understanding of the culture and organizational structure of Grace Communion International and then to ably function within the denominational system.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 145 hours, or about 12-15 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

#### **Required textbooks**

Cowan, Steven (General Editor); Toon, Peter; Taylor, L. Roy; Patterson, Paige, Waldron, Samuel. *Who Runs the Church? Four Views on Church Government*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-310-24607-7 (sells for about \$16)

Tkach, Joseph. *Transformed by Truth*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1997. ISBN: 1-57673-181-2 (sells for about \$5)

Williams, Greg (Primary Author); Shallenberger, Rick; Nebel, Tom. *A GIANT Step Forward*. Columbia, SC: Amazon, 2019. ISBN: 9781078224666 (sells for about \$6).

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com).

## Recommended textbooks

Barrett, David. *The Fragmentation of a Sect*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-648-81500-8 (sells for about \$10). ISBN: 978-0-19-986151-4 (sells for about \$30).

Berkley, James D. *Leadership Handbook of Management and Administration*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1997. ISBN: 978-0-8010-9040-0 (sells for about \$17).

Feazell, J. Michael. *The Liberation of the Worldwide Church of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001. ISBN: 0-310-25011-0 (sells for about \$13).

## Requirements and assignments (General Description)

- 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. This will take 1-2 hours per week.
- 2) **Read the textbooks.** They total about 722 pages, or about 70 pages each week. Students should allow around 3 hours a week to read.
- 3) **Read view, or listen to, as appropriate, the additional learning materials posted on the weekly assignment list.**
- 4) **Participate in online forum discussions.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with the instructor and other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 20 percent of the final grade.
- 5) **Write a two-page reaction paper on Cowan's *Who Runs the Church*.** This assignment will count for 15 percent of the final grade.
- 6) **Write a two-page reaction paper to Tkach's *Transformed by Truth*.** This assignment will count for 10 percent of the final grade.
- 7) **Write a two-page reaction paper to GCI videos.** This assignment will count for 15 percent of the final grade.
- 8) **Final seven-page paper.** Write a 3000-3600-word paper. This assignment will count for 30 percent of the final grade.