

MTSO COURSE OF STUDY PROGRAM

COS-522: THEOLOGY IN THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

February 12-13, March 12-13, 2001, online

Instructor: The Rev. Donald W. Dotterer, PhD. 1240 Catalina Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers significant individuals, movements, events, and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present. GBHEM goals:

1. Understand the origins and theological tenets of liberalism from the early 19th century to the present, including its influence on ecumenism and process theology.
2. Understand and distinguish reactions to liberalism, including Fundamentalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Evangelicalism.
3. Understand the historical development and theology of the Holiness Movement, Pentecostalism, and the Charismatic Movement.
4. Understand the origins and tenets of Liberation and Contextual Theologies

TEXTS

Print copies are preferable to electronic versions because it is easier to locate selected readings in the texts.

Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*.

John Caputo, *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?*

Ed. L. Miller and Stanley Grenz, *Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*.

Optional: Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion*.

SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS

Synchronous sessions are class meetings on the Zoom online platform. Our five synchronous sessions are eastern time:

Friday, February 12: 2:00-4:00 pm

Friday, February 26: 2:00-4:00 pm

Saturday, February 27: 9:00-11:00 am

Friday, March 12: 2:00-4:00 pm

Saturday, March 13: 9:00-11:00 am

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Friday, February 12: *Faith Seeking Understanding*, chapters 1-6.

Friday, February 26: *Faith Seeking Understanding*, chapters 7-14.

Saturday, February 27: *Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*

Friday, March 12: *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?*

Optional: *The Crucifixion*

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- Utilize the assigned books as sources for your papers.
- Papers are due by class times (synchronous sessions). Have a hard copy at hand for discussion.
- Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word on Populi. Be sure to save a copy.
- The Course of Study program's expectation is that there be a total of twenty pages of writing for every class. Your writing needs to meet that expectation.

Due Friday, February 12: Write a brief synopsis and critique of three of the main topics of chapters 1-6 in *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Your paper should be five pages long.

Due Friday, February 26: Write a brief synopsis and critique of three of the main topics of chapters 7-14 in *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Your paper should be five pages long.

Due Saturday, February 27: Choose two or three of the thirteen theologies discussed in *Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*. Write five pages on how these theologies are relevant to today's culture and how they can guide the mission of the church.

Due Friday, March 12: Write a critical review of *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?* Your paper should be five pages long.

DISCUSSION BOARD

There is a discussion board for our class on Populi. The purpose of the discussion board is to promote conversation among students about the assigned material. Students are required to post a response to a question of the week and a response to a classmate's post every week from February 12–March 13. The first postings are due February 12. A question of the week will be posed by the instructor. The questions will be based on assigned readings and YouTube videos. **Each student should post a 4–5 sentence paragraph response to the question by midnight Friday evening plus a 2–3 sentence response to a fellow student's post by midnight Sunday evening.**

GRADES

Each of the five-page papers is worth 20%; discussion board posts 20%.

Criteria for grading papers:

1. How well the subject matter is understood.
2. How well the ideas in the paper are expressed. Clarity counts.
3. How well sources are used and how well the paper is documented.

Syllabus requirements are subject to change

ACADEMIC HONOR

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.