

WESTERN SEMINARY - SACRAMENTO

INTEGRATING MINISTRY AND THEOLOGY

THS 508M: 2 Credit Hours

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Syllabus - Fall 2009

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tues. eve's, 5:55-10 PM, 9/1, 15, 29; 10/13, 27; 11/10, 17 (7x)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Building on the exegetical, theological and ministerial foundations laid in the seminary curriculum, students will build an integrative approach to such issues as women in ministry, divorce, bio-ethics, and church discipline. Students will also work toward this integration by finalizing and defending their personal doctrinal statements. Prerequisites: THS 501, 502, 503.

COURSE GOALS / OBJECTIVES

This course contributes to the fulfillment of the core outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree with five specific goals:

1. To think and live spiritually, biblically, theologically and christocentrically.
2. To clearly understand, articulate and defend your doctrinal statement in ten major areas of theology, i.e., Bibliology, Theology Proper, Christology, Angelology / Demonology, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology
3. To personally and practically integrate theology into every area of life and ministry.
4. To assess and resolve ministry issues biblically.
5. To meet the calling and challenges of ministry with a living biblical theology.

TEXTBOOKS

Please support your seminary by using the following link for all your Amazon purchases – a minimum of 4% comes to Western Seminary. Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

Required:

McNeal, *The Present Future*. Jossey-Bass, 2003. ISBN: 9780470453155

Thrall, McNicol & Lynch, *TrueFaced*. Revised Edition, 2004. Navpress. ISBN: 1576834468

Personal Research Options:

Beck & Blomberg, *Two Views on Women in Ministry*. Zondervan, 2001.

House, *Divorce and Remarriage: Four Christian Views*. IVP, 1990.

Meilaender, *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians*. Eerdmans, 2005.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: a two hour course requires approximately 60 hours of outside study

1. **Read *The Present Future*, McNeal**

(5 hours) **Course Grade**
10%

Read 2 chapters/week in *The Present Future* and come prepared with notes to discuss in class during weeks 2, 3, and 4.

2. **Read *TrueFaced*, Thrall, McNicol & Lynch** (5 hours) **10%**
Read 2 chapters/week in *TrueFaced* (Thrall, McNicol & Lynch) and come prepared with notes to discuss in class during weeks 5, 6, and 7.
3. **Individual Research Project** (10 hours) **20%**
Read and write a six page theological response to one of the three books in the personal research options. You must define and critique the theological conclusions of the author(s) and present your theological view from a biblical perspective. **(This paper is due Oct. 13.)**

4. **Personal Doctrinal Statement and Integration Work Sheets**
Personal Doctrinal Statement

Produce and defend a personal doctrinal statement. Your statement could be used to support your ordination process. It needs to cover and be organized by the ten primary categories of systematic theology listed below. You need to wrestle through your own convictions regarding each topic. Be as thorough and as concise as you feel is appropriate. Also, you should write in such a way as to display your hierarchy of thought. Provide biblical support in the form of verse references but do not quote other authors. A list of topics that must be included in your doctrinal statement for each section will be provided and discussed two weeks prior to due date. Use your Bibles, notes from previous theology classes and theological texts (Elwell, Erickson) to help you through the process.

Integration Worksheets

Students must think through a response to the questions and case studies designed to help articulate a personal theology and connect it with the circumstances of life and ministry. Worksheets will be provided each week for the following week's class discussion.

1. **Bibliology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Sept. 15
 2. **Theology Proper** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Sept. 15
 3. **Christology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Sept. 29
 4. **Angelology/Satanology/Demonology** Statement – 2 pgs; (4 hours) **5%**
Integrated Worksheets – 2 pgs
Due Sept. 29
 5. **Anthropology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Oct. 13
 6. **Hamartiology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Oct. 13
 7. **Soteriology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Oct. 27
 8. **Pneumatology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Oct. 27
 9. **Ecclesiology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Nov. 10
 10. **Eschatology** Statement – 2 pgs; Integrated Worksheets - 2 pgs (4 hours) **5%**
Due Nov. 10
5. **Class Interaction** **10%**

Class Interaction is used here to mean attendance at all class sessions, promptness to all class sessions, attentiveness to the classroom activities, note taking when in the class, turning in all assignments on time, positive interaction during class discussion and a favorable influence on everyone in the class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	Introduction to the course Discussion & integration of Bibliology, Theology Proper
Sept. 15	Discussion & integration of Christology, Angelology/Satanology/Demonology
Sept. 29	Discussion & integration of Anthropology, Hamartiology
Oct. 13	Discussion & integration of Soteriology, Pneumatology
Oct. 27	Discussion & integration of Ecclesiology
Nov. 10	Discussion & integration of Eschatology
Nov. 17	Small group discussions of doctrinal statements; key conclusions from class

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Late Assignments: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss class are responsible for missed work. A missed assignment must be made up within one week, unless approved with the instructor. Assignments submitted after the due date and time constitutes a drop in the student's grade for that assignment. Unexcused absences and tardiness will impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should discuss it in advance with the instructor. Students who miss two classes will receive a drop in grade and are required to do an extra paper. Students who miss more than two classes are required to talk with Western Administration before continuing class.

Cover Page: To safeguard confidentiality please provide a title page as a cover for all assignments. Include your student mailbox number in the upper right corner of the cover page.

Written Reports: Highest grades are reserved for those papers that are well written; demonstrate thinking that is creative, critical, reflective and precise; neat in appearance and reflect significant personal interaction with the message of the text. All written assignments must be typed, double spaced, pages numbered, with your name, date and box number included. The reports are due at the beginning of the class according to the class schedule.

Enrichment Students: Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

Incompletes: Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the Sacramento class schedule. In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the instructor may, **if it is initiated by the student**, grant an extension. A 1-3 week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and in all cases the standard decrease of a full letter grade for late work applies. Extensions desired by the student beyond 3 weeks, with prof support, must be approved by the Sacramento Academic Coordinator, with 5 weeks after the end of the course being the longest possible extension for work being due to the prof (this allows a 6th week for the grading of work and a grade change request to be filed); for this semester that date is Saturday, 1/23/10. A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. Under no circumstances may the six-week period (allots 1 week to the prof for grading and grade change petition) be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee in Portland.

The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary: Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

GRADING

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
99-100%	95-98%	93-94%	91-92%	88-90%	86-87%	84-85%	81-83%	79-80%	77-78%	74-76%	70-73%

STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN WORK (MLA)

Papers must be written to a near-thesis standard. That is, minimum format standards must be met, as defined below. English grammar, idiom, and spelling must be up to graduate level. Always include a strong introduction paragraph (declare what you intend to show the reader) and conclusion paragraph. Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

This course employs the MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide. The basic elements are:

- Double-spacing, except for block quotes
- Single space block quotes
- Page numbers appear at the upper right on every text page
- Use footnotes or parenthetical citations.
- Footnotes and parenthetical references follow standard format.

Helpful web sites on MLA style include:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/>

[These websites are expanded and pasted into Western Seminary's "How to Write a Research Paper" located at <http://www.westernseminary.edu/papers/Faculty/WGuideNu.doc>]

A good website with footnote/bibliography entries is:

<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

For assignments that require the use of non-course texts and include a bibliography, of the resources mentioned in the bibliography for your project/paper, two must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each book as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

All work must reflect master's level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of assignment.

LIBRARY AND INTERNET RESEARCH – SACRAMENTO

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento
- Click the link "Library Services" in the right navigation pane.

Reserve Collection

The library carries all required readings for this course.

Print Resources

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link "Search the Library Collection Online".

Periodical & Research Databases

As you complete your assignments for this course, don't forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link "Research Databases" from the bottom menu.
- Click the link "Ebsco Host Research Databases".
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link "EBSCOhost Web".
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*.

To cite your information, consider the following MLA composers:

<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Western-Arcade Library offers a variety of ministry related software for student use including BibleWorks, Logos Bible Software, and SeminaryLibrary.

Course Packs (if applicable)

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link 'Course Packs'.

Reference and Research Contact Information

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