

# *God, Bible, Holy Spirit*

October 29 to November 2, 2018

## **Organizational Purpose**

The Institute of Biblical Studies exists in order to help develop Christ-centered missionaries who possess the biblical and theological competencies they need (head, heart and hands) to live out the Great Commandment and help fulfill the Great Commission through the ministry of Cru. This course addresses three core areas of Christian doctrine that are foundational to our life and mission.

## **Course Description**

In his classic book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A. W. Tozer explains, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. . . . For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God himself, and the portentous fact about any man is not what he may at a given time say or do but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.” This course offers an opportunity to broaden and deepen your understanding of the God whom we love and worship.

To this end, we will explore Christian teaching regarding the nature and attributes of God, the persons of the Trinity, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and the person and work of the Holy Spirit. You will better understand how one God has revealed himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You will gain greater confidence in Scripture as the inspired, truthful, authoritative, sufficient and powerful Word of God. You will discover how the Holy Spirit enables you to grow in conformity to the image of Christ and empowers God’s people to bear witness about Christ to the ends of the earth. We will examine these doctrines as they are taught in Scripture and confessed by the church so that we may better live to the glory of the triune God (2 IBS credits – Theology and Apologetics).

## **Learning Outcomes**

### Affective (attitudes, motivation, character)

1. Deepen your motivation to know, love and worship the triune God and reflect God’s character as image-bearers.
2. Gain greater confidence in Scripture as the inspired, truthful, authoritative, sufficient and powerful Word of God.
3. Grow as a disciple of Jesus who joyfully submits to the authority of God’s Word and who builds movements of disciples who “truly follow Jesus” by embracing his Word in their lives.

### Cognitive (knowledge and thinking skills)

1. Deepen your understanding of the nature and attributes of God, the persons of the Trinity, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and the person and work of the Holy Spirit as these doctrines are taught in Scripture and confessed by the church.
2. Become more familiar with viewpoints, differences, and conflicts which exist among Christians regarding these doctrines as well as the way culture shapes our theologies.

3. Develop a deeper understanding of and commitment to the Cru Statement of Faith.
4. Become persuaded that Christian theology is not merely about right beliefs (orthodoxy) but also right living (orthopraxy).

Behavioral (personal and ministry skills)

1. Grow in your capacity to read Scripture “theologically.”
2. Grow in your capacity to teach these foundational doctrines from Scripture and relate them to evangelism, discipleship, movement-launching, ethics, and cross-cultural mission.
3. Be better prepared to partner with those who hold differing theological views allowing for difference of opinion on matters not central to our Statement of Faith and calling while pointing people to a compelling center (i.e., Christ, the gospel and our mission).

**Required Texts**

Gregg R Allison, *50 Core Truths of the Christian Life: A Guide to Understanding and Teaching Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018). ISBN-13: 978-0310286707. Also available in Kindle format.

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2012). ISBN-13: 978-0830839834. Also available in Kindle format.

Timothy C. Tennent, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church Is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007). ISBN-13: 978-0310275114. Also available in Kindle format.

**Additional Readings (Posted Online)**

Carl Ellis, “[Biblical Righteousness Is a Four-Paned Window](#),” The Gospel Coalition (August 22, 2018).

James H. Evans Jr., *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology*, 2d ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012), chapter 3.

Justo L. González, *Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1990), chapter 1.

Keith E. Johnson, “*Imitatio Trinitatis*: How Should We Imitate the Trinity?” *Westminster Theological Journal* 75 (2013): 317-34.

Christopher Mwoleka, “Trinity and Community,” *African Ecclesial Review* 17 (Jul 1975): 203-206.

Timothy C. Tennent, *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2010), chapter 3.

**Learning Tasks**

1. **Reading:** Your reading should be done thoroughly and thoughtfully with a sincere attempt to learn all you can. **Given the compressed nature of this course, it is imperative that you complete all the reading prior to the first class session.** The Reeves book will be discussed in class. As a result, you may want to wait to read it till the night before we discuss it so it is fresh in your mind. **DUE: Friday, Nov. 2 by the beginning of class.**

2. **Participate in Class Discussion:** This class will include a mixture of lecture and classroom discussion. Each day we will discuss a chapter from Reeves' book and you will be asked to share what you learned. We will also be discussing some of the readings in class and you should be prepared to discuss them. They are clearly marked in the syllabus with an asterick.
3. **Response and Imitation Worksheet:** As image-bearers (Gen. 1:27-28), we were created reflect the triune God. You will complete a worksheet that will help you consider how we should respond to and reflect God's attributes. Instructions will be posted on the IBS website. **DUE: Wednesday, November 7 by 5:00 pm**
4. **Theology Project:** You will write a paper in which you present Scriptural teaching on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The goal is to be as comprehensive as you can be, exposing the richness of the Bible's own teaching on the Holy Spirit. In order to write this paper, you will need to take the following steps:
  - a) **Choose:** Pick one of the following options:
    - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Luke
    - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Acts
    - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of 1 Corinthians
    - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Galatians
  - b) **Explore:** Read through the whole book noting every reference to the Holy Spirit. For each reference to the Holy Spirit, record your observations. Here are some questions you might consider: What do you learn from this passage about the person of the Holy Spirit (deity, personally)? What do you learn about the work the Holy Spirit (in the life of Christ, the church, unbelievers, believers)? Does the passage say anything about the how the Holy Spirit relates to the Father and/or Son? You may find it helpful to see what commentators say about your passage (e.g., ESV Study Bible notes).
  - c) **Synthesize:** What stands out to you regarding the person and work of the Holy Spirit in this book? Do you see any recurring themes? What patterns do you observe about the working of the Holy Spirit? Are certain aspects of salvation associated with Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit relate to other divine persons? Consider how best to organize these teachings into a systematic and coherent whole.
  - d) **Write:** Drawing your work together, write a paper (7-9 pages, double spaced, 12 pt. font) summarizing what you learned. Remember that this is NOT a verse by verse commentary but a carefully crafted summary of the doctrinal teaching of your book on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. You will need to think about how best to structure your presentation. One simple way to structure you essay would be in terms of (1) teaching on the person of the Holy Spirit and the (2) teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit. On the last two pages of your paper, address the following questions: What was the most helpful thing you learned about the Holy Spirit from your study? What implications does this have for ministry? What implications does your study have for Christian ethics? Look for links between the Holy Spirit and ethics in your book drawing on our discussion the last day of class. Be sure to address Dr. Ellis' "four window-panes of righteousness" as you reflect on the ethical implications. **DUE: Friday, November 9 by 5:00 pm.**

## Course Grade

In Cru, we talk about the five “E’s” of development: education, experience, exposure, environment and evaluation. Evaluation, the fifth E, plays an important role in our growth. Because this is a graduate level course, you will receive a letter grade. Along with that, I will give you feedback on what you did well and where you can grow.

Reading Report	25% (due Friday, Nov 2)
Response and Imitation Worksheet	25% (due Wednesday, Nov 7)
Theology Project	<u>50%</u> (due Friday, Nov 9)
	100%

## Grading Scale

94-100	A
92-93	A-
90-91	B+
84-89	B
82-83	B-
80-81	C+
74-79	C
72-73	C-
65-71	D
0-65	F

Note: A grade of C- or better is required to apply this course toward your IBS requirements

## Students with Learning Issues

If you have a learning issue that affects your participation in the class, please talk with me or the lead TA, Mark Stewart, so we can help you as you engage with the learning tasks in the course.

## Use of Laptops and Tablets in Lecture

One of the things I love about working with Cru is our strong commitment to development. We want to create the best learning environment we can for you in this class. As a result, we’re going to ask you not to bring laptops, iPads or tablets to class. There are three reasons for this. First, if you have your laptop or tablet open, it’s almost impossible not to check email, surf the web or engage social media. That’s distracting not only to you but also to other learners around you. Second, a growing body of research from cognitive science and neuroscience demonstrates that “multitasking” impairs learning. We not only remember less but have a hard time transferring that learning to new contexts. Third, handwritten notes help you better metabolize what you are learning. You might say, “But I can type way faster than I can write.” While it may be true that most people can type faster than they can write, this isn’t necessarily an asset in learning. A study published June 2014 showed that students who take handwritten notes have a higher level of comprehension than those who type. It appears that when you take notes on your laptop, you basically become a stenographer rather a learner who has to synthesize the material. We’re providing structured notes so you can listen and write more strategically without feeling overwhelmed to write everything down. If this is a problem for you, please come talk with me. (Note: In the Bible Study Methods course, you will need your laptop or tablet in some of the coaching sessions.)

## Course Schedule

**Given the compressed nature of this class, it is imperative that you complete the reading in prior to the first session.** If you read 100 pages per week, you can finish it in five weeks. Additional readings (e.g., González, Ellis, Johnson, Tennent and Evans) will be posted online. **Readings with a double asterisk (\*\*)** will be discussed in class. Come to class prepared to discuss them.

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Pgs
Monday Oct 29	<i>Why Does Theology Matter?</i>	Tennent c1** González, <i>Mañana</i> , 21-30**	32
	<i>Understanding Three Kinds of Doctrines: Convictions, Persuasions and Opinions</i>	Allison Intro	8
	<i>How Does God Reveal Himself?</i>	Reeves Intro** Allison c8	18
	<i>What is God Like? (Incommunicable Attributes)</i>	Allison c9	8
Tuesday Oct 30	<i>What is God Like? (Communicable Attributes)</i>	Allison c10	8
	<i>Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit</i>	Reeves c1**	7
	<i>Is the Trinity in the Bible?</i>	Allison c11	8
	<i>Trinity: Learning from the Past</i>	Reeves c2**	24
Wed Oct 31	<i>Praying to the Trinity Worshipping the Trinity</i>	Reeves c3**	22
	<i>Trinity and Cross-Cultural Mission</i>	Tennent, <i>World Missions</i> , 74-101** Tennent c2**	52
	<i>Trinity and Christian Ethics</i>	Johnson, "Imitating the Trinity," 17pp Mwoleka, "Trinity & Community," 4pp	21
	<i>Providence: How Does God Govern the World?</i>	Allison c13	10
Thurs Nov 1	<i>Understanding the Inspiration of Scripture</i>	Allison c1 Tennent c3**	37
	<i>What Books Should be Included in the Bible?</i>	Reeves c4** Allison c7	35
	<i>Clarity and Sufficiency of Scripture</i>	Allison c4, c5, c6	23
	<i>Authority and Truthfulness of Scripture Scriptural Authority and Christian Ethics</i>	Allison c2, c3 Evans, <i>We Have Been Believers</i> , 37-59** Ellis, "Biblical Righteousness" **	39
Friday Nov 2	<i>Who is the Holy Spirit?</i>	Reeves c5** Allison c22	27
	<i>What does the Holy Spirit Do?</i>	Allison c23	7
	<i>Pentecostalism and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit</i>	Tennent c7**	30
	<i>Filling with the Holy Spirit Spirit Filled Life and Christian Ethics</i>	Allison c24	10
Total Reading			426