

God, Bible, Holy Spirit

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 fulfill the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment 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 the One God is revealed 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 and motivation)

1. Deepen your motivation to know, love and worship the triune God and reflect God’s character as image-bearers, beloved family, and co-workers.
2. Gain greater confidence in Scripture as the inspired, truthful, authoritative, sufficient and powerful Word of God.
3. Grow in your joyful submission to God’s Spirit and Word

Cognitive (knowledge and understanding)

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 taught in Scripture and confessed by the Church.
2. Become more familiar with some viewpoints, differences, and conflicts which exist among faithful Christians regarding these doctrines.
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 but also right living.

Behavioral (character and ministry)

1. Grow as a disciple of the Lord Jesus in helping build movements of disciples who “truly follow Jesus”. Grow in your capacity to teach these foundational doctrines from Scripture and relate them to evangelism, discipleship, movement-launching, ethics, and cross-cultural mission.
2. 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

Holsteen, Nathan D., & Svigel, Michael J. *Exploring Christian Theology: Volume One (Revelation, Scripture and the Triune God)*, Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2014. (read part 1 and 2, pages 25-220, total: 195 pages).

Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2012 (total: 130 pages)

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. (read chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7, total: 81 pages)

Additional Readings (Posted Online)

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

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

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

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

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

Learning Tasks

Required Reading (464 pages) and Response Paper (40%): Your reading should be done thoroughly and thoughtfully with a sincere attempt to learn all you can. Given the compressed nature of this course, you are encouraged to read Holsteen, Tennent and the additional readings before you arrive. You can read Reeves during the class. All reading must be completed by the last class session.

The student will turn in a response paper on the due date (five pages maximum) answering the following questions about each of the readings:

1. In one sentence summarize the main point of the entire book/chapter/article.
2. In one sentence, summarize the main point of each chapter read.
3. What is the best quote of each chapter and why?
4. What was one new discovery that you made from reading the book/chapter?

5. What is one thing from the book/chapter that you disagree with, or would like to consider more thoroughly?
6. What is one specific “take away” for your spiritual life or a ministry (in evangelism or apologetics or discipleship or para-church or local church ministry)?

Class Presence & Participation (10%): This class will include a mixture of lecture and classroom discussion. Each day you will be asked to share what you learned from the Reeves book with a classmate. As a result, you may want to wait to read it (and answer the questions above) till the night before the due date so it is fresh in your mind. Though discussed piece-meal in class, the entire Reeves reading report will be handed in at the end of the course (**Due: July 17, 2019, 3 pm**). We may discuss other readings in class too, so keep your papers available to consult and contribute to class. Due dates are clearly marked in the syllabus.

Biblical Theology Project (50%): 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 New Testament’s own teaching on the Holy Spirit as developed by its major authors. Take the following steps:

- a) **Choose:** Pick one of the following options
 - The Holy Spirit as taught by John in the Gospel
 - The Holy Spirit as taught by Luke in the Gospel of Luke
 - The Holy Spirit as taught by Luke in the Book of Acts
 - The Holy Spirit as taught by Paul in Romans
 - The Holy Spirit as taught by Paul in 1 Corinthians

- 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 (nature, names, and relationship to the other members of the Triune Godhead)
 - What do you learn about the *work* of the Holy Spirit in the life of Christ, the church, believers, and unbelievers,? You may find it helpful to see what others say about your passage (e.g., ESV or NIV Study Bible notes, the Bible Knowledge Commentary).

- b) **Synthesize:** What stands out to you regarding the person and work of the Holy Spirit in this author? 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 coherent whole for understanding and teaching?

- c) **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 teaching of the biblical author 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 your 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 single most helpful thing you learned about the Holy Spirit for spiritual vitality? What was the single most helpful thing you learned about the Holy Spirit for effective ministry? **DUE: July 16, 2019, 3 pm.**

Course Grade

Reading Reports	40% (due Wednesday, July 17, 3pm)
Class Presence & Participation	10% (due Wednesday, July 17, 3pm)
Theology Project	<u>50%</u> (due Tuesday, July 16, 3 pm)
	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 TA, so we can help you as you engage with the learning tasks in the course.

Use of Laptops and Tablets during Lectures

Cru is strongly committed to personal development through fostering the best learning environment for you in this class. As a result, we're going to ask you not to bring laptops 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. We request that phones are in flight-mode unless an emergency situation is anticipated.

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.

Course Lectures and Assignments

Reminder: Given the compressed nature of this class, it is best that you complete as much of the reading as you can prior to the first session. Additional readings (e.g., González, Ellis, Johnson, and Evans) will be posted online. **Readings with a double asterisk (**)** could be discussed in class. **Come to class prepared to discuss them.**

Class	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Due	Page Count
1	July 3	Introduction to the Course (& Classmates)	Tennent, <i>Theology</i> , chapter 1**; González, <i>Mañana</i> , 21-30	22+9= 31 pages
2	July 3	Thinking about God— Epistemology (Knowledge & Existence)	González, <i>Mañana</i> , 117-123 Mwoleka, “Trinity & Community”	6 + 4= 10 pages
	July 4	NO CLASS		
3	July 5	Talking about God—Language (Analogy & Attribution)	Tennent, <i>Theology</i> ,** Chapter 2	28 pages
4	July 5	How is God Different than us? (Incommunicable Attributes)	Holsteen & Svigel, pages 127-153	26 pages
5	July 8	How are we like God? (Communicable Attributes)	Holsteen & Svigel, pages 153-167**	14 pages
6	July 8	The Trinity (Concept & Clarification)	Reeves, Introduction & Chapter 1	19 pages
7	July 9	The Trinity (Data, History, Implication)	Tennent, <i>World Missions</i> , pages 74-101	27 pages
8	July 9	God & the World (Governance & Providence)	Reeves, Chapter 2	24 pages
9	July 10	Divine Revelation (General, Special, Personal)	Holsteen & Svigel, pages 25-94**	69 pages
10	July 10	The Bible (Inspiration & Inerrancy)		
11	July 11	The Bible (Authority & Sufficiency)	Tennent, <i>Theology</i> , chapter 3	19 pages
12	July 11	The Bible (Interpretation & Story)	Holsteen & Svigel, pages 13-22**	9 pages
13	July 12	The Bible (Illumination & Application)	Evans, <i>We Have Been Believers</i> , 37-59**	22 pages
14	July 12	The Holy Spirit (Deity & Nature)	Holsteen & Svigel, pages 168-220	52 pages
15	July 15	The Holy Spirit in Salvation	Reeves, Chapter 3	21 pages
16	July 15	The Holy Spirit in Sanctification	Reeves, Chapter 4**	23 pages
17	July 16	The Holy Spirit in Spirituality	Tennent, <i>Theology</i> , Chapter 7	29 pages
18	July 16	The Holy Spirit in Ministry	Johnson, “Imitating the Trinity”**	17 pages

19	July 17	God/Bible/Holy Spirit: Review	Reeves, Chapter 5 & Conclusion	22 + 2 = 24 pages
20	July 17	Conclusion to the Course		
Total Reading				464 pages

Reading Report

Of the required reading, how many pages did you complete? _____

Submit this number electronically to the instructor using the link on the Google form posted on the IBS website.