



Humanity/Christ/Salvation

Institute for Biblical Studies (CRU)

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November 2022

SYLLABUS

COURSE SCHEDULE

October 31 8:00am-10:00am; November 1-4: 8:00am-10:00am, 11:30AM-2:00pm (**All times PDT**) – Over Zoom

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 areas of Christian doctrine that are foundational to our life and mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is the gospel? Few questions are more fundamental to our personal lives and organizational calling than this. Although we spend a lot of time and energy strategizing how to introduce men and women to the gospel, we often spend little time reflecting on the gospel itself. Furthermore, we often live as if the gospel is only for "lost" people and not also for those of us who have been "found." In this class we will

explore historic Christian teaching regarding the doctrine of humanity, the person and work of Christ, and the doctrine of salvation. Together these doctrines shape our understanding of the gospel. We will explore the *basis* of salvation in the Father's sovereign plan; the *accomplishment* of salvation through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and the *application* of salvation to God's children by the Holy Spirit. 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)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Deepen your motivation to know, love and worship God and to reflect God's character as an image-bearer.
2. Develop a deeper understanding of and commitment to the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith expressed in our Statement of Faith (particularly the doctrine of humanity, the person and work of Christ, and the doctrine of salvation).
3. Become persuaded that Christian theology is not just about right beliefs (orthodoxy) but also right living (orthopraxy). You will be invited to explore the ethical implications of every doctrine we study.
4. Become more familiar with major viewpoints, differences, and conflicts which exist among Christians regarding these doctrines.
5. Grow in your capacity to relate these doctrines to personal growth, evangelism, discipleship, movement-launching, and cross-cultural mission.
6. Grow in your ability to read Scripture "theologically."
7. 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).
8. Develop a deeper understanding of and greater confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as the need to contextualize the gospel.

TEXTBOOKS

Books

- Gregg Allison. [*50 Core Truths of the Christian Life: A Guide to Understanding and Teaching Theology*](#). Baker, 2018. ISBN: 978-0801019128 (Chapters 15-17, 20- 21, 25-31, 33-34) (100 pages)
- Todd Miles, [*Superheroes Can't Save You: Epic Examples of Historic Heresies*](#). B&H

- Academic, 2018. ISBN: 978-1462750795 (all) (175 pages)
 - Timothy Tennent. *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology*. Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-3102-7511-4 (Chaps 4, 5, 6) (85 pages)
- Articles (I will provide and place in the Canvas class website)
- Adrian Pei, *The Minority Experience: Navigating Emotional and Organizational Realities* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2018), (chap 2)
 - Richard Wayne Wills, Sr. *Martin Luther King Jr. and the Image of God* (New York: Oxford, 2009), (chap 5)
 - Carl Ellis, Jr., "Preaching the Gospel Amidst Racism: Remembering Billy Graham," *Christianity Today* online (Feb 24, 2018)
- Video
- Jemar Tisby, "[A Theology of Race](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgBbqi_rzuc)," May 2, 2017; Internet: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgBbqi_rzuc

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation (15%)

You are responsible to regularly attend and participate in class discussions. The class time will be conducted seminar style, so active, prepared, and intentional student participation is necessary to maximize learning.

2. Reading (25%)

All reading is to be completed prior to our first class meeting on October 31. Reading completed by November 4 will receive 90% credit. Reading completed by November 14 will receive 80% credit. A reading log is attached at the end of the syllabus.

3. *Theologia Viatorum* (60%)

God has made a way for us to know him; we are on our way to knowing God. This is an apt summary of the Christian life and, prayerfully, our course this semester. To help work our theology deep down and to move it from the lectern to personal liturgies, we will use this project to build a spiritual discipline of theology and a theology of spiritual disciplines for this semester and life. The purpose of our project: to create a biblical theological lens that interprets, clarifies, and reinvents our world from a divine perspective for worship of the triune God.

This is the life project of all theologians and all are theologians (the only question is degree of faithfulness). We seek to understand our context and work our way heavenward by God's providential designs. This is what the *thologia viatorum* is: a theology of pilgrims for their way to the Celestial City where we will enter our graduate course in the *thologia beatorum* (theology of the blessed).

Our general structure will be as described below and I will provide you with an organizing handout for Anthropology (What is a human and what is it to be created in the image of God?) including texts and instructions. *Do not attempt to do the assignment without accessing the Viatorum instructions on the classroom website.* Please follow the Viatorum instructions exactly.

- A. Contextualization: Due Oct 31 (*Pre-class work*)
- B. Meditation: Due Oct 31 (*Pre-class work*)
- C. Exploration: Due Nov 14 (*Post-class work*)
- D. Synthesis: Due Nov 14 (*Post-class work*)
- E. Application: Due Nov 14 (*Post-class work*)
- F. Destination: Due Nov 14 (*Post-class work*)

You will complete the *Viatorum* with the goal being succinct evidence of depth and transformation in all of the sections.

Please upload each part of the Viatorum to its corresponding location in the Canvas website. You may upload the entire Viatorum file each time you submit a part. However, please upload each part of the Viatorum as you complete it. That way I can give you feedback as you go which will help in subsequent parts of the assignment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Oct 31-Nov 1 – Doctrine of Humanity
Nov 1-2 – Doctrine of Sin
Nov 2-3 – Doctrine of Person of Christ
Nov 3 – Doctrine of Work of Christ
Nov 4 – Doctrine of Salvation

GRADING

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

Reading Log
Please upload onto Canvas classroom website by Nov 14, 2022

Allison [50 Core Truths of the Christian Life:](#) (Chapters 15-17, 20- 21, 25-31, 33-34)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 11/14 _____

Miles. [Superheroes Can't Save You:](#) (All)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 11/14 _____

Tennent. [Theology in the Context of World Christianity:](#) (Chapters 4, 5, 6)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 11/14 _____

Ellis. "Preaching Redemption Amidst Racism: Remembering Billy Graham"

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 11/14 _____

Pei. *The Minority Experience* (chap 2)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 11/14 _____

Wills. *MLK and the Image of God* (chap 5)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 11/14 _____

Watch Jemar Tisby on "Theology of Race"

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 11/14 _____