

HT 456/556D What Christians Believe: Christian Doctrine II

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Elmer M. Colyer

3 credits: letter grade only

Prerequisite: HT 501D & HT 502D, or permission by the professor

This course introduces students to the content of the Christian faith as believed and confessed by the Christian church from the early church to the present day. **CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE II** examines the Person and Work of Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, the Church, sacraments, the Christian life, and Christian hope. There will be lectures, readings, and discussions. This will include readings discussions of a variety of contemporary perspectives, such as Third World, feminist, and other theologies.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop a clear understanding of the beliefs of Christian faith in its classical and modern expressions
2. To develop the ability to read and evaluate theological literature
3. To learn to relate theology to discipleship, character formation, the life of the church and ministry
4. To understand the tensions and resonances between Christian faith and modern/postmodern culture
5. To articulate one's own theological perspective in relation to classical ecumenical Christian faith

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled By this Course (emphasis added):

- *Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection* that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives
- *Be formed by, live in, & minister out of Scripture & the historical & theological tradition of the Church*
- *Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition*
- *Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity*
- *Lead worship and administer the sacraments with theological integrity and to the glory of God*
- *Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility*
- *Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church*
- *Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry*

MAMD Curricular Goals Fulfilled By this Course (emphasis added):

- *Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world*
- *Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness*

MACL Curricular Goals Fulfilled By this Course (emphasis added):

- *Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition*

Required Reading:

Rosemary Ruether, Sexism and God-talk

Rebecca Merrill Groothuis, Women Caught in the Conflict

W. Dyrness, Learning About Theology From the Third World

J. Leith, Basic Christian Doctrine

A. McGrath, Christian Theology: An Introduction, 6th edition

D. Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, 3rd edition

D. Bloesch, Essentials of Evangelical Theology, Vols. I & II

T. F. Torrance, The Mediation of Christ, (Helmets & Howard edition with 5 chapters)

S. Davis, Encountering Jesus

Course Requirements:

1. Completion of assigned readings
2. Conscientious class participation, including online assignments
3. A short position paper on Christology
4. An exam
5. A longer position paper on other theological subjects covered in the course