

HT 540 What Christians Believe: Christian Doctrine I

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Elmer M. Colyer

3 credits: letter grade only

Prerequisite: HT501D & HT502D, or permission of 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 I** examines the Trinity, revelation, Scripture, authority, method, creation, human nature, and sin. There will be lectures, readings, and discussions. This will include readings and 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 & modern expressions
2. To develop the ability to read and evaluate theological literature
3. To learn to relate the Christian theological tradition to the life of the church & the practice of 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:

*Be formed by, live in, & minister out of Scripture & the historical & theological tradition of the Church
Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility
Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry*

MAMC Curricular Goals Fulfilled By this Course:

*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:

Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition

Course Requirements:

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

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, Understanding Doctrine
A. McGrath, Christian Theology: An Introduction, 6th edition
D. Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding 3rd edition
D. Bloesch, Essentials of Evangelical Theology, Vol. I
T. F. Torrance, The Mediation of Christ
(there is additional material in the form of articles & chapters)