

## **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

### **Course Description:**

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 Learning Objectives:**

1. Outline the central ultimate beliefs (theological affirmations) of the doctrines covered in the paper
2. Interact with the great tradition of the church, the student's own ecclesial tradition, and the diversity of contemporary theological perspectives
3. Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues like the finality of Christ in a religiously plural world, the relation of the New Creation to culture, the ethnic diversity of the church, the relation of the ministry of the laity to the ministry of the ordained, the nature of the church and its mission in the world, etc.
4. Express the student's own theological and ethical perspectives in relation to CLO 1, 2, and 3

### **M.Div. Curricular Objectives:**

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

### **MAMD Curricular Objectives:**

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

### **MAM Curricular Objectives:**

1. Articulate and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures in conversation with contemporary and ecclesial contexts
2. Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life
3. Construct a biblically, theologically, and contextually coherent expression of Christian pastoral identity and practice in ministry and life

### **Required Reading:**

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| A. McGrath, <u>Christian Theology: An Introduction</u> , 6 <sup>th</sup> ed  | J. Leith, <u>Basic Christian Doctrine</u>    |
| Rebecca Merrill Groothuis, <u>Women Caught in the Conflict</u>   | A. McGrath, <u>Understanding Doctrine</u>    |
| W. Dyrness, <u>Learning About Theology From the Third World</u>  | Rosemary Ruether, <u>Sexism and God-talk</u> |
| D. Bloesch, <u>Essentials of Evangelical Theology</u> , Vol. I D. Migliore, <u>Faith Seeking Understanding</u> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> ed |  |
| T. F. Torrance, <u>The Mediation of Christ</u> , Helmers & Howard ed. with 5 chapters  |  |

### **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