

HT 556 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

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 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 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:

A. McGrath, Christian Theology: An Introduction, 6th ed
Rebecca Merrill Groothuis, Women Caught in the Conflict
W. Dyrness, Learning About Theology From the Third World
Bloesch, Essentials of Evangelical Theology, Vol. I & II
T. F. Torrance, The Mediation of Christ, Helmers/Howard ed. 5 chapters

J. Leith, Basic Christian Doctrine
A. McGrath, Understanding Doctrine
Rosemary Ruether, Sexism and God-talk
Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, 3rd or 4th ed
S. Davis, Encountering Jesus

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