

## **HT 773 The Theology of Karl Barth (3 credits)**

**Distance Section, Spring 2025  
Three Credits. Letter grade only**

### **Faculty Information:**

**Instructor: Dr. Richard Burnett**

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**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Email responded to regularly on weekdays 8:00-5:00, Tuesday-Friday.**

### **OVERVIEW/COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of the Barthian literature – doctrine, exegetical, history of doctrine, political, homiletical and devotional: a digest of the contents of the thirteen volumes of the Church Dogmatics, followed by in-depth study of a selected volume of the Dogmatics or a particular doctrine.

This course is a required course for the M.A.R.T. Program and an elective in other degree programs.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By participating fully in this class, students will be able to:

- 1) read, discuss, and critically analyze some of the most important theological texts in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2) Identify and discuss the key theological questions, concepts, and developments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3) Evaluate Karl Barth's major theological claims in light of the criticisms of voices within and without the Church and in light of the demands of pastoral ministry today.

### **M.A.R.T. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course:**

- Identify and articulate core commitments of the Christian tradition, with a focus on the Reformed tradition
- Identify how key theological commitments emerged and function within the Christian tradition and, more specifically, the Reformed tradition
- Describe and evaluate the core commitments of the catholic and Reformed tradition in conversation with historical and contemporary critics
- Explain how key theological terms and concepts have been understood and applied in Christian congregations of various times and places, and, more specifically, in congregations of the Reformed tradition

### **M.A.M. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course**

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

### **M.A.M.D. 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, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- • Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

### **M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course:**

- 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, and minister out of scripture and the historical and 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.
- 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.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Class participation and quizzes on assigned readings (1/3)
2. Two short papers (1/3)
3. Final exam (1/3)

### **In-Person Learning**

In-person learning at Providence Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, is offered from Jan. 27–31 and is also available through live-stream or by recording.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS (You must have the edition noted by ISBN. You must have a print copy unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical to the print copy.):**

Barth, Karl. Church Dogmatics I/1. Trans. Geoffrey Bromiley. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1975.  
ISBN 9780567050595

Barth, Karl. Homiletics. Trans. Geoffrey Bromiley and Donald Daniels. Louisville:

Westminster/John Knox, 1991. ISBN 0664251587

Barth, Karl. *The Church and the War*. Trans. Antonia Froendt. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 1944. ISBN 9781606080269

Barth, Karl. *The Word of God and Theology*. Trans. Amy Marga. New York: T&T Clark, 2011. ISBN 9780567082275

Brunner, Emil & Barth, Karl. *Natural Theology: Comprising "Nature and Grace" by Professor Dr. Emil Brunner and the reply "No!" by Dr. Karl Barth*. Trans. Peter Fraenkel. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2002. ISBN 1592441122

Burnett, Richard E., Editor. *The Westminster Handbook to Karl Barth*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2013. ISBN 9780664225308