

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Northwest College
Kirkland, Washington
September 22-26, 2003

THEE 639/HISE 642 Studies in Christian Thought
(2 Credits)

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Fall 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a basic introduction to the Christian faith from an evangelical and pentecostal perspective.

OBJECTIVES

1. The aim of the instructor is to enable the student to see God more clearly. This shall be accomplished by a careful and systematic study of those things that God has revealed about himself and desires us to know.
2. The student shall understand the basic and essential ideas of Christianity.
3. The student shall understand the necessity of applying doctrine to everyday life.
4. The student shall know the meaning of certain contemporary and historic doctrinal terms.
5. The student shall know the 10 Commandments.
6. The student shall know the Apostles' Creed.
7. The student shall know the 16 Fundamentals of the Assemblies of God.
8. The student shall be more secure in his or her faith.
9. The student shall be better able to explain his or her faith.
10. The student shall be aware of the diversity of Christian doctrine.
11. The student shall be more tolerant of the views of other Christians.
12. The student shall be more comfortable asking questions.
13. The student shall gain a framework for the transmission of Christian doctrine and thought to others.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (1-3 should be read as part of the pre-session work)

1. Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson, *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
2. Grenz, Stanley J., *Created for Community: connecting Christian belief with Christian living*. second edition Wheaton: Victor Books, 1998.

3. Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
4. Grenz, Guretzki, and Nordling, *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999. (scan and consult)
5. *Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God*, Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1969. (This can be downloaded free from <http://www.ag.org>.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Pre-session:

1. **Reading** **20 %**
 The major texts (1-3 above) should be read as part of the pre-session class requirements, as knowledge of this material will assist us in maximizing class time. If completed prior to the class, this will contribute 20% to your grade. If you complete the reading during the week, you will receive a maximum of 15%, and if it is completed after the course (in post-session work) the maximum will be 10%.

2. **Life Response Project** (to be completed pre-session) **25 %**
 John Ortberg's book, The Life You've Always Wanted, shall be read prior to the class. Choose one of the growth areas named by Ortberg (chapters 4-12) and document (**minimum** 3 single-spaced pages) 1) why you chose this area; 2) how you chose to respond to this challenge; and 3) what happened in your life as a result of this exercise. Use of a journal format in recording the results is encouraged. The work you hand in will be neatly typed, single-spaced, in Times Roman 14, with 1" margins. **Due on the first full day of class – email me if you have questions!**
 Grading: 2 pts each for correct chapter choice (4-12), format (margins, type size, single-space, etc.), length, and general grammar and spelling. 4 pts each for documentation/identification of why, how, and what (as above). Evidence of having spent more than a few days on this is critical: start on this project sooner rather than later.

Session/Post-Session:

3. **Examinations** **40 %**
 There will be one diagnostic pretest which will not affect your grade. You will also do two take-home section exams (open book) during the course and one comprehensive final, which will be closed book and completed post-session.
 The two Section Exams will have a cumulative weight of 15%. The Pretest Exam is mandatory but will not be weighted in your grade, and the Final will have a weight of 15%.

4. **Faith Communication Project** **15 %**

The student will summarize the essential aspects of Christian doctrine in common language so as to communicate this truth to someone unfamiliar with Christianity. This exercise is intended to help the student synthesize the course content. The format is up to the student, as long as it is legible. See the example attached to the syllabus. (Using the example too closely [copying it] will give you a low grade!) Points are awarded for innovation, quality, and theological completeness. **Due at the beginning of the last class, Sept 26th.**

5. You are responsible for the many theological terms you will encounter in class and in your reading. Use a dictionary and be sure you know what the words mean! Be especially aware of the terms in Grenz's glossary as well as the pocket dictionary – these are fair game for exams!

TEACHING METHODS

A combination of lecture, questions, and discussion will be used. Due to class size and facility constraints, it is likely that the course format will involve mostly lecture. Please make use of the listserv for extended discussion. The instructor is also available via email at waldemar.kowalski@ncag.edu or phone at 425-889-5218. If you see me at lunch or having coffee, please feel free to join me! I want to get to know you in settings other than standing in front of a large group.

Also, please feel free to stand or walk (move around) in class. Many of us don't learn well when we just sit for unending periods of time. I learn best when I can stand up and stroll occasionally. I want you to have a useful learning experience in this class, and if you need to change position please do so – just as long as you minimize distraction to others. On that same topic, do be considerate of your classmates. Carrying on side conversations is disrespectful of those around you, and steals their time and investment in this class.

I promise to pray for you, and will do my best to invest of my life in you. We are setting out on an awesome journey, encountering the Most Supreme Being, God. Any less than the best simply won't do...

Sample COURSE SCHEDULE – we'll adjust...

	Introduction		
	Pretest		Pretest
	Levels of Theology	G/O: Ch 1-2	Section 1 begins
	Defining & Defending Theology	G/O: Ch 3-4	
	Tasks	G/O: Ch 5	
	Tools	G/O: Ch 6	
	Theology & Life	G/O: Ch 7-9	
	God & the Contemporary World	G: Ch 1	Section 2 begins
			Section 1 exam
	The Triune God	G: Ch 2	
	God's Creation	G: Ch 3	Section 3 begins
			Section 2 exam
	Human Failure	G: Ch 4	
	Jesus Christ: God with Us	G: Ch 5	Section 4 begins
			Section 3 exam
	Jesus' Mission	G: Ch 6	
	Holy Spirit: Author of Life	G: Ch 7	Section 5 begins
			Section 4 exam
	Holy Spirit and Salvation	G: Ch 8	
	The Church	G: Ch 9	Section 6 begins

	Introduction		
	Pretest		Pretest
	Levels of Theology	G/O: Ch 1-2	Section 1 begins
			Section 5 exam
	Being a part of the Church	G: Ch 10	
	Eschatology	G: Ch 11	Section 7 begins
			Section 6 exam
	Eschatology: Final States	G: Ch 12	
			Section 7 exam
	Review, discussion, final		
	Review, discussion, final		

Memorization

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (NIV)

(abbreviated – consult Ex. 20:1-17 for the full text)

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Article VI. of the Constitution of the Assemblies of God: STATEMENTS OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS (headings)

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The Scriptures inspired | 9. Sanctification |
| 2. The One True God | 10. The Church and Its Mission |
| 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ | 11. The Ministry |
| 4. The Fall of Man | 12. Divine Healing |
| 5. The Salvation of Man | 13. The Blessed Hope |
| 6. The Ordinances of the Church | 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ |
| 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost | 15. The Final Judgment |
| 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost | 16. The New Heavens and the New Earth |

We Believe:

- Everything important in this life and the life beyond hinges on Jesus Christ.
- The Bible is the absolutely reliable source of information about God and life.
- God the Holy Spirit intends to meet with us and continue doing the things He began in the Bible.
- He holds us accountable to grow toward Him and to call others to do the same.
- Ultimately, we will experience His friendship forever.

Student Name

Christian Doctrine
THEO 1213
May 1, 2002
Professor Waldemar Kowalski

Based upon the Statement of Belief of Northpark
Community Church, Fresno, CA.

Courtesy of Jack Wisemore