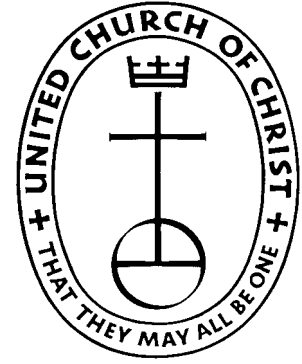


Penn West Academy for Ministry

Theology Course 2021-2022

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Course Objectives:

1. To understand and express the connection between the Bible, its interpretation, and theology.
2. To identify theological methods, such as constructive, liberation, Biblical, feminist and so on.
3. To engage in practical theological reflection, with a deeper relationship with God being the primary goal.

Texts: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together and Prayerbook of the Bible, DBW Volume 5, (Minneapolis:Augsburg Fortress, 2004).

Dorothy & Gabriel Fackre, Christian Basics: A Primer for Pilgrims, (Grand Rapids: Eerdman's, 1991).

Robert Wicks, Seeds of Sensitivity: Deeping Your Spiritual Life, (Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 1995)

Optional: Gabriel Fackre, The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine, Volume 1, Third Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdman's, 1996). *The Christian Story deals with the same information as the first volume but in a more in depth and academic way. It is not the required text but is a good companion to it.*

September 10-11, 2021: Salvation
Salvation from Death
Salvation by Christ Alone

Readings: Dorothy and Gabriel Fackre, Christian Basics: A Primer for Pilgrims, Chapter 6.

Assignment: *Due in October:*

- *There are two basic understandings of the encounter of Christianity with other religions: similarity (as found on page 98 of Christian Basics) or dissimilarity (John 14:6). In what ways, if any, do you think the revelation of God occurs outside of the church or Bible? Write a reflection on how you think your Christian faith should 'encounter' another faith.*

October 8-9, 2021: Salvation and Sanctification

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 6.
- Bonhoeffer, Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible, pages 155-162 and 165 and following.

Assignment. *Due in March.*

- Using the Heaven/Earth/Hell dynamic in Fackre, Chapter 6, take on a moral issue (environmentalism, stewardship, violence, sexuality) using that framework. What was easy about this assignment? Difficult?

March 11-12, 2022:

Consummation:

Four Last Things

Resurrection

Return of Christ

Final Judgment

Everlasting Life

Reading:

- Bonhoeffer, Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible, "The End," 176 and following.
- Christian Basics, Chapter 7, "Consummation," pages 125-140.

Assignment.

Robert Wicks, Seeds of Sensitivity, Chapter 6, "Piercing the Darkness"

Assignment. *Due in May.*

Use some art focused on the themes of Consummation. Eg. Michelangelo's or Bosch's Last Judgment or something contemporary. How well or poorly does the artist capture what Fackre calls "the kernel of consummation"? How would you define the kernel vs. the husk?

May 13-14, 2022:

God

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Epilogue, “God,” pages 141-154.
- Robert Wicks, Seeds of Sensitivity, Introduction.

Assignment. *Due in October:*

Describe your relationship to the Trinity. Do you feel drawn to one person of the Trinity more than another? What might God be telling you through your life and your relationship with each person in the Trinity?