

## **TH501 Online Course: Theology Survey I | Fall 2020**

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Viacheslav Lytvynenko, Ph.D. (aka, "Dr. Slavik"), Adjunct Faculty  
[vlytvynenko@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:vlytvynenko@gordonconwell.edu) (based in the Czech Republic)

Credit Hours: 3

This course occurs completely online with no scheduled classroom time. This course follows a weekly schedule that runs for 14 Weeks from Tuesday, September 8, through Monday, December 21, 2020. A week in this course begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday with the exception of the first week, which runs from Monday through Monday. You will have required activities due on certain days each week.

### **Course Information**

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#### **Office Hours**

Your instructor is available for email correspondence. If you have a question about the course, you can contact your instructor via email.

#### **Technical Support**

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue with your course, please email [servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu).

#### **Course Description**

A study of theological method, revelation, inspiration, and canon of Scripture; existence and attributes of God; Trinity; creation and providence; human nature; original and actual sin.

#### **Gordon-Conwell Mission**

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives

- Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.

#### **Course Learning Objectives**

This course is designed to give students a basic and growing competence in the area of theology through careful consideration of the Bible's teaching on core Christian doctrines, the church's formulation of those doctrines in history, and the expression of those doctrines in the varied contexts of contemporary society. In keeping with the institutional learning objective stated above, I intend that upon completing this course, you will:

1. Survey the biblical teaching on the doctrines covered in the course.
2. Articulate terms and issues important to theological discussion.

3. Analyze various theological positions critically and develop your own positions on the doctrines studied.
4. Articulate and value the implications of the doctrines studied for your own spiritual life, Christian character, and ministries.

### **Weekly Lessons**

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Over 14 weeks, you will cover the following topics and lessons:

- **Module A: Getting Started in Theology**
  - Lesson 1: Introduction to Theology (Week 1)
  - Lesson 2: Approaches to Theology, Part a (Week 2)
  - Lesson 3: Approaches to Theology, Part b (Week 3)
  - Lesson 4: A Key Idea for Theology (Week 4)
- **Module B: The Doctrine of Scripture**
  - Lesson 5: Scripture – Gathering and Learning (Week 5)
  - Lesson 6: Scripture – Interacting and Analyzing (Week 6)
  - Lesson 7: Scripture – Articulating and Valuing (Week 7)
- **Module C: The Doctrine of God and the Trinity**
  - Lesson 8: God/Trinity – Gathering and Learning (Week 8)
  - Lesson 9: God/Trinity – Interacting and Analyzing (Week 9)
  - Lesson 10: God/Trinity – Articulating and Valuing (Week 10)
- **Module D: The Doctrines of Creation and the Fall**
  - Lesson 11: Creation/Fall – Gathering and Learning (Week 11)
  - Lesson 12: Creation/Fall – Interacting and Analyzing (Week 12)
  - Lesson 13: Creation/Fall – Articulating and Valuing (Week 13)
- **Module E: Looking Ahead**
  - Lesson 14: Looking Ahead – Foundations for Christology (Week 14)

### **Weekly Workflow**

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This course runs for 14 weeks with each week running from Tuesday to Monday. The weekly workflow will differ from week to week. “Overview and Objectives” pages for each lesson will describe the workflow that you should follow each week.

### **Required Materials**

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#### **Reading**

Below is a list of required texts for this course. Follow the links below to check availability of eBook versions of these texts through the Digital Theological Library.

Elwell, Walter. [\*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology\*](#). Baker, 2001. (ISBN: 978-0801020759)

Erickson, Millard. [\*Christian Theology, 3rd edition\*](#). Baker, 2013. (ISBN: 978-0801036439; ASIN of e-book: B00EVS3NK).

Fairbairn, Donald. [\*Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of the Church Fathers\*](#). IVP, 2009. (ISBN: 978-0830838738; ASIN of e-book: B003F3FJMI).

McGrath, Alister. [\*Christian Theology: An Introduction, 6th edition\*](#). Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. (ISBN: 978-1444335149; ASIN of e-book: B0089VT6A2).

Tennent, Timothy C. [\*Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology\*](#). Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN 978-0310275114; ASIN of e-book: B000SIYT06).

"Chicago Statement on Inerrancy" and "Fairbairn's Statement on Scripture" (available in your course site)

## **Technology**

### **Computer and Internet Connection**

You will need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet and capable of downloading files and streaming multimedia presentations.

### **Software**

You will need Microsoft Word or a comparable word processor installed on your computer.

### **Required Activities**

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To demonstrate achievement of course objectives, you will participate in various required activities. You will find detailed descriptions of these activities on your course site, but an overview of these requirements is given below:

#### **Watch Lectures**

You will begin each lesson by watching assigned lectures.

#### **Read Required Texts**

Once you have viewed the lectures, you will read the required texts as assigned.

#### **Contribute to Discussions**

As you progress through each Module, you will receive prompts to contribute to Discussions. You will contribute original posts to these Discussions and respond to peers as prompted.

Discussions will encourage you to reflect and synthesize what you've been learning in the Module.

### **Create a Personal Glossary of Theological Terms**

As you progress through each Module, you will write summaries for assigned theological terms based on articles you read in Elwell's *Evangelical Dictionary of Theological Terms*. By the end of the course, you will have written summaries for all terms and submitted a copy of the complete list of terms. You can use these summaries as a personal reference of theological terms, which will help you as you continue to study Theology.

### **Write a Key Idea Statement Paper**

Throughout Module A, you will work on a Key Idea Statement Paper. This paper will help you relate various Christian doctrines to one another and identify where you stand in your theological beliefs.

### **Write Integrative Doctrinal Papers**

By the end of Modules B, C, and D, you will write Integrative Doctrinal Papers – three papers in total. These papers will prompt you to bring together biblical teaching, Church creeds, statements and confessions and contemporary issues relating to the doctrine you encountered in that Module. You will analyze the interactions of the Bible, the Church and contemporary contexts in relation to the doctrine for that Module. You will also consider how your Key Idea for theology relates to the doctrine for that Module.

### **Grading**

Your assignments are categorized and weighted for grading as follows

<b>Course Assignment</b>	<b>% of grade</b>
<b>Introductory Discussion</b>	0.8%
<b>Course Discussions</b>	11.2%
<b>Personal Glossary of Theological Terms</b>	10%
<b>Key Idea Statement Paper</b>	10%
<b>Integrative Doctrinal Papers</b>	60%
<b>Reading and Lecture Viewing Report</b>	8%

You must follow the criteria detailed in the Assignment Instructions posted on your course site. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the performance criteria in the Assignment Instructions. You must also submit work by the "due by" dates listed in the Course Summary on the Syllabus tool of the course site. Any work submitted after these "due by" dates will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date unless you make arrangements with you instructor ahead of time.

The grading scale will be as follows:

A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60

## **Course Policies**

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### **Time Zone**

All activities in this course follow Eastern Time (UTC-05:00). Be attentive to the due dates listed in the course site so that you submit your work on time in Eastern Time.

### **Instructor Feedback**

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He or she will give feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades and any additional comments in the course gradebook within two weeks of submission.

### **Writing Standards and Submitting Written Assignments**

Papers must be double-spaced with 1" margins (side margins as well as top and bottom margins of each page), using Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font. Do not exceed page limits. Sources must be properly documented using notes and bibliography. Citations should be professionally formatted, meaning that it should adhere to either Turabian or APA style. Written assignments should be submitted as a Word or PDF file.

### **Discussion Posts**

When quoting from or paraphrasing course readings, provide the author's name and page(s) in parentheses. If quoting from other sources, provide appropriate documentation. Similarly, when referring to a specific lecture, identify it using the title of the segment.

### **Netiquette**

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the *Student Handbook* and this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

### **Additional Seminary Policies**

For additional seminary policies that may pertain to this course please refer to the Syllabus Addendum below.

## **Syllabus Addendum**

### **Academic Standards**

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

### **ADA Policy/ Disability and Accessibility**

The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook. Any student who has a learning, orthopedic, sensory or psychiatric condition that substantially limits one or more major life activities and who would benefit from accommodations may be eligible for assistance. Please contact Deana Nail ([dnail@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:dnail@gordonconwell.edu); 704-527-9909 x5810), the Charlotte Dean of Students, who coordinates services for students with disabilities at the Charlotte campus. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the professor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

### **Cancellation of Class**

In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (due to an impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email notification (via the GCTS email account) to all students registered in the affected course. If the cancellation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account and/or Canvas) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the *Academic Calendar* for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

### **Extension Policy**

Arrangements for submission of late work on or before the end date for the semester or term (as noted in the seminary's *Academic Calendar*) are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required in these cases. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams. However, course work (reading and written)

to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by the Registration Office. An Extension Petition, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the stated date (see the *Academic Calendar* for the designated dates). Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Extension Petition and Student Handbook.

### **Grades**

Faculty are expected to turn in final grades 3 weeks after the end of the term. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center is available online to all Gordon-Conwell students. The Writing Center offers editing and revision services for students' writing. During any given semester, students can submit work as they need support. The online submission process is easy to use, and feedback is provided promptly. If students have any questions about the Writing Center, they can contact: [WritingCenter@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:WritingCenter@gordonconwell.edu). Students can sign up today for Writing Center support through the following site: [www.GordonConwell.store](http://www.GordonConwell.store).