

ST 765 CHURCH AND SACRAMENTS

Summer 2011

3 Semester Credit Hours

Professor: R.J. Gore, Jr., Ph.D.

Due West: 9AM -5 PM

Fridays: 27 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Using Biblical and theological resources, this course seeks to strengthen the student's commitment to and service in the local church. Of particular interest are contemporary expressions of church, including the emerging church and the missional church, the attributes and marks of the Church, the priesthood of all believers, the relationship of preaching and the sacraments, the church as Christian community, and the legitimate role of church polity.

COURSE PURPOSE: To facilitate the student's development of a working theology of church and sacrament.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for ministry in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is to teach students to **do theology**, including the development of the student's own approach to the doctrine of Church and Sacraments. In this course conventional theological language and various approaches to ecclesiology are emphasized.

Specific objectives for this course are that, by the end of the course, students will:

1. Identify significant issues in the doctrine of Church and Sacraments.
2. Understand the changing face of the Church in the post-modern world and critique current practices in light of Scripture and the Christian mission.
3. Examine the nature of Sacraments and their role in the worship and life of the church.
4. Employ Biblical truth, confessional integrity, and pastoral concerns in the development of a statement of purpose.
5. Develop a personal theology of Church and Sacrament.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Clowney, Ed. *The Church*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1995. ISBN 978-0830815340

Kinnaman, David. *unChristian*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007. ISBN 978-0801013003

Malphurs, Aubrey. *A New Kind of Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007. ISBN 978-080109189-6

Rainer, Thom. *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. 978-0310286134

Wright, Christopher. *The Mission of God's People*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN 978-0-310-29112-1

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Jay Adams, *The Meaning and Mode of Baptism*

James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ*

C. K. Barrett, *Church, Ministry, and Sacraments in the New Testament*

David Bridge and David Phipps, *Communion: The Meal That Unites?*

Geoffrey Bromiley, *Children of Promise*

Alexander Carson, *Baptism in Its Modes and Subjects*

James M. Chaney, *William the Baptist*

Oscar Cullmann, *Baptism in the New Testament*

Avery Dulles, *Models of the Church*

Eric Jay, *The Church: Its Changing Image Through Twenty Centuries*

Paul K. Jewett, *Infant Baptism and Covenant of Grace*

Hans Kung, *The Church*

Letham, Robert, *The Lord's Supper*

Pierre Marcel, *Baptism: Sacrament of the Covenant of Grace*

I. Howard Marshall, *Last Supper and Lord's Supper*

Keith Mathison, *Given for You*

Hughes O. Old, *The Shaping of the Reformed Baptismal Rite in the 16th Century*

Geoffrey Preston, *Faces of the Church*

John Riggs, *Baptism in the Reformed Tradition*

Lewis B. Schenck, *The Presbyterian Doctrine of Children in the Covenant*

David Smith, *All God's People*
 Gregg Strawbridge, *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism*
 Leonard Sweet, *The Church of the Perfect Storm*
 Max Thurian, *The Mystery of the Eucharist*
 _____. *The One Bread*
 William H. Willimon, *Word, Water, Wine and Bread*
 Thomas Witherow, *The Apostolic Church*

COURSE METHOD:

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through four learning components. The first is the **Content Component**, the student's own mastery of material, accomplished by completing the required readings. The ability to apply biblical and theological principles effectively to the doctrine of Church and Sacrament is determined largely by the student's familiarity with and mastery of the reading material.

The second is the **Reflection Component**. Each student will develop a written theology of Church and Sacrament. The document will be due at the beginning of the last class period.

The third is the **Discussion Component**. Each class will incorporate discussion and lecture. A vital exchange of ideas is essential to the process of exploration. Students will build on their classroom preparation (the Content Component) and outside preparation (Reflection Component) by participating in the discussion of issues raised.

The fourth is the **Project Component**. As a joint project, the class will be divided into steering committees for a new church development. The committees will address the task of developing Core Values, Mission, and Vision Statement for their notional church. The **Project** provides the students with opportunity to experience some key processes involved in strategic planning.

These four learning components will provide a well-rounded learning experience for the thoughtful student.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Grading Scale:

100-95	A	83-80	C
94-93	A-	79-78	C-
92-91	B+	77-76	D+
90-88	B	75-72	D
87-86	B-	71-70	D-
85-84	C+	69-65	F

Attendance: No absences are excused. However, you may miss three (3) hours of class without being required to do make-up work. I will not try to assess reasons for absences in order to grant excuses. You decide if you want to or need to miss a portion of the class. If you miss more than three (3) hours, you will be required to do extra work in the areas missed. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR ABSENCES AND CONSULT WITH ME IMMEDIATELY** (before the missed class if possible) **TO HAVE THE EXTRA WORK and “DUE DATE” ASSIGNED.** Any student who misses an entire day will be dismissed (withdrawn) from the course. The “rule of thumb” for extra work is nine (9) hours of work for each three (3) hours class period missed. This is based on the idea that each class period requires three hours in class and six hours outside for fulfilling the work of the course.

Requirement One: Attend class regularly and participate in the opening dialogs. **No absences are excused.** Students who miss **more than a total of three hours** will be assigned additional work at the rate of 3 hours of work for every hour missed. Students who miss an entire day will not be allowed to continue in the course. Students will be expected to complete the required readings prior to each class.

Requirement Two: All students will **read** completely the required volumes and complete the Reading Reflection Paper. Each paper will be 500 words in length, single-spaced, and without footnotes. **Note that there are two reading assignments due in June, both smaller books.** For each Reading Reflection Paper, the students will answer the question: What is the most important thought/concept I have gained through reading this book. The reading and Reading Reflection Paper will be completed by the beginning of the class period noted:

Kinnaman, <i>unChristian</i>	27 May
Malphurs, <i>A New Kind of Church</i> and Rainer, <i>Surprising Insights</i> ,	17 June
Clowney, <i>The Church</i>	15 July
Wright, <i>The Mission of God's People</i>	19 August

The Reading Reflection Papers will constitute 50% of your final grade, 10% each. Email all Reflection Papers as WORD attachments to inaliam@gmail.com prior to class. Have a digital or hard copy available for your use during class discussion. **Total estimated time required for successful completion: 40 hours.**

Requirement Three: **All students** will write a research paper on some area of interest within the scope of this course, Church and Sacraments. The research paper will be 2000-2500 words in length (excluding footnotes). The paper will be double-spaced and proper footnote form will be followed (using 7th ed. Kate Turabian, *Manual for Writers*). Bibliography is not required. The paper will be graded (among other considerations) according to the following **key criteria**: use of Scripture and confessional documents of the Church; use of standard reference works, journal articles, internet research, etc.; ability to incorporate pastoral concerns in the discussion of theological issues. This paper will count 40% of your

grade and should be sent as a WORD attachment by email to inaliam@gmail.com by 25 August. **Total estimated time required for successful completion: 25-30 hours.**

All Students: research papers will include, as a minimum

- *Scripture references
- *Conventional theological language
- *Reference to textbooks where appropriate
- *Reference to other recommended works
- *Reference to any relevant Reformation/Post-Reformation confessions
- *Reference to key secondary sources

PAPERS THAT DO NOT MEET THESE MINIMUM STANDARDS WILL BE GRADED DOWN ACCORDINGLY.

Note: This paper can meet a Professional Assessment Portfolio and Graduation Requirement for all students who began seminary in the Fall of 2002 or afterwards. It is the student's responsibility to turn in a clean, corrected copy of their paper to the seminary office for inclusion in your portfolio. Failure to do so will delay your graduation. Portfolio requirements are listed on the back of the academic worksheet of all degree programs. This satisfies the portfolio requirement for a Statement of Faith from a theology class. Moreover, this requirement helps the student develop the skills needed to relate doctrine at the theoretical level to personal spiritual awareness and growth in the student's own faith tradition.

Requirement Four: All students will participate in the mid-day "committee" work and produce the strategic planning documents for "your" church. Follow the instructional materials that are located on this website and be sure to review the sample documents for ideas. <http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/stratplan.pdf> This project will count 10% of your grade and will be reported the last day of class. **Total estimated time required for successful completion: 15-20 hours (including in-class time)**

IMPORTANT LINKS FOR THIS COURSE

SEMINARY POLICIES:
STRATEGIC PLANNING WEBSITE
POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS
CHURCH AND SACRAMENTS NOTES
SAMPLE PAPER CHURCH
SAMPLE CHURCH/MINISTRY PAPER
SAMPLE FOOTNOTES
INTERNET RESOURCES