

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Christian Theology II

TERM: Fall 2024-2025

PROFESSOR: John P. Burgess

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is the second of two courses introducing students to Christian doctrine. Students are invited to reflect theologically on the biblical narrative of God's gifts through the Spirit of the risen Christ, including justification, sanctification, vocation, the church, the sacraments, and the eschatological consummation of God's reign, as lifted up in the church's creedal confessions. Attention will be given to how God's being and work draw us into God's mission and give shape to faithful practices and ministry within particular cultural contexts.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the doctrines of the person and work of the Holy Spirit and of the gifts of God through the Spirit, including the church, worship, sacraments, Scripture and its interpretation, salvation, vocation, justification, sanctification, and eternal life in God's eschatological consummation of all things in Christ.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of how these doctrines are rooted in Scripture, confessed by the church, and witnessed in faithful communities today.
3. Narrate and reflect on their own Christian experience in relation to these doctrines and on how their experience has been shaped by their denominational traditions, by the wider Christian community, and by social contexts.
4. Reflect on the practices that open Christians and communities to the experience of the Holy Spirit in particular cultural contexts.

PREREQUISITES: TH210 or permission of the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2004, ISBN: 978-0800683252, \$23.49. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor and theologian in Nazi Germany; he was executed shortly before the end of World War II. His thinking has shaped much of twentieth-century Protestant theology.
- John P. Burgess, *After Baptism*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2005, ISBN: 978-0664228842, \$22.99. This book is my effort to relate Reformation theology to the life of the church today. I reflect on how Christians can live out their baptismal identity.
- Schmemmann, Alexander, *For the Life of the World*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2018, ISBN: 978-0881416176, \$16.99. Schmemmann was a twentieth-century North American Orthodox theologian. His writings have helped many Protestants appreciate how worship shapes belief and practice.
- Other readings will be posted on the class portal. Attention will be given to biblical, Roman Catholic, classical Reformation, Anabaptist, Lutheran, Orthodox, contemporary Reformed, feminist, evangelical, liberal Protestant, postliberal, Barthian, ecumenical, and liberationist perspectives.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Several short papers and a final exam.

ATTENDANCE: Required.