



SYLLABUS

Mentoring in Discipleship Ministry
CMEN6600

Starkville Institute: Christian Scripture
Spring 2023

INSTRUCTOR

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MISSION

The Starkville Institute exists to equip the saints and call out the called by engaging in the basics of Christian Theology to lay a firm foundation for further theological contemplation and articulation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will aid students in discipleship by providing them a basic framework to understand the Bible. The intention is to provide a duplicable model for personal discipleship and practical teaching in a Bible study setting.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Understand what is meant by “Christian Theology.”
2. Understand the importance of the whole Bible as Christian Scripture.
3. Understand Jesus “according to Scripture.”
4. Articulate the importance of “Special Revelation.”
5. Have a grasp of the “scope” (skopos) of Scripture.
6. Develop an attitude of submission to the authority of the Bible including a commitment to reading it regularly as Christian Scripture.
7. Formulate a theological basis upon which they can build their ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

The following are **required** readings:

- *Words of Life*, Ward
- *Reading Scripture Canonically*, Gignilliat
- *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers*, Hall
- *On the Apostolic Preaching*, Irenaeus

The following are **recommended**:

- *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, Trier
- *The Character of Christian Scripture*, Seitz
- *Theology for the Church*, Akin

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1. Lectures (2hrs/week)
 - During the Institute (1 hour weekly)
 - With Instructor for discourse on selected topics (From 7-8 AM on Tuesdays during semester)
2. Reading of assigned texts
3. Conferences with the instructor

COURSE REQUIREMENT

The “for credit” track, built upon the core lectures of the Institute is designed with your learning in mind and seeks to serve as a foundation upon which you can build your ministry.

- Approximately 1200 minutes of “access” to the instructor (Pastor) for collaboration upon topics of interest related to the coursework.
- Approximately 1500 minutes of reading from textbooks.

Reflection Papers: You will write a 550-650 word, single-spaced paper on your own to answer the questions provided based upon prior knowledge and reflection. The Bible and textbooks, and lecture notes, can help you formulate your answer. These are reflection papers meaning you will be graded on the formulation of the answer not graded against a correct answer.

- Be between 550-650 words
- Be your thoughts on the question. No footnotes.
- Written in Microsoft Word
- No title page (Include in the header YOUR NAME, and REFLECTION PAPER #)
- Single-spaced
- All Reflection Paper must be turned in before the due date and time

Critical Book Review: A 1,000-word critical review of Gignilliat, *Reading Scripture Canonically*.

Theological Integration Paper: In order to qualify for an A, you must write a 5 page , double-spaced, answer to the question, “How Does God Reveal Himself to Humanity?” The paper should be footnoted following the latest edition of Kate Turbrian. An example of an acceptable integration paper is available upon request.

Evaluation/Grading: The following criteria will serve as the basis for grading:

1. Does the work illustrated a basic understanding of the concepts presented?
2. Does the students demonstrate clear and specific interaction with the course material (readings, lectures)?
3. Does the work reflect the student’s responsibility to prepare both academically and practically, i.e., has the student attempted to apply the material to his/her ministry setting or to the local church in general?
4. Does the work fulfill the assignment by the required date? Because ministry itself demands discipline, students are expected to meet established deadlines for submitted work.
5. Is the assignment written at a level appropriate for master’s level work? Does the work follow proper style?

COURSE GRADING

Course Grading Weight:

- Book Review – 100 points each
- Reflection Papers – 10 points each
- Theological Integration Paper – 100 points

Grading Scale:

A = 95-100; B = 87-94; C = 77-86; D = 70-76; F = below 70.

Unless providentially hindered, the student is expect to attend all lectures and conferences. A student absent more than 1/4 of the total number of classes (6) will automatically receive a grade of “F.”

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, course objectives, general content, grading criteria, course requirements, attendance requirements, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that change during the term.

ADDENDUM

Reflection Paper Questions: These are not research questions, they are simply a record of your own reflection on these questions. There is not a correct answer against which you will be graded.

1. What is the intended end of Christian theology?
2. What is the starting place of Christian theology?
3. Is the Bible the record of revelation or is it the revelation of God?
4. If someone found another letter written by Paul to a church, would we read it as authoritative?
Explain your answer.
5. What does it mean and what is the significance that God “breathed...the breath of life” (Gen 2:7) into Adam?
6. What does it mean that Adam and Eve were made in the image of God?
7. What was humanity’s role in the Garden?