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## **ST750 CHRISTOLOGY**

*Summer 2010*

**Fridays: May 21; June 25; July 30; August 20, 9AM-5PM**  
**3 Semester Credit Hours**  
**Professor: R. J. Gore, Jr., D.Min., Ph.D.**  
**PO Box 594, Due West, SC 29639**

### **SUMMER 10 OFFICE HOURS:**

I will not have regular office hours during the summer, but you may contact me by email to schedule an appointment.

For e-mail assignments: please forward to: [inaliam@gmail.com](mailto:inaliam@gmail.com)

### **COURSE RESOURCES:**

#### **POWERPOINTS**

**DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 1**

Click Here

**DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 2**

**DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 3**

**DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 4**

**READING STUDY GUIDES**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Making use of Scripture, pertinent historical documents from the Church's rich heritage, and contemporary authors, class members explore the pivotal subject of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### **COURSE PURPOSE:**

To introduce and expose the student to the study of the person and work of Christ; to enable the student to identify and describe doctrinal development concerning the person of Christ; to consider the question of the historical Jesus; to evaluate critically the various theories of the atonement through a grid of biblical, theological, and historical criteria.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is to teach students to develop a doctrine of Christ that is faithful to the Scriptures and the

historic ecumenical creeds and Reformational confessions. In this course, exegetical and historical data is emphasized.

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

**Know** the nature and contents of the doctrine of Christ needed in order to identify key doctrinal issues and describe the development of those issues as part of a coherent system of truth

**Know** the relevant doctrinal issues and how to distinguish among various contemporary Christologies

**Be able** to explain the doctrine of Christ in light of his/her own theological commitment

**Be able** to relate the major points of Christology to the overall theological system

**Be able** to develop and to formulate theological constructs that reflect the student's theological beliefs in light of historic creedal/confessional formulas

**Be able** to critique various Christological formulations and to determine their degree of conformity to biblical, theological, and historical criteria

**Bridge the gap** between the study of Christology and its implications for the practice of ministry in the Church

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### **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 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.

St. Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0913836408

Fairbairn, Donald. *Life in the Trinity*. Downers Grover, InterVarsity, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0830838738

Hurtado, Larry W. *How on Earth Did Jesus Become God*. Grand Rapid: Eerdmans, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0802828613

Letham, Robert. *The Work of Christ*. Downers Grover, InterVarsity, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0830815326

Macleod, Donald. *The Person of Christ*. Downers Grover, InterVarsity, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0830815371

### **COURSE METHOD:**

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through three learning components. The first is the **Content Component**, the student's own mastery of material, accomplished by completing the required readings and measured objectively by a final examination over the readings.

The second component is **Classroom Participation**. Each class will incorporate lecture and discussion. A vital exchange of ideas is essential to the process of exploration, Students will build on their classroom preparation (i.e., the Content Component) by participating in the discussion of biblical, theological, and historical issues.

The third is the **Research Component**. Each student will be expected to complete two (2) Research Projects. The first of these two projects will be a research paper on either 1) "The Person of Christ," or 2) "The Atonement" (due 30 July). The second research project will be an integrative paper that bridges biblical, theological, and practical theology: "Christology, Relationship, and Applied Theology" (due 24 August).

These three 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-	F

### **STANDARDS FOR ALL PAPERS:**

- A.....No more than 4 misspellings or grammatical errors in total
  - Identified the most significant articles, books in bibliography
  - Used research materials expertly, leaving no unanswered questions
  - Thesis statement clear and proved
- B.....No more than 2 misspellings or grammatical errors per page
  - Identified a number of important articles, books in bibliography
  - Used research material fairly, addressed most problem areas
  - Thesis statement clear and sustained
- C.....No more than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page
  - Used the minimum required number of bibliographical entries
  - Used research material adequately
  - Thesis statement not clear and/or not sustained
- D.....More than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page
  - Failed to use minimum number of bibliographical entries
  - Research poorly done
  - What thesis statement?

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Requirement One:** Attend class regularly and participate in the discussions. No unexcused absences are permitted. Students who miss more than a total of three hours will be assigned additional work. Students who miss an entire class day will be dropped from the course. While no grade is assigned for this Component, a favorable subjective evaluation may positively influence the student's final grade. Failure to do the preparatory reading may negatively influence the student's final grade by at least a full letter.

**Requirement Two:** Each student will be expected to complete the readings and study guides for each of the assigned texts by Athanasius, Hurtado, MacLeod, and Letham. The St. Athanasius study guide will be worth 10 points; the other three will be worth 15 points each.

**Due Dates: St. Athanasius and Hurtado- 2<sup>nd</sup> class  
MacLeod- 3<sup>rd</sup> class  
Letham- 4<sup>th</sup> class**

**Requirement Three:** Each student will complete a research paper on either the person of Christ or the atonement. The research paper will be eight to ten (8-10) pages in length, **typed or computer-generated. The FONT selected should be a readable size, for example, Times New Roman, 11 or 12 pt.** The research paper needs to be the student's **own** original work. The completed research paper will be graded according to thoroughness, mastery of the material, grammar, and neatness. Proper footnote apparatus and a proper mixture of books, essays, articles, is expected. The research paper is valued at 30 points.

**Requirement Four:** Each student will complete an integrative paper that bridges biblical, theological, and practical theology: "Christology, Relationship, and Applied Theology" (due 24 August). This integrative paper will be eight to ten (8-10) pages in length, **typed or computer-generated. The FONT selected should be a readable size, for example, Times New Roman, 11 or 12 pt.** This integrative paper needs to be the student's **own** original work. The student will select some Christological concept introduced in Fairbairn, *Life in the Trinity*, and reflect on the implications of that concept for some area of applied theology: pastoral care and counseling, Christian education, preaching, worship, etc. Students will make use of biblical texts, theological concepts, creedal and confessional constructs, and principles of practical theology to demonstrate the relevance of some Christological truth to an area of applied theology. The objective is achieved when the student is able to demonstrate the ability to move from theory to practice, maintaining doctrinal fidelity and meaningful ministry. Sample titles for integrative papers include: "Eternal Life and Fostering Christian Community"; "The Image of God, Counseling, and Self-Esteem"; or "Preaching God's Promises to Strengthen the Faithful." The integrative paper is valued at 15 points.

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY AS WORD.DOC(X) ATTACHMENTS TO THE GMAIL ADDRESS ON PAGE ONE.**

**IN SUMMARY, the Point Distribution (500 total) is as follows:**

55 points from Study Guides  
30 points for the Research Paper  
15 points for the Integrative Paper

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**SEMINARY POLICIES:**

**Drop/Add/Withdrawal**

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

**Incompletes**

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

**Language about God and Humanity**

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church’s historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use

language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

### **Conduct in Theological Discussions**

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

### **Chapel Attendance Policy (FOR TUESDAY-THURSDAY ON-CAMPUS CLASSES)**

All morning and afternoon on-campus classes (except for Friday and Saturday courses) carry a chapel attendance requirement. Consult the catalog or registration booklet for the specifics of the chapel attendance policy. There is a per chapel fee if you attend fewer chapels than required.

### **Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy**

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. As this is a modular class, normally, no one who misses more than three hours will be allowed to continue in this course. If you plan to take this course, clear your schedule. If students have to be absent for any reason, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. Another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

*Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.*

*Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.*

*On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.*

1. *Quotations.* Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. *Paraphrasing.* Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. *Ideas.* Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. *Bibliography.* All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. *Multiple submission.* Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. *False citation.* The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. *Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge.* Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted

Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester

Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

**REMEMBER- if you can GOOGLE IT, SO CAN I!**