

Syllabus

REL-232: Basic Christian Doctrine

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic of Christian beliefs. Over the course of five weeks students will understand the Apostles creed and how to interpret it.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: None

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge: None

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Discuss major components of orthodox Christian doctrine.
2. Identify and explain the Wesleyan/Arminian position on key theological issues.
3. Express in a clear, orderly and consistent manner your own "credo".
4. Explain how this study has helped you grow knowledge and love of God.

Course Textbook

McGrath, Alister. *I believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed*. Downers Grove: IVP Books. 1997

Bird, Michael. *What Christians ought to Believe*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2016.

Course Technology

None

Course Structure

This course is structured around comprehension and demonstrating student competence with the reading material. Each week students will have reading assignments from the Alister McGrath text book and or the Michael Bird text book. Students will participate in two discussion boards demonstrating that they have read the material and are able to understand it. Each week there will be a project which will allow the student to demonstrate their creative integration of the material. There will be a weekly quiz over all the reading material, each quiz is open book. Finally, each week the student will write a 400-500 word reflection paper on a given topic.

Grading Scale

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit	Percentage	Score
A	4.0	95%-100%	950-1000
A-	3.7	92%-94.9%	920-949
B+	3.3	89%-91.9%	890-919
B	3.0	85%-88.9%	850-889
B-	2.7	82%-84.9%	820-849
C+	2.3	79%-81.9%	790-819
C	2.0	75%-78.9%	750-789

C-	1.7	72%–74.9%	720–749
D+	1.3	69%–71.9%	690–719
D	1.0	65%–68.9%	650–689
F	0.0	0%–64.9%	0–649

Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the IWU Catalog.

Letter Grade Equivalencies

Grade	Description of Work
A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.
B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
C	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work is below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below acceptable levels.
F	Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Course Workshop Summary

Workshop	Discussion*	Dropbox*	Quiz/Exam*	Total Points per Workshop
Workshop One	2/80	2/80	1/40	200
Workshop Two	2/80	2/80	1/40	200
Workshop Three	2/80	2/80	1/40	200
Workshop Four	2/80	2/80	1/40	200
Workshop Five	2/80	2/80	1/40	200
End of Course Survey				10 extra credit

TOTAL	400	400	200	1000
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* Number of Activities/Sum Point Totals

Workshop One Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
1.1 Discussion: What Does It Mean To Have Faith?	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
1.2 Discussion: I Believe in God the Father Almighty	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
1.3 Assignment: God and Creation	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
1.4 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1 hour	40
1.5 Assignment: Personal Reflection	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
Totals		10 hours*	200

Workshop Two Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
2.1 Discussion: The Incarnation	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
2.2 Discussion: Jesus' Kingdom of God	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
2.3 Assignment: Kingdom of God	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
2.4 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1 hour	40
2.5 Assignment: Personal Reflection	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
		10 hours*	200

Workshop Three Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
3.1 Discussion: Jesus' Death	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
3.2 Discussion: Cruciformity	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
3.3 Assignment: Jesus and History	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
3.4 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1 hour	40
3.5 Assignment: Personal Reflection	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
		10 hours*	200

Workshop Four Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
4.1 Discussion: Jesus' Ascension	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
4.2 Discussion: Holy Spirit	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
4.3 Assignment: Power of the Holy Spirit	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
4.4 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1 hour	40
4.5 Assignment: Personal Reflection	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
		10 hours*	200

Workshop Five Outline

Title	Type	Due Dates	Time	Points
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5.1 Discussion: What Does the Church Mean?	Discussion	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
5.2 Discussion: The Forgiveness of Sins	Discussion	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Responses need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
5.3 Assignment: Images for the Church	Dropbox	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
5.4 Quiz	Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1 hour	40
5.5 Assignment: Personal Reflection	Dropbox	Due by the end of the workshop.	1.5 hours	40
End of Course Survey	Quiz/Survey	Due by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	10 extra credit
			10:30 hours*	200

Course Assignments

TOTALS	50:30 hours*	1000
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* These timings are based on estimations of average times to complete each assignment. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Discussions

In each workshop, there are two discussion forums (one for each workshop section) containing numerous discussion threads tied to questions in the course material. Throughout each workshop, you will find a variety of topically related questions you can address in a discussion board related to that tutorial. **You are required to respond to the assigned questions in each grouping** To make a posting, simply select the appropriate discussion thread and click "reply."

In the discussion boards, your purpose is to respond to each question demonstrating a sufficient knowledge of the issues and material being covered. You are expected to demonstrate that you have read and digested the assigned reading.

Statements that add little or nothing of substance will not receive full credit. In each discussion, your initial posting should, in at least two full paragraphs, fully answer the given question in the course interface. Additionally, the student should respond to a minimum of two other students and the facilitator. **Postings of the "I agree" or "Me too" variety are not acceptable for grading purposes**, but often contribute to the "flow" of conversation. Humorous comments or personal notes can also stimulate conversation, but are not considered for discussion grading.

Only postings that demonstrate serious reflection on the topic will be counted for grading purposes. While spelling, grammar, and syntax are important and should not be ignored, minor grammatical errors are not considered in discussion grading unless they materially detract from the understandability or persuasiveness of the posting. As in a traditional level classroom discussion, in our online discussions, you should identify any sources (and where relevant page numbers) you have drawn on, but you need not cite those sources in APA format during a discussion.

To receive full credit in a discussion forum, a student is expected to make a minimum of one major response and provide at least two substantive follow up responses to other students plus the Instructor.

Weekly Quiz

Each week you will be required to participate in a quiz over the reading material. The quiz is an open book quiz and should demonstrate your familiarity with the reading material. The questions are specific enough that you should be able to find the appropriate section in the books and find the answers within a reasonable time period. If the reading has not been conducted prior to taking the quiz answering the questions will prove extremely difficult. Therefore, it is suggested that the student read the material prior to taking the exams.

Weekly Creative Exercises

With the advent of the 21st century education has become a multi-media endeavor. Students must not simply absorb information but rather must learn how to present it in a unique and engaging manner. Each week students will be required to submit a creative exercise covering some aspect of the material. Some weeks you will be required to create a Power point presentation illustrating the material. Other weeks you will be requested to find five or six websites, web channels or videos that facilitate understanding. The purpose of these exercises is to move the student from reading and reception into creative interaction with the material. Students are expected to submit unique work for their creative projects which demonstrates their engagement with the material.

Written Work

Each week, you will submit one paper consisting of one to two page essays (each shall be between 400-500 words). In each of these essays, you will be demonstrating your engagement with reading material. All papers are to be submitted according to the proper APA formatting with a clear plagiarism statement attached to the cover page. Please submit all papers in 12 point Times New Roman font. Give references for any Bible passages to which you refer. If you have consulted other sources, give an APA style List of References on a second page.

By what standards should you (and will the instructor) evaluate your writing?

1. How well does your writing respond to the set question? (In other words, you did not invent your own question to answer.)
2. How clearly does your writing enable a reader to understand what you think on this subject?
3. Have you moved beyond saying what you believe to why you believe as you do?
4. Have you written in good, concise, grammatical form?
5. Have you followed any other instructions the course facilitator has given you for this paper?

Expectations, Policies, and Important Student Information

School/Division	Link
DeVoe School of Business Division of Liberal Arts School of Services and Leadership	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
School of Educational Leadership	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
Wesley Seminary @ IWU	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
Nursing - Undergraduate	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
Nursing - Graduate	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information