

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Course Descriptions

Introduction to the Gospel

Prerequisite: None

This course is devoted to examining the spiritual needs of class members and addressing those needs in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It contains an introduction to the Christian faith, emphasizing an overview of the Bible and the significance of law and gospel in the daily walk of the Christian life. The course is designed primarily for the student who has little or no formal Christian education.

Old Testament

Prerequisite: Elementary knowledge of basic Bible stories and teachings

This course is devoted to examining the contents and theology of the Old Testament. Basic themes will be tracked through the testament, such as messiah, covenant, prophet/priest/king, worship, etc. The class seeks to develop a solid, historical knowledge of the contents of the Old Testament. Additionally, students will learn to read the texts according to the hermeneutical principles of Christ-centeredness, law and gospel, and scripture interpreting Scripture.

New Testament

Prerequisite: Old Testament

This course is devoted to examining the contents of the New Testament. Basic themes will continue from the Old Testament class. The first half of the class will seek to introduce students to the contents of the gospels with an emphasis on the gospel message. The second half will introduce students to the apostolic church as described in the book of Acts and to the New Testament epistles. Students will continue to develop use of hermeneutical principles from prior courses.

Doctrine

Prerequisite: New Testament

This course is devoted to examining in detail the basic teachings of Christianity and their basis in scripture. The first half of the class will examine doctrine systematically. Topics will include Christology, worship, church, election, sacraments, end times, free will, Christian ethics, etc. The second half will examine doctrine chronologically, as it has been proclaimed, attacked, and defended throughout the 2,000 years of church history. Special attention will be given to the doctrinal issues surrounding the early ecumenical councils, the church fathers, the protestant reformation, and the modern ecumenical movement.

Christ and Culture

Prerequisite: Doctrine

This course is devoted to equipping students to engage their culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Emphases will include understanding the various worldviews of our unbelieving neighbors, sharing the gospel in a meaningful way with them, and giving a defense for the hope we have within us. The first half of the class will be a survey of the world's major non-Christian worldviews, religions, cults, and the occult. Emphasis will be on their distinctive belief patterns, ritual and worship practices, ethical and social patterns, origin, and development, as well as a Christian approach to evangelism of these groups. The second half of the course will be devoted to preparing students to defend their faith in the hostile academic environment of the modern post-Christian university. The study of apologetics will examine the classical philosophical arguments for the existence of God, the historical case for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and the creation/evolution controversy.

Introduction to the Gospel Mentor Independent Study

Prerequisite: Old Testament, New Testament & Doctrine

In this program of independent study, the student will work as a teacher's assistant for the "Introduction to the Gospel" course, which is a class intended for non-Christians and those with little or no church background. The mentor student will work with the teacher to present the basic Gospel message and build relationships with students. The teacher will retain ultimate responsibility for the class, but will utilize the mentor as a small-group discussion leader, and will occasionally have the mentor prepare lessons and lead class discussions. The mentor student will be evaluated (pass/fail) on his/her lesson preparation and class leadership. This independent study course could be taken by seniors in place of "Christ and Culture" or it could be taken as a fifth theology course, counting as an elective.