



Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary DR 37337 Biblical Ecclesiology

INSTRUCTOR/CLASS INFORMATION

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Term: Fall Year: 2015 Credit: 4 hours
Start Date: July 14, 2016 End Date: October 14, 2016
On-Campus Dates: September 12-16
Class Times: Monday-Thursday 8am - 5 pm; Friday 8 am - 12 pm
Location: MBTS Campus, Kansas City, MO

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

DR 37337 Biblical Ecclesiology: A seminar on the major issues concerning doctrine and practice of the church from a biblical context. This will include such topics as the relationship between the church and Israel, governance structures of the church, the traditional marks of the church, the ordinances of the church, as well as the church's mission in the world. In addition, current methodological issues surrounding the doctrine of the church will be addressed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

In the process of completion of DR 37337, the following objectives and indicators will be met:

1. The student will clearly articulate a doctrinal position regarding the nature and purpose of the church.
2. The student will clearly articulate the major understandings of the church that have existed throughout Christian history and how they compare to a Baptist ecclesiology.
3. The student will understand the doctrinal relationship between ecclesiology and the other doctrines of the Christian faith that impact ecclesiology.
4. The student will be able to articulate clearly the connection between doctrinal positions and practice, so that the student can show how the doctrine of the church is to be put into practice.

The above outlined objectives will be measured as follows:

Types of Assignments to Objectives Matrix

	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4
Assignments				
Reading			X	X
Writing paper	X	X	X	X
Presentation	X	X	X	X
Discussion/ Dialogue Participation	X	X	X	X

TEXT BOOKS & REQUIRED READING

1. Karkkainen, Veli-Matti. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2002.
2. Hammett, John. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2005.
3. Allison, Greg. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012.
4. Bray, Gerald. *The Church: A Theological and Historical Account*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
5. Allen, Jason, ed. *The SBC and the 21st Century*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016
6. Kung, Hans. *The Church*. Translated by Ray and Rosaleen Ockenden. New York: Burns and Oates, 1967.
7. Dever, Mark. *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*. Nashville: B&H, 2012.
8. Schreiner, Thomas R. and Shawn D. Wright, eds. *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2006.
9. Schreiner, Thomas R. and Matthew R. Crawford. *The Lord's Supper: Remembering and Proclaiming Christ Until He Comes*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.
10. Merkle, Benjamin L. and Thomas R. Schreiner. *Shepherding God's Flock: Biblical Leadership in the New Testament and Beyond*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2014.

1. Assignments:

A. Required Reading and Class Participation (15%)

Each student will be required to read the required textbooks. On or before the first day of the on-campus portion of the seminar, each student will submit a statement attesting that he or she has read all of the assigned texts with reasonable care. A reading schedule is included at the end of the syllabus in the **Seminar Outline**.

Each student will be responsible for doctoral quality class participation. This will include paper presentations, as well as general discussions. Additionally, students will be graded on their thoroughness and thoughtfulness in responding to questions posed by the instructors as well as participation in seminar discussion. The following factors will be the basis for the assignment of letter grades for class discussion:

- Student attends and participates in discussion.
- Student shows evidence of having read the material.
- Student indicates understanding of the material.
- Student can apply the information when presented with examples.
- Student understands how a given point relates to the larger reading and study of the topic.

Careful reading of all assignments, as well as participation in critical discussions of all readings, are expected of each seminar participant for each seminar meetings.

B. Reading Outlines (15%)

Students will write ten (10) reading outlines for the assigned readings submitted to Blackboard by 9:00 p.m. **the evening prior to the start of the seminar**. The outline should be 4 pages minimum, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman with only the student's name and titles of the reading assignments at the top of the first page. The outlines will state clearly the book(s) thesis and the thesis of each chapter and will enable the student to participate in the seminar discussions. See the following example:

[First line] Author and Book, following Book Review format. The student's name should follow justified to the far right margin:

Baptists Through the Centuries: A History of a Global People. By David W. Bebbington. Pp. xii, 315. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010. £32. 978 1 602 58204 0

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[First heading] **Thesis**

This should be the last thing you write. A helpful exercise might be to take a first pass at the thesis after you read the introduction and then compare once you have completed the reading.

[Following headings] **Chapter # and Title**

First sentence should be the thesis of the chapter followed by an outline in either paragraph or bulleted form.

C. Biblical Ecclesiology Project (25%)

Students will develop a clear biblical ecclesiology. This is an essential and practical outworking of our course. This is not a typical paper and the project needs to be developed and formatted as follows:

1. Page ONE: **Define the *local* church using no more than 100 words.** Your definition should be limited to the *local* church (that is, you should not include a definition of the universal, or invisible, or heavenly church) and should include all the essential elements (e.g., ministries, government) by which the local church is constituted. You should not include biblical references in the text (feel free to utilize footnotes). The goal is to provide a thorough, yet succinct definition.
2. Page TWO: **Write a brief doctrinal statement setting forth your convictions on the ordinance of baptism.** This statement should be one that you could incorporate in your church, so imagine that your audience is the membership of a church that is putting together its foundational documents. Write for that audience. You may not exceed a single page.
3. Page THREE: **Write a brief doctrinal statement setting forth your convictions on the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.** This statement should be one that you could incorporate in your church, so imagine that your audience is the membership of a church that is putting together its foundational documents. Write for that audience. You may not exceed a single page.
4. Pages FOUR-SIX: **Write a policy statement setting forth your convictions on the exercise of church discipline.** You will have three pages only to defining the practice, support it biblically, and explain the process of church discipline as it will be carried out by the church toward its members (3 pages total). Like the above points, this statement should be one that you could incorporate in your church, so imagine that your audience is the membership of a church that is putting together its foundational documents. Write for that audience. Make sure that you are sufficiently specific in your explanation of the actual process of church discipline.
5. Pages SEVEN-TWELVE: **Write a brief position statement on the leadership of the church –** Pastors (elders/bishops/overseers), Deacons (servants/ministers) and how they related to the nature of the congregation (5 pages max). Be certain to define exactly how the congregation engages as part of the polity. This will require careful thinking about membership and responsibilities for all members (priesthood of all believers) as well as the Biblical offices of the church.

This project will NOT exceed 12 pages (excluding bibliography and coversheet) using standard formatting (double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman or similar). We will use these projects as a portion of our time together in October. The Biblical Ecclesiology project must be posted via Blackboard to all users in the course **by 9 p.m., the evening prior to the start of the seminar.**

D. Prospectus & Bibliography (5%)

Students will prepare and submit a one (1) page prospectus and preliminary bibliography for the research paper. The prospectus is a summary of the thesis and intentions of the paper. The prospectus and bibliography must be submitted via Blackboard to the professors by 9:00 pm on **August 9, 2016.**

E. Research Paper & Presentation (40%)

Students will write a theological essay of at least 20 pages on one of the topics below. The student may request permission to write on another topic. The paper must work with primary sources in addition to relevant secondary sources and advance and defend a clear thesis.

Topics will be given on a first come first served basis. The student should request a topic via email to the professors and he or she should list their first, second, and third choices from the list below by **July 19, 2016**. The professors will respond with the assigned topics by July 26 so the students can begin work on their Prospectus & Bibliography assignment.

- a. The Nature and Work of the New Testament Church Gleaned from Didactic Passages and Metaphors
- b. The Purpose and Performance of Church Discipline
- c. Gender in the New Testament Church
- d. The Gifts, their Nature, Purpose, and Limitation in the Early Church
- e. Lines of Authority in the New Testament Church
- f. The Meaning and Practice of Baptism
- g. The Meaning and Practice of the Lord's Supper
- h. Officers in the Early Assemblies
- i. Magisterial Reformation Versus Radical Reformation
- j. The Value, Prospects, and Limitations of Ecumenism
- k. Is the Church Becoming "Feminized"?
- l. Ordination in the New Testament
- m. Mega, Multi-site, Conventional, Ethnic, Target Group and House Churches and the New Testament
- n. The History, Significance, and Future of Denominations
- o. Replacement Theology – The Relationship Between Israel and the Church
- p. Worship and the Church
- q. An Evaluation of the Great Commission and the Church
- r. The Origin and Perpetuity of the Church
- s. Landmarkism – Values and Problems
- t. The Place of the Bible in the Church
- u. The Church, the State, and Religious Liberty

The recommended doctoral style-guide the standard for the writing of formal papers at Midwestern. Papers with grammatical and spelling errors will be penalized. Long and lengthy block quotes are not preferred. The research paper must be posted via Blackboard to all users in the course **by 9 p.m., the evening prior to the start of the seminar**. The date of presentation will be determined during the first seminar meeting.

The student will present his or her paper during the week of class and will then rework the paper in light of the class feedback for final submission by **October 7, 2016**. The initial paper is worth 12% of the paper grade and the rewrite is worth 18% of the paper. The class presentation will constitute 10% of the paper grade.

2. Class Attendance:

Students are expected and required to attend all class sessions.

3. Late Assignments:

At the doctoral level, late work is unacceptable. Late work will not be accepted although consideration will be given on a case by case basis in the event of exceptional circumstances, such as a major illness or death in the family.

4. Typing:

All assignments are to be typed with Turabian style formatting. Please use a size 12, Times New Roman with one (1) inch margins on all four sides of the text. Double-space the text and use only left margin justification. Please save documents as Last Name, First Name- Course Number- Title of Paper.

5. General Requirements for Written and Oral Projects:

A. This course is offered at the doctoral level and the work will be evaluated as such. Four credit hours will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

B. An exceptionally high quality of writing and grammar usage is important in the production of all class work and assignments. Assignments that show a lack of attention and low proficiency in writing and grammar skills will be returned ungraded for correction and resubmission. If that makes the paper late, late penalties will be assessed.

C. Required resource to guide your research and writing:

Midwestern Seminary *Manual of Style* (2016).

D. Make duplicates and keep copies of ALL assignments. Paper and electronic copies are like “academic insurance.”

E. Plagiarism is forbidden. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas in ways that cause those words or ideas to appear as if they are your own. The source of the words and ideas of others must be cited. Any assignment in which plagiarism is determined will receive an automatic zero (0) without any opportunity of make-up.

6. Computation of Final Grade:

Assignments are worth various points. The maximum points a student can accumulate is 100.

Reading and Class Participation	15%
Biblical Ecclesiology Project	25%
Reading Outlines	15%
Prospectus and Bibliography	5%
Research Paper	40%

TOTAL: 100 points

Final grades will be awarded on the following point system. In doctoral work, a grade of less than a B- is considered not passing.

		A	97+	A-	94-96.9
B+	90-93.9	B	87-89.9	B-	85-86.9
C+	82-84.9	C	78-81.9	C-	760-77.9
D+	730-75.9	D	690-72.9	D-	650-68.9
F	64.9 or less				

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. GPA System adopted by MBTS is:

A	4.0	B-	2.7	D+	1.3
A-	3.7	C+	2.3	D	1.0
B+	3.3	C	2.0	D-	0.7
B	3.0	C-	1.7	F	0.00

2. Method of Instruction:

The following methods of instruction will be included in this course:

- A. Discussion Boards
- B. Group Discussion and Dialogue
- C. Written Assignments
- D. Research Papers
- E. Reading
- F. Presentations

3. Disabilities:

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor. The student is responsible to initiate any request for accommodations. Documentation may be required.

SEMINAR OUTLINE (Subject to Adjustment)

Dates	Suggested Reading Schedule	Assignments
July 14		Class begins. Students submit their top 3 research paper topics
July 19	Karkkainen	Research Paper topics assigned
July 26	Hammett	
Aug 2	Allison	
Aug 9	Bray / Allen	Prospectus & Bibliography due by 9 p.m.
Aug 16	Kung	
Aug 23	Dever / Schreiner & Wright	
Aug 30	Schreiner & Crawford	

Sep 6	Schreiner & Merkle		
Sep 11		Biblical Ecclesiology Project due by 9 p.m. Research Paper (presentation draft) due by 9 p.m. Reading Outlines (9) due by 9 p.m.	
On Campus Date	8:30 a.m.-Noon	1:30-4:15 p.m.	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Monday Sep 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction & Professor Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Outline Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading & Research
Tuesday Sep 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Outline Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Outline Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading & Research
Wednesday Sep 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Outline Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biblical Ecclesiology Paper Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading & Research
Thursday Sep 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Paper Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Paper Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading & Research
Friday Sep 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Paper Presentations		
Oct 7		Research Paper (Final Draft) due by 9 p.m.	

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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