



SYLLABUS

Discipleship and Spiritual Formation
DISC5300

Starkville Institute: Christian Community
Spring 2024

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. Learn the basics framework of Christian Community.
5. Understand the church as “the Spirit-filled eschatological people of God.”
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:

- *On Pascha*, Melito of Sardis
- *Unity of Christ*, Cyril
- *Life and Practice of the Early Church*, McKinion
- *Surprised by Hope*, Wright

The following are **recommended**:

- *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer
- *Worship with the Church Fathers*, Hall
- *Theology for the Church*, Akin
- *Apostolic Fathers*, Holmes

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 Wright, *Surprised by Hope*.

Theological Integration Paper: In order to qualify for an A, you must write a 5 page, double-spaced, answer to the question, “What is the Lord’s Supper?” The paper should be footnoted following the latest edition of Kate Turbian. 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 expected 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. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What are the gifts of the Spirit?
3. What is the purpose of Baptism?
4. How often should churches participate in the Lord’s Supper?
5. At what age should children be baptized?
6. What role does preaching play in the church?
7. What do we mean when we say “resurrection?”