

## TH502: Theology Survey II | Spring 2020

---

Dr. Adonis Vidu  
[avidu@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:avidu@gordonconwell.edu)

Credit Hours: 3

This course occurs completely online with no scheduled classroom time. This course follows a weekly schedule that runs for 14 Weeks from Monday, January 27, through Monday, May 4, 2020. A week in this course begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday with the exception of the first week, which runs from Monday through Monday. You will have required activities due on certain days each week.

### Course Information

---

#### Office Hours

Your instructor is available for email correspondence. If you have a question about the course, you can contact your instructor via email.

#### Technical Support

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue with your course, please email [servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu).

#### Course Description

A study of the person and work of Christ, predestination, conversion, justification, sanctification, and the work of the Holy Spirit; perseverance; the nature and mission of the church; sacraments; eschatology.

The overarching theme of TH502 is the reconciling work of the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit, resulting in the formation of the church as a historical-eschatological reality spanning creation and eschaton. While TH501 discussed the doctrine of the Trinity and then began to lay the bases of a Christian anthropology (creation, image of God, fall), TH502 focuses on the Trinitarian restoration of the fallen creation, leading up to its eschatological consummation.

Everything hangs on two principles. First, we need a proper understanding of Christology. This course will be devoting four weeks to this topic, since the current Christological discussion requires some familiarity with the early development of the doctrine.

Second, we also need a robustly Trinitarian Pneumatology, including an understanding of what may be called a Christological-Pneumatological synthesis. Having a proper understanding of this synthesis is a necessary condition of a balanced soteriology, ecclesiology, and finally eschatology. These topics are to be grounded in Christology and Pneumatology.

Methodologically, this course will have a strong emphasis on engaging theology in a comparative fashion. We can only cherish our own traditions once we understand them to be in conversation with other major Christian traditions. Consequently, particular attention will be paid to the way in which Catholics and Eastern-Orthodox believers have shaped their own doctrinal traditions. At

the conclusion of this course you will both appreciate more deeply your own tradition, as well as gain a sense of the richness and diversity of Christianity in general.

## **Gordon-Conwell Mission**

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives

- Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.

## **Relation to Curriculum**

TH501 is a prerequisite for TH502. If you have not previously passed TH501, talk to your instructor immediately.

## **Course Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Relate the meaning of orthodoxy to Christology
2. Articulate in a balanced manner the relationship between Son and Spirit, as well as its implications for ministry and Christian life
3. Summarize the coherence between Christology, Pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology and eschatology
4. Relate the doctrine of the Trinity to soteriology and ecclesiology
5. Distinguish the key differences between Protestantism, Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy in matters of salvation
6. Compare the major theories of the atonement and explain their relevance for pastoral care

## **Weekly Lessons**

---

Over 14 weeks, you will cover the following topics and lessons:

### **Module 1: Christology: The Doctrine of the Person of Christ (4 weeks)**

- Lesson 1: Introduction to Christology
- Lesson 2: Patristic Christology up to Chalcedon
- Lesson 3: Chalcedon and the Communication of Properties
- Lesson 4: Alternative Christological Models

### **Module 2: Pneumatology: The Doctrine of the Person of the Holy Spirit (2 weeks)**

- Lesson 5: The Person of the Holy Spirit
- Lesson 6: The Work of the Holy Spirit

### **Module 3: Objective Soteriology: The Doctrine of the Work of Christ (2 weeks)**

- Lesson 7: Ransom Theory of Atonement
- Lesson 8: Satisfaction, Penal Substitution and Moral Example Theories of Atonement

### **Module 4: Applied Soteriology: The Doctrine of Salvation (2 weeks)**

- Lesson 9: Justification and Sanctification
- Lesson 10: Union with Christ

#### Module 5: Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church (2 weeks)

- Lesson 11: The Church
- Lesson 12: The Sacraments

#### Module 6: Eschatology: The Doctrine of the Last Things (2 weeks)

- Lesson 13: The Last Things
- Lesson 14: Course Wrap-up

## Weekly Workflow

---

This course runs for 14 weeks with each week running from Tuesday to Monday. You can expect to follow this weekly workflow as you complete each lesson:



## Required Materials

---

Before enrolling in this course, you must ensure that you have regular access to the required materials you will use in this course.

### Reading

Below is a list of required texts for this course. Unless otherwise noted, you can access these texts through the Digital Theological Library (DTL). If there are any texts, which are unavailable through the DTL, you must be sure that you have regular access to these texts as well.

- Elwell, Walter. [\*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001. 978-0801020759.
- Erickson, Millard. [\*Christian Theology\*](#), 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013. 978-0801036439.
- Hughes, Philip. [\*True Image: Christ as the Origin and Destiny of Man\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1989. 978-0802803146.
- McGrath, Alistair. [\*Christian Theology: An Introduction\*](#), 6th edition. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. 978-1444335149.
- In addition to these required texts, there will be various articles and excerpts from books provided for you in the relevant modules.

## Technology

### Computer and Internet Connection

You will need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet and capable of downloading files and streaming multimedia presentations.

### Software

You will need Microsoft Word or a comparable word processor installed on your computer.

## Required Activities

---

To demonstrate achievement of course objectives, you will participate in various required activities. You will find detailed descriptions of these activities on your course site, but an overview of these requirements is given below:

### Read Required Texts

You should start each week by reading from the required textbooks, as listed. The schedule for this reading is listed in the Modules section of your course site. Keep in mind that the reading required for this course is heavy and will require a substantial and disciplined commitment on your part. Falling behind in your reading based on our current schedule will be hard to recover from.

### Watch Lectures

After completing your reading, you will then view the narrated presentations (lectures). Most of the lectures will not last more than an hour, although there will be a few exceptions. While they do cover some of the material from the required textbooks, they are meant to complete and not simply to repeat the information you gathered there.

### Contribute to Discussions

The Discussion assignments will encourage you to apply some heady theological material to practical problems of ministry. Discussion posts should be not more than 600 words, and should represent a substantial argument in response to the forum prompts, adequately pulling from and referencing lectures, readings, Scripture, and other related sources.

### Quizzes

Three objective (multiple choice) quizzes distributed throughout the term are the only objective testing component in this course. You will be tested on the basis of specified entries in Elwell's *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, as well as the narrated presentations.

### Statement of Faith Paper in four parts

You will write a comprehensive statement of faith, covering all the material that you interacted with in TH501 and TH502. This will be a four-part project, spread over the duration of this class. Each part of your statement of faith will be about 6 pages long and explain classical and contemporary theological positions on given topics and the biblical basis for these doctrines, as well as your own perspectives.

## Sequence of Activities

Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The following chart indicates how various course elements proportionately relate to the overall course grade. The successful completion of these activities will require each student to spend approximately 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and out of class. Descriptions of the assignments are listed below:

Lesson	Reading	# of Videos	Discussions	Quizzes	Papers
1	55	2	Discussion 1		
2	55	2			Statement of Faith 1
3	36	1	Discussion 2		
4	22	1		Quiz 1	
5	37	2	Discussion 3		
6	65	2			Statement of Faith 2
7	166	1			
8	65	2	Discussion 4		
9	97	2	Discussion 5		
10	53	1		Quiz 2	Statement of Faith 3
11	136	4			
12	75	3	Discussion 6		
13	112	3		Quiz 3	
14	29				Statement of Faith 4

\* does not include 5-minute introductory videos at the beginning of lessons 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13.

## Grading

Your assignments are categorized and weighted for grading as follows:

Course Assignment	% of grade
Statement of Faith papers (x4)	28% (7% each)
Quizzes (x3)	15% (5% each)
Discussions (x6)	42% (7% each)
Reading and Lectures	15%

You must follow the criteria detailed in the Assignment Instructions posted on your course site. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the performance criteria in the Assignment Instructions. You must also submit work by the "due by" dates listed in

the Course Summary on the Syllabus tool of the course site. Any work submitted after these “due by” dates will be penalized 5 points per day beyond the due date unless you make arrangements with you instructor ahead of time.

The grading scale will be as follows:

A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60

## **Course Policies**

---

### **Instructor Feedback**

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He or she will give feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades and any additional comments in the Grades tool within two weeks of submission.

### **Writing Standards and Submitting Written Assignments**

Papers must be double-spaced with 1” margins (side margins as well as top and bottom margins of each page), using Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font. Do not exceed page limits. Sources must be properly documented using notes and bibliography. Citations should be professionally formatted, meaning that they should adhere to either Turabian or APA style. Written assignments should be submitted as Word or PDF files.

### **ADA accommodations**

Gordon-Conwell is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you have a special need or disability, please refer to the ADA Accommodations section of your home campus’s Student Handbook for information about the accommodation process. Students who have a special need are asked to discuss the provisions of their accommodation with the appropriate office at their home campus as soon as possible.

### **Violations of Academic Integrity**

The seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source (taken from the *Hamilton Student Handbook 2018-2019*– please be sure you understand your campus’s most current Academic Integrity Policies).

### **Discussion Posts**

When quoting from or paraphrasing course readings, provide the author's name and page(s) in parentheses. If quoting from other sources, provide appropriate documentation. Similarly, when referring to a specific lecture, identify it using the title of the segment.

## **Netiquette**

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

## **Seminary Policies**

You must be familiar with current seminary policies, which are in place for academic activities. Please refer to the Student Handbook for your home campus to familiarize yourself with policies pertinent to participating in academic activities at the seminary. Policies pertaining to this course would include those on Academic Integrity, Late Work, and Accessibility, among others.