

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WITNESS

Syllabus (For 2 Credit Hours)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of biblical principles and practices that govern true Christian life, from its inception to its destiny, with emphasis on the Mission of God, the sufficiency of the divine provisions, and the heart condition necessary for conversion, holy living, and evangelism. 3 hours credit.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Rationale: The expanded statement of purpose of Dallas Theological Seminary states, “Dallas Theological Seminary encourages the development of Godly character... and is committed to fulfilling the mandate of Jesus to make disciples of all nations.” This course is designed to instill in students a vision for evangelism and spiritual growth along with practical skills needed to carry out these ministries.

A. Cognitive Objectives. As a result of taking this course, the student will have articulated:

1. The Story of the Bible along dispensational lines and its role in defining the gospel, evangelism and spiritual life. (Demonstrated through Reflection Questions and writing assignments.)
2. The disabling nature of sin and the challenges it presents to evangelism and spiritual growth. (Demonstrated through Spiritual Life papers and a written gospel presentation.)
3. The nature and necessity of grace for the Christian Life. (Demonstrated through Spiritual Life papers and a written gospel presentation.)
4. The role of the Holy Spirit in conversion and in the battle against the Flesh. . (Demonstrated through Reflection Questions and written assignments.)

B. Affective Objectives. As a result of taking this course, the student will have:

1. Increased personal confidence in engaging non-Christians in discussions about spiritual matters. (Demonstrated by on-the-street interactions.)
2. Increased personal desire for the rule of God on this earth. (Acquired throughout the course and demonstrated on the Spiritual Disciplines and an Integration paper.)

C. Behavioral Objectives. As a result of taking this course, the student will have:

1. Addressed how the Flesh has opposed evangelism and spiritual growth in the student’s own life. (Demonstrated in Spiritual Life Paper #3 and Reports on Spiritual Conversations assignments.)
2. Explained and practiced personal disciplines that support/encourage the spiritual life. (Demonstrated by practice of selected disciplines.)

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Dutton, 2008. 240 pages.

Jones, Barry D. *Dwell: Life with God for the World*. Downers Grove: IVP. 2014. 228 pp.

Smith, James K.A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. 240 pp.

Excerpts from numerous other books and journals will be distributed electronically. Students are expected to read these before class as assigned and be prepared for discussion.

IV. LEARNING EXPERIENCES

This course is designed to help students learn personal discipline throughout the semester. Students who work at a steady pace, engaging course learning experiences throughout each week, likely will experience optimal learning. Those who try to race through the material will be frustrated, as modules are published to keep us in synchronization with one another. (This is not an independent study or self-paced experience.) Those who get behind and race to catch up will find that their learning and scores are compromised. There is a premium on getting work done on schedule.

- A. **Reflection Questions:** Each module includes Reflection Questions to help you isolate the most important elements of videos, readings, and discussions. At the outset of each module, you will receive a preview of the Reflection Questions. At the end of each module, you are expected to upload to Canvas your answers to these questions.
- B. **Video Conference Meetings and Discussion Boards:** Integral to the entire course is the consistent contribution of each student to the learning of all other students. Through required video conference sessions and discussion boards, students will interact with one another in designated groups to enhance learning. Lowest score will be dropped.
- C. **Readings:** Students will have some reading due near the *beginning* of each module. Indicate completion via Canvas. Each reading should be completed by its due date so that students may engage the videos and discussions in an informed manner. While readings may be completed after the due date, they will receive only partial credit.

Students will find “Daily” Readings and “Major” Readings. Daily readings are short articles or book excerpts that are to be integrated into discussions. Major Readings are selections of the three textbooks.
- D. **Spiritual Life Papers:** Students will write 2 brief papers in which they articulate course concepts in basic, straight-forward (non-technical, non- theological) language and apply those concepts in practical situations.
- E. **Scripture Memory:** Memorization of Romans 6:1-14
- F. **DISC Personality Inventory:** Students will be provided a link to this online tool in order to discover their individual personality tendencies.
- G. **Written Personal Gospel Presentation:** In preparation for their spiritual conversations, students write a personalized gospel presentation in which they incorporate their own story and the biblical essentials for conversion. Supplemental instructions distributed via Canvas.
- H. **Spiritual Conversations:** Engage in 3 conversations that explore spiritual issues leading toward evangelism. Supplemental instructions distributed via Canvas.
- I. **Spiritual Disciplines:** Students will engage in one full week of spiritual disciplines of their choice, submitting a brief concluding report on their learning. Additional instructions available on Canvas.
- J. **Integration Paper:** A final paper provides students with the opportunity to integrate course themes with their own personal spiritual journey. Additional instructions available on Canvas.

V. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- A. Use of Canvas
Students are responsible for keeping pace with the course through the Canvas delivery system. In order to see all relevant materials, students will need to check the course HOME page and not simply rely on the CALENDAR page. **The CALENDAR function does not list all information for the course.** Those who need assistance may contact the Online Education Department at DTS.
- B. Attendance
Students are required to “attend” video conference meetings and discussion boards. While no credit is earned simply for watching videos, students earn credit for completing Reflection Questions on each video.

C. Workload & Grading

Learning Experience	Final Grade Percentage	Projected Hours to Complete
Choose 2 of 3 Spiritual Life Papers	30%	5
Memorization of Ro. 6:1-14	5%	4
Written Gospel Presentation	10%	8
3 Spiritual Conversations & Report (1 per week for each designated week. 1 report for each conversation)	15%	6
1 Week of Spiritual Disciplines & Report	10%	8
Integration paper	15%	8
Reading Reports (Portions of Textbooks)	5%	Variable
Reflection Questions	10%	Connected to Video Viewing
DISC Inventory		1

A+	99-100	B+	91-93	C+	83-85	D+	75-77	F	0-69
A	96-98	B	88-90	C	80-82	D	72-74		
A-	94-95	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71		

D. A tentative course schedule will be published as a separate document through Canvas. The authoritative schedule is that which is published on the course Home page in Canvas. If there is a conflict in dates, the course Home page takes precedence.

E. **Due Dates and Late Work:**

1. It is always best to submit work by the due date. Due dates generally are published in Canvas 10-14 days ahead of time. Students curious about upcoming responsibilities should consult the Course Schedule published as a pdf.
2. It is better to submit work late than not at all. Therefore, for *most* assignments a submission window will remain open for 6-13 days past the Due Date wherein late submissions are accepted with penalty. Students are responsible for knowing when the submission window closes.
3. Once an assignment's submission window is closed, Canvas will not accept any submission, and a score of "0" (zero) will be recorded on that assignment. After closure of the submission window, do not submit assignments to the professor or GTA via email. Such email submissions will not be accepted.
4. DTS sets the date for the end of the semester. This is a hard deadline. Canvas closes on that date and students may not submit assignments after that date unless previously granted a course extension from the Credits Committee. **Once Canvas closes at the end of the semester, it is impossible to submit coursework.**

F. DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.