

Syllabus for Doctrine of the Church
CT 258
Spring 2011
Instructor: Sarah Lancaster

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I am available to see students by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the various ways Christians have defined the church – e.g., as body of Christ, separated community, people of God, etc. – and an exploration of contemporary interpretations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To examine several of the major questions concerning the doctrine of the church in Christian theology
- 2) To prepare a constructive statement of the doctrine of the church.
- 3) To continue to develop critical thinking skills
- 4) To continue to develop writing skills.

TEXTS:

Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*

Henn, William, *The Church: The People of God*

Jenson, Matt and Wilhite, David, *The Church: A Guide for the Perplexed*

Tjørhom Ola, *Visible Church, Visible Unity: Ecumenical Ecclesiology and “The Great Tradition of the Church”*

Watson, Natalie, *Introducing Feminist Ecclesiology*

The Nature and Mission of the Church (on SharePoint)

Plenary Commission responses to TNMC (on SharePoint)

Various Plenary Commission papers (on SharePoint)

Lumen Gentium: Dogmatic Constitution on the Church

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti, *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives* (on reserve)

ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student will be required to do the following:

Identify issues for discussion based on the reading to be brought to each class.

Write two papers four- to five-pages in length.

Write one paper ten pages in length.

Attend class regularly.

For your first short paper (due March 3), you need to identify which model of the Church your own tradition uses the most and explain why you have chosen this model. You should also do some critical reflection on what your tradition could gain from other models. For your second short paper (due April 14), you need to reflect on the Church as visible and invisible, showing you have been informed by the readings for this course. The longer final paper will consist of

your own constructive understanding of the Church, primarily oriented within your own tradition. Instructions for the final paper will be given separately from the syllabus.

GRADING:

Short papers: 25% each (total of 50%)

Final paper: 40%

Class participation: 10%

Late papers will not be accepted unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.

SCHEDULE:

February 3:

Reading: “Called to Be the One Church” WCC statement, to be read in class.

February 10:

Reading: The Nature and Mission of the Church, Faith and Order Paper 198; Faith and Order Plenary Commission Presentations (on SharePoint)

February 17: Instead of meeting together during ordinary class time, work will be given online.

Reading: *Lumen Gentium* (on SharePoint)

February 24:

Reading: *Models of the Church*, Introductions and Chapters 1-6 (through p. 94)

March 3:

Reading: *Models of the Church*, Chapters 7-13 (through p. 217)

First paper due

March 10:

Reading: *The Church: A Guide for the Perplexed* pp. 1-101

March 17: To Be Determined

Reading: *Church: The People of God*

March 24: Spring Break

March 31:

Planning for worship

April 6: Chapel

April 7:

Reading: *Church: A Guide for the Perplexed* pp. 102-194

April 14:

Reading: *Visible Church—Visible Unity*
Second paper due.

April 21: Easter Break

April 28:

Reading: Introducing Feminist Ecclesiology

May 5:

Reading: An Introduction to Ecclesiology, Part III

May 12: *Final paper due.*

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:

I expect language regarding human beings to be inclusive of women and men. If, for instance, you intend to refer to human beings as such, I expect to read “humankind” instead of “mankind.” I encourage language about God to be inclusive.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the masters level are expected to understand the requirement to provide attribution when the work of others is used. Students are also expected to be familiar with and understand the school’s policy on Academic Misconduct found in the Student Handbook. If a student has questions about attribution, citation, and how to avoid plagiarism they should consult the course instructor, the school’s writing instructor, or library staff. When in doubt it is better to provide attribution even if one is uncertain about the proper citation form. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that results in disciplinary actions per the Student Handbook that may range from failing an assignment or course to expulsion.

ADA:

MTSO seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in its learning communities. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs at the beginning of the semester. Please contact Leslie Taylor, Director of Student Services at 740.362.3126 (ltaylor@mtso.edu) in room 129 of Werner Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any accommodation must be agreed upon prior to the due date of the affected course requirement.