

**Location / Branch:** Northwest Ministry Network

**Semester / Year:** Fall 2010

**Course Start Date:** Monday, February 28, 2011

**Course End Date:** Friday, March 04, 2011

**Professor Name:** Waldemar Kowalski, Ph.D.

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### **Course Description:**

This course offers an introduction to the basic elements of the Christian faith from an evangelical and pentecostal perspective, and is aimed primarily at those who will in turn be teaching these elements to others.

### **Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course the student should be able to identify and put together a basic body of theological study for his/her constituents/congregation. This will include a look at the following intended student outcomes, for primary students (those taking the course) and secondary students (those they will in turn teach) :

1. to see God more clearly. This shall be accomplished by a careful and systematic study of those things that God has revealed about himself and desires us to know.
2. to understand the basic and essential ideas of Christianity and differentiate these from those which are of lesser consequence.
3. to understand the necessity of applying doctrine to everyday life.
4. to know the meaning of certain contemporary and historic doctrinal terms.
5. to know the 10 Commandments.
6. to know the Apostles' Creed.
7. to know the 16 Fundamentals of the Assemblies of God.
8. to be more secure in his or her faith.
9. to be better able to explain his or her faith.
10. to be aware of the diversity of Christian doctrine.
11. to be more tolerant of the views of other Christians.
12. to be more comfortable asking questions.
13. to gain a framework for the transmission of Christian doctrine and thought to others.

**Required Textbooks:** (1-3 should be read as part of the pre-session work)

1. Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson, *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
2. Grenz, Stanley J., *Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*. Second edition. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1998.
3. Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
4. Grenz, Guretzki, and Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999. (scan and consult, rather than memorize and pore over)
5. *Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1969. (This can be downloaded free from <http://www.ag.org>.)

### Course Outline:

Class time will be spent in lecture and discussion, going through a fairly normal theological sequence.

### Methodology:

1. Reading, research, and writing.
2. Lectures and discussion.

### Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance in all regular sessions is expected (cf. AGTS policy).
2. Contribution to class discussion. Relevant questions and comments are invited, especially as they give evidence of preparation. The final grade will be adjusted up or down reflecting such contribution or its lack.
3. **Reading:** **20 %**  
The major texts (1-3 above) should be read as part of the pre-session class requirements, as knowledge of this material will assist us in maximizing class time. If completed prior to the class, this will contribute 20% to your grade. If you complete the reading during the week, you will receive a maximum of 15%, and if it is completed after the course (in post-session work) the maximum will be 10%.
4. **Examinations** **40 %**  
There will be one diagnostic pretest that will not affect your grade. You will also do two take-home section exams (open book) during the course and one comprehensive final, which will be closed book and completed post-session.  
The two Section Exams will have a cumulative weight of 15%. The Pretest Exam is mandatory but will not be weighted in your grade, and the Final will have a weight of 25% and is to be mailed in within one week of the last class session.
5. **Life Response Project (to be completed pre-session)** **25 %**  
John Ortberg's book, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, shall be read prior to the class. Choose one of the growth areas named by Ortberg (chapters 4-13) and document (minimum 3 single-spaced pages) 1) why you chose this area; 2) how you chose to respond to this challenge; and 3) what happened in your life as a result of this exercise. Use of a journal format in recording the results is encouraged. The work you submit will be typed, single-spaced, in Times Roman 14, with 1" margins. Due on the first day of class – email me if you have questions!  
Grading: points given for correct chapter choice (4-13), format (margins, type size, single-space, etc.), length, and general grammar and spelling. Major grading will be for documentation/identification of why, how, and what (as above). Evidence of having spent more than a few days on this is critical: start on this project sooner rather than later.

6. **Faith Communication Project (to be completed post-session)** **15 %**  
 The student will summarize the essential aspects of Christian doctrine in common language so as to communicate this truth to someone unfamiliar with Christianity. This exercise is intended to help the student synthesize the course content. The format is up to the student, as long as it is legible. Points are awarded for innovation, quality, and theological completeness. Due 30 days from the last class session.
7. You are responsible for the many theological terms you will encounter in class and in your reading. Use a dictionary and be sure you know what the words mean! Be especially aware of the terms in Grenz's glossary as well as the pocket dictionary – these are fair game for exams!
8. Work submitted is to be emailed to the instructor at [waldemar.kowalski@northwestu.edu](mailto:waldemar.kowalski@northwestu.edu).

**Grading Procedure:**

- |    |                              |           |
|----|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Reading:                     | 20 points |
| 2. | Examinations:                | 40 points |
| 3. | Life Response Project:       | 25 points |
| 4. | Faith Communication Project: | 15 points |

Total number of points: 100

Late papers may be penalized at the rate of 5 points per day.

The prescribed AGTS grading scale will be followed. Grades will be assigned as follows:

	100% - 94% = A	93% - 90% = A-
89% - 87% = B+	86% - 84% = B	83% - 80% = B-
79% - 77% = C+	76% - 74% = C	73% - 70% = C-
69% - 67% = D+	66% - 64% = D	63% - 60% = D-

**NOTE:** By AGTS policy, a \$30.00 fee will be charged to the student's account for every grade change even if the instructor has approved an extension for completing the work. Any exception to the policy will be made by the registrar.

**Additional Material / Addendums**

N/A.

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