

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WITNESS

Syllabus (2 Credit Hour Version)

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. 2 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 in-class exercises.)
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 in-class exercises 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

Additional specifications for student learning experiences will be available on Canvas.

- A. **Class Discussions:** Integral to the entire course is the consistent contribution of each student to the learning of all other students. Students should anticipate providing regular verbal and written input to all aspects of the course throughout the semester, not just as specifically assigned. This format encourages students to integrate themes from other coursework into discussions.
- B. **Readings:** Students will have some reading due before most class periods. Indicate completion via Canvas. Each reading should be completed by its due date so that students may discuss readings together 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 the three textbooks.
- C. **Spiritual Life Papers:** Students will write 2 brief papers in which they articulate course concepts in basic, straightforward (non-technical, non- theological) language and apply those concepts in practical situations.
- D. **Memorization of Romans 6:1-14**
- E. **DISC Personality Inventory:** Students will be provided a link to this online tool in order to discover their individual personality tendencies.
- F. **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.
- G. **Spiritual Conversations:** Engage in 3 conversations that explore spiritual issues leading toward evangelism. Supplemental instructions distributed via Canvas.
- H. **Spiritual Disciplines:** Students will engage in a minimum of 1 week of spiritual disciplines of their choice, submitting a brief concluding report on their learning. Additional instructions available on Canvas.
- I. **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. **Attendance**
Attendance and class participation are a requirement of the course and, more importantly, a ministry to other students. Students should plan to attend and participate in every class session (even while taking the course for 2 credit hours), stimulating the learning of each other. More than two absences (for a course that meets once/week) will result in a penalty. Each absence above the two allowed will result in a 4% reduction in grade.
- B. **Course Administration**
Canvas, the DTS online educational platform, will be utilized heavily in course administration, including course communications, distribution of instructions for assignments, uploading assignments, grading, and modifications to the course schedule. Students are expected to be able to navigate Canvas and check the course Canvas page frequently. Those who need assistance may contact the Online Education Department at DTS.

C. Work load & Grading

Learning Experience	Final Grade Percentage	Projected Hours to Complete
Choose 2 of 3 Spiritual Life Papers	30%	6
Memorization of Ro. 6:1-14	5%	4
Written Gospel Presentation	15%	8
3 Spiritual Conversations & Report (1 per week for each designated week. 1 report after all 3 conversations)	15%	16
1 week of Spiritual Disciplines & Report	10%	8
Integration paper	15%	8
Reading Reports (5% Major, 5 % Minor) <i>Dwell</i> – Chapt 1-5 (omit remainder) <i>Desiring the Kingdom</i> – Intro + chapt 1-4 (omit remainder) <i>Reason for God</i> – Intro + 3 chapt from Part I + 3 chapt from Part II. (omit remainder)	10%	Variable
DISC Inventory		1
Group Discussions on Canvas – All optional	Extra credit for contributions that are consistently substantial	

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. Course schedule will be distributed as a separate document

E. 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.