



SHORT SYLLABUS

CM507 Experiencing the Trinity

Instructor: Larry Hinkle, D.Min.

(Instructor may be contacted through GCS course website)

Course description

This course studies spiritual formation. Participation is required in an online three-day retreat that presents students with the opportunity to come to know God more intimately through silence, solitude, meditative prayer, communion, worship, and other spiritually formative activities. This retreat experience is informed by a study of the dynamic of these practices as they relate to Scripture and the call of the Triune God to know him better.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 145 hours, or about 12-15 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Additional Fee Information:

An additional fee of \$125.00 will be required for participation in the required online retreat provided by Odyssey in Christ. The dates and time of the retreat will be determined, based on student availability, during the first week of class. Details on how to pay this fee will be supplied to students after course registration. Details will also be supplied about an optional, in-person retreat in Hickory, NC, which can be used to fulfill class requirements in lieu of the online retreat attendance.

For more information contact Dr. Hinkle at larryhinkle.oic@gmail.com

Required textbooks

Andrews, Alan (General Editor). *The Kingdom Life: A Practical Theology of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010. ISBN: 13:978-1-60006-280-3. 328 pages. Approximately: \$14-\$18.

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006. ISBN: 0-8308-3333-1. 187 pages. Approximately \$12-\$13.

Buchanan, Mark. *The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath*. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-8499-1870-4. 220 pages. Approximately \$10.

Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012. 978-0-8308-3983-4. 133 pages. Approximately \$10-\$12.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Requirements and assignments (General Description)

- 1) **Attend the Odyssey in Christ Retreat.** Students must participate in a three-day, online retreat, hosted by Odyssey in Christ. Participation in the retreat requires an additional fee and completion of pre-retreat reading and an assessment, and post-retreat reading and writing assignments. This counts for 30 percent of the final grade.
- 2) **Read the lectures.** Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. This will take 1-2 hours per week.
- 3) **Read the textbooks.** They total about 900 pages, or about 80 pages each week. Students should allow around five hours a week to read.
- 4) **Participate in online forum discussions.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with the instructor and other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 20 percent of the final grade.
- 5) **Video conference.** Participate in a three-hour online group video conference with course instructor. Date and time to be arranged in consultation with the instructor. This counts for five percent of your grade.
- 6) **Write four reaction papers.** This counts for 20 percent of the final grade.
- 7) **Final paper.** This paper may take 15 hours and counts for 25 percent of the final grade.