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Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy Seminary Syllabus

Table of Contents:

- Description
- Goal
- Cost
- Requirements
- Discipleship Assignments
- Fall Seminary Courses
 - Old Testament 1
 - Theology 1
- Spring Seminary Courses
 - New Testament 2
 - Theology 2
- Due Dates
- Schedule
- Summary of Expectations

Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy Seminary Syllabus

Description

The Ministry Academy at Cottonwood Creek Church's one-year training program is designed to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12). Each student will have the opportunity to learn who God is through His Word so that the body of Christ may be strengthened.

Goal

Our desire at the Ministry Academy is to bridge the gap between Christian Higher Education Institutions and the local church by providing theological training in the context of the body of Christ. By teaching theology through each book of the Bible, we hope that each student will apply these truths in ministry all around the church. Through large group teaching, small group discussion, reading, writing, and Saturday seminars each student will:

- Read through and know the whole story of Scripture.
- Gain an understanding of both the purpose and practice of Christian theology.
- Be a closer follower of Jesus Christ.
- Be transformed by God's call on their lives to know Him and be obedient to Him.
- Learn how to communicate the Bible and theology.
- Learn God's heart for and respond to the Great Commission.
- Be commissioned to serve the church well.

Cost

\$150/semester (\$300 for the year)

The cost covers all of the books for the ministry/discipleship base course, a Study Bible, honorariums for guest speakers, and each Saturday seminar. Contact us if you need financial assistance.

Requirements

ATTENDANCE (In-Person & Online)

Due to the nature of the program, attendance is required. A student enrolled in seminary course work is permitted one absence in each semester (this cannot be used for a seminar). Each lecture will be recorded for the purpose of making up or revisiting any of the content discussed.

SEMINARS

Once each semester there will be a Saturday seminar (8a-5p). The seminars will include a special guest lecturer (academically qualified) in a specific and specialized field pertinent to the semesters focus. Attendance is mandatory for each seminar. Lunch and snacks will be provided for all students.

COURSES

Each student must indicate which courses in which they desire to enroll prior to the start of the Fall semester. All seminary students **MUST** do the base work of the Ministry/Discipleship Course. Beyond that, the pricing for every semester is the same and will not change based on the number of courses enrolled. You cannot add a course after the third week of class in the Fall. Dropping courses are allowed, but will receive no credit and need to be addressed on an individual basis.

DISCUSSION & PARTICIPATION

Each student is required to actively engage in the subject matter through discussions, group assignments and exercises. Each student will also have opportunities during class time to process the week's content through theological discussion with their peers.

DISCIPLESHIP

There is an expectation for each student to be in the process of walking with another believer in a discipleship role. This means that what a student is learning is not to simply gain knowledge, but it is for the purpose of living out, sharing and teaching these biblical truths.

SERVICE

Each student must put their knowledge to action by serving in the local church. There are a lot of ways to do this! Feel free to ask if you need ideas for how to serve. An honor statement will be given at the end of each semester affirming 18 hours of service throughout each semester.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Each student will memorize a few verses/passages in the Bible each semester. These verses will be given prior to the beginning of each semester and will then be checked at the end of each semester.

DUE DATES/LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Each student must consult the syllabus schedule for the due date of each assignment. These assignments will be submitted through Google Classroom. It is important that these assignments are turned in on time. Late assignments will be marked down a letter grade for every day they are late.

GRADING

Each assignment will be graded and evaluated for the purpose of training and coaching each student. Overall grades will be provided for each course which the student is enrolled:

A – 94-100

B – 86-93

C – 78-85

D – 70-77

F – 0-69

TRANSCRIPT/TRANSFER CREDIT

The Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy is not an accredited School of Ministry. However, at the end of the year, the student will receive a transcript that can be taken to partnering institutions for potential transfer credit. Each of these will be evaluated on an individual basis by the registrar of the transfer school.

MINISTRY/DISCIPLESHIP BASE COURSE

LECTURES

All Fall and Spring lectures and seminars must be attended.

READING

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1978, 1996, 2006.

Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991.

MENTOR MEETINGS

Each student will complete 10 (5 per semester) additional small group meetings with a mentor/pastor. These will be intentional times to work on discipleship, accountability and discussing various aspects of ministry.

PROJECTS

Fall: The Story of Scripture

Each student will write a summary of the whole story of Scripture (800-1,000 words), with Scripture references throughout. This can be written in paragraph form or bulleted. In addition to the written portion, they will submit a verbal, non-edited, 3-5 minute video/audio of their presentation. This will be filmed as if the student is informally talking through the narrative of the Bible. No notes or reading, but is to be treated as if this is a spontaneous conversation and should reflect the student's paper.

Spring: Gospel Presentation

Each student will write an original Gospel Presentation paper (800-1,000 words) that will include a minimum of four Scripture passages. In addition to the written portion, they will submit a verbal, non-edited, 3-5 minute video/audio of their presentation. This will be filmed as if the student is presenting the Gospel to a non-believer. No notes or reading, but is to be treated as if this is a spontaneous conversation and should reflect the student's paper.

FALL COURSES

Old Testament 1 (3 Hours)

LECTURES

All Fall lectures and the Fall seminar must be attended.

READING

Merrill, Eugene H., Mark F. Rooker and Michael A. Grisanti. *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2011. (978-0805440317)

DeRouchie, Jason S. *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017. (978-1629952451)

*Additional reading will include articles, Scripture, and other sources throughout the semester.

WRITING

Analyses of *The World and the Word*

Each student will develop a Biblical Summary by submitting a 400-600 word analysis of each major units (7 total) in the book *The World and the Word*. The goal is to summarize the major unit and highlight how the reading helps them as they read the Bible.

Critical Analysis of *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*

Each student will write a 1,000 to 1,200-word critical analysis of *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. This review will briefly summarize the material, with the majority of the paper offering a critical evaluation of the material. Critical evaluations include interacting with the author's thesis and determining how the work has impacted their understanding of theology, the Bible and the Church.

FALL EXAM

This exam will be closed-note, only allowing the use of your Bible. It will be taken online and will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay. This exam will be comprehensive in the scope of the Fall semester.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Reading Affirmation – 10%

Class Participation – 15%

Analyses *The World and the Word* – 25%

Critical Analysis of *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology* – 25%

Fall Exam – 25%

* FALL DUE DATES: All assignments for the Fall Semester are due on 12/15/21 by 11:59p.

Theology 1 (3 Hours)

LECTURES

All Fall lectures and the Fall seminar must be attended.

READING

Akin, Daniel L. ed. *A Theology for the Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. (pp. 1-388: The Doctrine of Revelation; The Doctrine of God; The Doctrine of Humanity) (978-1433682131)

Gentry, Peter J. and Stephen J. Wellum. *God's Kingdom through God's Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2015. (978-1433541919)

MacArthur, John. Ed. *The Inerrant Word: Biblical, Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspectives*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016. (978-1433548611)

Yarnell, Malcolm B. *God the Trinity: Biblical Portraits*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016. (978-1433680748)

WRITING

Theological Reference Guide

Each student will develop a Theological Reference Guide over the course of the semester by submitting a 650-750 word doctrinal summary for EACH (a total of 1,950 to 2,500 words) of the following theological categories: Revelation, God and Sin. These summaries will be compiled at the end of the course (combined with Theology 2) to serve as a helpful theological resource.

Critical Analysis of 1 of the 4 books

Each student will write a 1,000 to 1,200-word critical analysis of 1 of the 4 required readings for this course. This review will briefly summarize the material, with the majority of the paper offering a critical evaluation of the material. Critical evaluations include interacting with the author's thesis and determining how the work has impacted their understanding of theology, the Bible and the Church.

FALL EXAM

This exam will be closed-note, only allowing the use of your Bible. It will be taken online and will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay. This exam will be comprehensive in the scope of the Fall semester.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Reading Affirmation – 10%

Class Participation – 15%

Theological Reference Guide – 30%

Critical Analysis – 20%

Fall Exam – 25%

* FALL DUE DATES: All assignments for the Fall Semester are due on 12/15/21 by 11:59p.

SPRING COURSES

New Testament 2 (3 hours)

LECTURES

All Spring lectures and Spring seminar must be attended.

READING

Kostenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles. *The Lion and The Lamb: New Testament Essential from The Cradle, The Cross and The Crown*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2012. (978-1433677083)

Naselli, Andrew David. *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017. (978-1629952482)

*Additional reading will include articles, Scripture, and other sources throughout the semester.

WRITING

Analyses of *The Lion and the Lamb*

Each student will develop a Biblical Summary by submitting a 500-600 word analysis of each major unit (4 total) in the book *The Lion and the Lamb*. The goal is to summarize the major unit and highlight how the reading helps them as they read the Bible.

Critical Analysis of *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*

Each student will write a 1,000 to 1,200-word critical analysis of *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. This review will briefly summarize the material, with the majority of the paper offering a critical evaluation of the material. Critical evaluations include interacting with the author's thesis and determining how the work has impacted their understanding of theology, the Bible and the Church.

SPRING EXAM

This exam will be closed-note, only allowing the use of your Bible. It will be taken online and will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay. This exam will be comprehensive in the scope of the Spring semester.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Reading Affirmation – 10%

Class Participation – 15%

Analyses from *The Lion and the Lamb* – 20%

Critical Analysis of *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology* – 30%

Spring Exam – 25%

* SPRING DUE DATES: All assignments for the Spring Semester are due 5/18/22 by 11:59p.

Theology 2 (3 hours)

LECTURES

All Spring lectures and Spring seminar must be attended.

READING

Akin, Daniel L. ed. *A Theology for the Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. (978-1433682131) (pp. 389-728: The Doctrine of Christ; The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit; The Doctrine of Salvation; The Doctrine of the Church; The Doctrine of the Last Things)

Demarest, Bruce. *The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1997. (978-0891079378)

Miles, Todd. *Superheroes Can't Save You: Epic Examples of Historic Heresies*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2018. (978-1462750795)

Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*.

WRITING

Theological Reference Guide

Each student will develop a Theological Reference Guide over the course of the semester by submitting a 650-750 word doctrinal summary for EACH (a total of 3,250 to 3,750 words) of the following theological categories: Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, the Church, and the Last Things. These summaries will be compiled at the end of the course (combined with Theology 1) to serve as a helpful theological resource.

Critical Analysis of 1 of the 3 books

Each student will write a 1,000 to 1,200-word critical analysis of 1 of the 3 required readings for this course. This review will briefly summarize the material, with the majority of the paper offering a critical evaluation of the material. Critical evaluations include interacting with the author's thesis and determining how the work has impacted their understanding of theology, the Bible and the Church.

SPRING EXAM

This exam will be closed-note, only allowing the use of your Bible. It will be taken online and will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay. This exam will be comprehensive in the scope of the Spring semester.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Reading Affirmation – 10%

Class Participation – 15%

Theological Reference Guide – 30%

Critical Analysis – 20%

Fall Exam – 25%

* SPRING DUE DATES: All assignments for the Spring Semester are due 5/18/22 by 11:59p.

Schedule:

Wednesday Evenings from 6:30p – 8:30p

Fall Semester Schedule:

- August 18th
 - Introduction to the Program
 - Defining Terms: Theology, Discipleship, Ministry, Worship
- August 25th
 - Reading, Studying and Understanding the Bible
 - The Bible as Canon
- September 1st
 - Approaching the Old Testament
 - Creator and Creation
- September 8th
 - Creator and Creation (Continued)
 - The Image of God and The First Temple
- September 15th
 - The Fall and the Effects of the Fall
- September 22nd
 - Theology of Sin, Angels, Demons and Satan
 - The Beginnings of the Nation of Israel
 - Abrahamic Covenant
- September 29th
 - The Formation of Israel
 - The Call of Moses and the Plagues on Egypt
- October 6th
 - The Exodus and the Passover
 - The 10 Commandments and the Mosaic Covenant
- October 13th
 - The Law, the Tabernacle and the Sacrificial System
- October 20th
 - The Remainder of the Pentateuch
- October 27th
 - The History of Israel: Conquest and Judges

- November 3rd
 - The History of Israel: Remnant and Monarchy
 - Davidic Covenant
- November 10th
 - The History of Israel: The Split, Decline, and Defeat
- November 17th
 - Understanding the Messages of the Major Prophets
- November 24th – OFF (THANKSGIVING)
- December 1st
 - Understanding the Messages of the Minor Prophets
- December 8th
 - Learning Wisdom and Worship: The Writings
- December 15th
 - FLEX - The Coming Messiah, The Promise of the New Covenant
 - Christmas Potluck!

CHRISTMAS BREAK – No class December 22nd, or December 29th

Spring Semester Schedule:

- January 5th
 - The Context of the New Testament
 - Approaching the New Testament
- January 12th
 - The Birth of Christ: Jesus as God and Man
- January 19th
 - The Message of Christ: The Kingdom of God
- January 26th
 - The Life and Ministry of Christ: From Baptism to Resurrection
- February 2nd
 - The Work of Christ: Atonement
- February 9th
 - The Work of Christ: Resurrection and Ascension
- February 16th
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 1)
- February 23th
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 2)
- March 2nd
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit and Sanctification
- March 9th – OFF (SPRING BREAK)
- March 16th
 - The Early Church and the Evangelistic Mission
- March 27th – OFF (EASTER)
- April 6th
 - The Nature of the Church
- April 13th
 - The Practice of the Church
- April 20th
 - Learning to Read the Letters

- April 27th
 - Studying the Bible Workshop
- May 4th
 - Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 1)
- May 11th
 - Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 2)
- May 18th
 - Graduation Celebration

Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy

Student Expectations for Seminary Path

Attendance:

- Classes begin on August 18, 2021 and will take place every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30 pm from August 2021 through May 2022.
- Students are expected to attend all class sessions unless hindered by illness or emergency. In order to complete the program and receive certification, students may only miss one class session per semester.
- Students who do not meet all of the attendance requirements **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit into a partner school.
- All class sessions will be recorded so that absent students have the opportunity to make up or review content.

Registration:

- Students in the seminary path will indicate at the start of the MA which courses they wish to complete. They can pursue the remaining MA course offerings at the disciple level if desired.

Workload:

- In addition to attending Wednesday class sessions, students will be expected to complete reading assignments and writing projects as part of their course work. The workload of each course is equivalent to a 3 hour of a Master's level class.
- On average, students will be expected to complete about 900 pages of assigned reading and about 14 pages of writing assignments per course in which they are enrolled.
- Students who do not meet all of the workload requirements **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit into a partner school.

Service Requirements:

- Service is a crucial part of the Ministry Academy's course of study. Students will be expected to complete 18 service hours a semester, for a total of 36 hours during the time in the program. This is in addition to class time on Wednesday evenings.
- Students who do not meet all of the service requirements **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit into a partner school.

Transfer Credit:

Upon successful completion of the Seminary Path of the Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy (MA), students will be given a certificate of completion which they can use in order to gain transfer credit into one of our partner institutions. Students should be aware of the following details:

- In order to gain transfer credit, students must first apply and be accepted to the school from whom they wish to receive credit. Application to each partner school will follow that school's typical admittance procedures – the MA will have no involvement in the student's application or acceptance into partner institutions for the purpose of transfer credit.
- In most academic institutions, transfer credit is not re-transferable. If your intention is to transfer credit from MA to school A, with the eventual goal of moving from school A to school B, your MA credits may not transfer. Students will need to discuss any potential credit transfer issues with MA administration and with the Registrar of the school of their choice.
- Transfer credit opportunities from MA to seminaries or other schools only exist within the scope of MA's partnership with each of these institutions. Students should not request transfer credit from a non-partner institution. If you would like to recommend an additional academic partner for MA, please contact MA leadership.
- Ministry Academy has partnerships with several accredited institutions for specific questions, please email: beau.landiers@cottonwoodcreek.org