Cottonwood Creek Church

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**Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy**

**Seminary Syllabus, 2022–2023**

**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 two absences 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 all of the “Discipleship Challenges” in the Discipleship Course as “Requirements.” 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.

SEMINARY COHORT MEETINGS

Each student will complete 10 (5 per semester) additional small group meetings with the other Seminary students and Ministry Acadmey director. These will be intentional times to work on discipleship, accountability and discussing various aspects of the assignements and ministry.

**Fall: The Story of Old Testament**

By the end of the Fall semester, each student will be asked to tell the story of the Old Testament in 8-10 minutes. You can complete this assignment in two ways: 1) Tell the OT story to one of your classmates; 2) Video yourself telling the OT story and submit it through Canvas. More will be said on this project over the course of the semester.

**Spring: The Story of the Gospel**

By the end of the Spring semester, each student will be asked to tell the story of the New Testament and present the Gospel in 8-10 minutes. You can complete this assignment in two ways: 1) Tell the OT story to one of your classmates; 2) Video yourself telling the OT story and submit it through Canvas. More will be said on this project over the course of the semester.

**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.

ASSIGNMENTS

**OT Passage Paper**

Using a modified outline of *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament,* each student will write a 15–20 page paper on an Old Testament passage assigned by the professor. More details for this assignment will be given during the seminary cohort discussions.

**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 – 20%

Class Participation – 30%

OT Paper – 30%

Fall Exam – 20%

\* FALL DUE DATES: All assignments for the Fall Semester are due the last day of the Fall semester.

**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)

Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith.* Downers Grove, IL:InterVarsity Press, 2012. (978-0830866731)

ASSIGNMENTS

**Theological Reference Guide (pt. 1)**

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.

**OT Theological Theme Paper**

Each student will write a 7–10 page paper tracing the development of an OT biblical theme provided by the professor. More details for this assignment will be given during the seminary cohort discussions.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Reading Affirmation – 20%

Class Participation – 25%

Theological Reference Guide – 25%

OT Theological Theme Paper – 30%

\* FALL DUE DATES: All assignments for the Fall Semester are due the last day of the Fall semester.

**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.

ASSIGNMENTS

**NT Passage Paper**

Using a modified outline of *How to Understand and Apply the New TEstament,* each student will write a 15–20 page paper on a New Testament passage assigned by the professor. More details for this assignment will be given during the seminary cohort discussions.

**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 – 20%

Class Participation – 30%

OT Paper – 30%

Fall Exam – 20%

\* SPRING DUE DATES: All assignments for the Spring Semester are due the last day of the Spring Semester.

**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)

ASSIGNMENTS

**Theological Reference Guide (pt. 2)**

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.

**NT Paper**

Using a modified outline of *How to Understand and Apply the New TEstament,* each student will write a 15–20 page paper on a New Testament passage assigned by the professor. More details for this assignment will be given during the seminary cohort discussions.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Reading Affirmation – 20%

Class Participation – 25%

Theological Reference Guide – 25%

NT Theological Theme Paper – 30%

\* SPRING DUE DATES: All assignments for the Spring Semester are due the last day of the Spring Semester.

**Schedule:**

Wednesday evenings, from 6:30p–8:30p in A234.

**Fall Semester Schedule:**

* August 17th
  + Introduction to the Program
  + Defining Terms: Theology, Discipleship, Ministry, Worship
* August 24th
  + Reading, Studying and Understanding the Bible
  + The Bible as Canon
* August 31st
  + Approaching the Old Testament
  + Creator and Creation
* September 7th
  + Creator and Creation (Continued)
  + The Image of God and The First Temple
* September 14th
  + The Fall and the Effects of the Fall
* September 21st
  + Theology of Sin, Angels, Demons and Satan
  + The Beginnings of the Nation of Israel
    - Abrahamic Covenant
* September 28th
  + The Formation of Israel
  + The Call of Moses and the Plagues on Egypt
* October 5th
  + The Exodus and the Passover
  + The 10 Commandments and the Mosaic Covenant
* October 12th
  + The Law, the Tabernacle and the Sacrificial System
* October 19th
  + The Remainder of the Pentateuch
* October 26th
  + The History of Israel: Conquest and Judges
* November 2nd
  + The History of Israel: Remnant and Monarchy
  + Davidic Covenant
* November 9th
  + The History of Israel: The Split, Decline, and Defeat
* November 16th
  + Understanding the Messages of the Major Prophets
* November 23rd – OFF (THANKSGIVING)
* November 30th
  + Understanding the Messages of the Minor Prophets
* December 7th
  + Learning Wisdom and Worship: The Writings
* December 14th
  + FLEX - The Coming Messiah, The Promise of the New Covenant
  + Christmas Potluck!

**CHRISTMAS BREAK – No class December 21st or December 28th**

**Spring Semester Schedule:**

* January 4th
  + The Context of the New Testament
  + Approaching the New Testament
* January 11th
  + The Birth of Christ: Jesus as God and Man
* January 18th
  + The Message of Christ: The Kingdom of God
* January 25th
  + The Life and Ministry of Christ: From Baptism to Resurrection
* February 1st
  + The Work of Christ: Atonement
* February 8th
  + The Work of Christ: Resurrection and Ascension
* February 15th
  + The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 1)
* February 22nd
  + The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 2)
* March 1st
  + The Work of the Holy Spirit and Sanctification
* March 8th – OFF (SPRING BREAK)
* March 15th
  + The Early Church and the Evangelistic Mission
* March 29th 
  + The Nature of the Church
* April 5th
  + The Practice of the Church
* April 12th
  + FLEX and Catch-up
* April 19th
  + Learning to Read the Letters
* April 26th
  + Studying the Bible Workshop
* May 3rd
  + Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 1)
* May 10th
  + Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 2)
* May 17th
  + Graduation Celebration

**Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy**

**Student Expectations for Seminary Path**

**Attendance:**

* 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 two class session per semester.
* 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 course(s) 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, 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.

**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.

**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.landers@cottonwoodcreek.org](mailto:beau.landers@cottonwoodcreek.org)