

TH 5XG5
Grace in the Christian Life
DPT (5-Level)

McMaster Divinity College
Spring 2022
5 weeks (weeks of May 30-June 30)
Mondays at 1pm-2:50pm
Office: 216

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Hours: Mon 3:00–4:00 & by appointment

◆ These courses meet completely online for the entire term in both synchronous and asynchronous meetings. The synchronous meeting times are scheduled to avoid conflicts with other courses. ◆

I. Description:

This course explores the biblical, historical, and contemporary ways that Christians understand Christian redemption. Considering the nature of human brokenness (sin) is part of this discussion. It considers historical issues related to atonement theology and traditional doctrines of justification and sanctification. It also explores contemporary ways Christians endeavor to participate in God’s grace through various ministries and cultural activities.

II. Course Objectives:

My goal for the course is that you will develop vocational competency as a scholarly researcher in an area of theology related grace and in your area of doctoral research. Toward that end this course will serve you in fulfilling your research program at McMaster Divinity College and more broadly your calling as a practical theologian. With this in mind, the knowing, being, and doing learning objectives delineate specific objectives to facilitate achieving the vocational goals of the course.

A. Knowing:

1. Know a variety of biblical, historical, and contemporary ways Christians have understood grace and its meaning for Christian life and ministry.
2. Know some of the key challenges and controversies on Christian understandings of grace and salvation (e.g., the Incarnation in the early church and the challenge of proclaiming Christ in a post-Christendom cultural context).
3. Know some of the contemporary new directions and emphases in Christian views of grace and salvation and how they shape contemporary visions for Christian life and ministry.

B. Being:

1. Appreciate that theology is a dynamic and contextual effort to discern appropriate ways to embody the redemption revealed in Jesus Christ.
2. Embrace a deeper sense of your own Christian identity and how to live your Christian life vis-à-vis contemporary culture.

C. Doing:

1. Investigate and write a constructive paper on a biblical theology of grace.
2. Develop an understanding of a Christian theology of grace that is both credible within culture and authentic to the Gospel.
3. Develop skills in academic analysis, writing, and presentation of research.

III. Required Text:

1. Gene L. Greene, Stephen T. Pardue, and K. K. Yeo, eds., *So Great a Salvation: Soteriology in the Majority World* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).
- Additional reading may be assigned

IV. Course Performance Criteria:

Assignment	Percent	Due Date
A. Seminar	45%	
1) Presentation	20%	June 13
2) Written submission	25%	June 17
B. Paper & Presentation	55%	
1) Presentation (Zoom)	20%	June 27
2) Paper	35%	July 1
C. Participation	X%	
Total: 100%		

V. Course Outline:

Week	Date	Weekly Sessions	Readings & Assignments
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1	May 30	<p>Synchronous 1:00–2:50pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Stories of Grace • Introduction to the Course 	<p>Online</p> <p>I. Biblical Theology of Creation-Redemption</p>								
2	June 6	<p>Synchronous 1:00– 2:50pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A on Biblical Theology of Creation & Redemption lecture • Group discussion: Biblical Vision of Grace <p>II. Early church theology of grace</p>	<p>Online</p> <p>III. Medieval theologies of grace</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 10, Biblical Vision of Grace Paper due 							
3	June 13	<p>Synchronous 1:00–2:50pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDiv/MTS: Share with the class <i>So Great a Salvation</i> Blog • DPT: seminar presentations <p>IV. Protestant Theology (e.g., justification, sanctification, evangelical atonement theology)</p>	<p>Online</p> <p>IV. Grace and Contemporary Issues</p> <p>A. Human Identity & Activity (<i>Imago Dei</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 17, <i>So Great a Salvation</i> Blog due • June 17, DPT seminar due 							
4	June 20	<p>Synchronous 1:00– 2:50pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A on identity & divine image lecture <p>B. Creation Care</p>	<p>Online</p> <p>C. Theology of Religions</p>								
5	June 27	<p>Major Paper Presentations Synchronous 1:00–2:50pm</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="407 1745 1157 1892"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Presenter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Presenter	1.		2.		3.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1, Paper/Project due
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VI. Assignment Descriptions:

General Guidelines:

- Please submit course work in the appropriate folder on Avenue to Learn (A2L).
- I prefer Word docs rather than PDF. If you submit your work in PDF, comments may be limited.
- All assignments marked according to the Grading Criteria Form available on A2L.
- All papers and assignments should conform to (and will be marked according to) the MDC Style Guide (<https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>).

A. Seminar:

1. Purpose:
This assignment provides experience *preparing a seminar* for a church OR ministry leadership group. The preparation of the seminar also helps fulfill one of the requirements of the DPT Mastery Checklist.
2. Description:
 - You will prepare a seminar on a topic related to topic of the class and your PLR research topic/project.
 - The seminar should be geared to address either a church (lay) leadership or ministry leadership group. Thus, the content and the way it is developed should reflect the target audience.
 - You can also use this assignment to investigate an area that will promote your research program. Consequently, the seminar can address the practice led topic that is the focus of your DPT studies. Thus, this assignment can provide the opportunity to investigate an area of theology and apply it to your area of practice led research.
3. Guidelines:
 - a. Research:

- 1) Research for the seminar will account for part of the supplemental reading for DPT students.
 - 2) Documentation of reading:
Please provide an annotated bibliography of the reading consulted in the preparation of the seminar (the annotations for the texts should be about one paragraph—identify the key thesis and contributions of the text to your seminar).
- b. Seminar content:
- 1) The seminar material should present and discuss the primary content points of the topic (or sub-topic).
 - 2) Handouts/outlines and PowerPoint/Prezi are helpful, but not required.
 - 3) Length:
Develop the seminar content for a thirty- to forty-minute presentation.
- c. Synchronous Seminar presentation June 13:
- 1) You will share a *summary* of your seminar.
 - 2) The presentation should introduce the . . .
 - Target audience,
 - Topic,
 - Why you chose it, and . . .
 - Outline the topic’s development in the seminar.
 - 3) Length of presentation is 15 to 20 minutes, which includes time for discussion.
4. Evaluation:
Grading of the seminar and discussion session will be based on the following . . .
- a. Submitting a copy (electronic) of the:
 - Seminar notes (and any accompanying PowerPoint slides, etc.) and . . .
 - Annotated bibliography used to develop the seminar
 - b. Does the seminar accurately present and discuss the topic for the target audience?
 - c. Does the seminar engage in critical evaluation/discussion of the content?

d. Does the seminar facilitate student discussion?

5. Due Date: Written submission due June 17.

B. Paper and Presentation:

1. Purpose:

This assignment gives you experience writing article, essay, and chapter length papers and presenting research in an oral form similar to that performed at academic conferences.

2. Description:

You will *write* and *present* a thesis paper on a topic related to the topic of the course and your area of DPT practice led topic. I encourage you to investigate the issue from the perspective of your discipline and area(s) of research interest. You are encouraged to use the class as an opportunity to work on papers to:

- 1) Present at academic and/or professional society meetings and/or submit to journals for publication,
- 2) Develop material for presentation/application in your area of professional world,
- 3) Pursue dissertation research.

3. Guidelines for the Paper:

The paper should include (description categories below correspond to those of the grading rubric) . . .

a. Content and argument:

- 1) Detail a clear thesis (the view that your paper supports).
 - Example of a thesis statement: The missional church movement, especially its emphasis on incarnational ministry, provides valuable insight for Christian leadership in a postmodern and post-Christian culture.

Note: The DPT practice led topic in this thesis statement is “Christian leadership in a postmodern and post-Christian culture.”

- 2) Describe your topic.
- 3) Write an essay that coherently demonstrates your view.

- 4) Detail major alternatives and/or criticisms and interact with them vis-à-vis your view, where and when appropriate.
- b. Presentation:
- 1) Write a stylistically clean and academic paper—e.g., you should avoid excessive first-person discourse, colloquialisms (academic differs from conversational voice), and passive voice (use active).
 - 2) Use and document a *minimum* of fifteen scholarly resources.
 - 3) Accurately document sources according to the MDC Style Guide (<https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>).
 - 4) Paper length: 20–25 pages. Not to exceed 7,000 words (including footnotes).
 - 5) Provide a bibliography (list only the books cited in the footnotes of the paper).
 - 6) Use footnotes.
- c. Due Date: July 1.

VII. Policies:

- A. Textbook Purchase:
All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.
- B. Academic Honesty:
Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.
- Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>
- C. Gender Inclusive Language:
McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be

used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

D. Style:

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses. <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

E. Late-Assignment and Exam Policy:

1. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus.
2. Students take exams on the date and at the time scheduled in the syllabus.
3. Late assignments are reduced five percentage points for each day late (e.g., if the grade is 90 and it is one day late [after the beginning of class equals one day late], the grade will be reduced to 85).
4. Assignments and exams will be accepted without penalty after the specified date in the syllabus **only** in the case of an excused absence. If a student misses an exam or assignment submission due to a reason that he/she believes is excusable, then he/she must notify the instructor and schedule an exam date and/or late-assignment submission date within twenty-four hours of the beginning of the missed class session.
5. Assignments and exams will not be accepted late on the basis of the student's involvement with school-approved activities. If you are not able to be in class for an exam or assignment submission, then you must pre-arrange with the instructor to take the exam and/or submit the assignment before the scheduled date in the syllabus.

VIII. Bibliography

Alexander, Donald, ed. *Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

Bridges, Jerry. *Transforming Grace*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2017.

Cheng, Patrick S. *From Sin to Amazing Grace: Discovering the Queer Christ*. New York: Seabury, 2012.

Coffey, David. *Grace: The Gift of the Holy Spirit*. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2011.

- David, Joshua. *Waiting and Being: Creation, Freedom, and Grace in Western Theology*. Edited by Henry F French. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014.
- Eilers, Kent, and Kyle Strobel, eds. *Sanctified by Grace: A Theology of the Christian Life*. New York: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2014.
- Fairbairn, Donald. *Grace and Christology in the Early Church*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Freibach Heifetz, Dana. *Secular Grace*. Translated by Barbara Harshav. Leiden: Brill Rodopi, 2017.
- Horton, Michael Scott. *Justification*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.
- Hwang, Alexander Y., et al., eds. *Grace for Grace: the debates after Augustine and Pelagius*. Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 2014.
- Kapic, Kelly M, ed. *Sanctification: Explorations in Theology and Practice*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2014.
- Kierkegaard, Søren. *Practice in Christianity*. Translated and edited by Howard V Hong, and Edna H Hong. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1991.
- Knell, Matthew. *Sin, Grace and Free Will: A Historical Survey of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. Cambridge: James Clarke, 2018.
- Lane, A. N. S. *Justification by Faith in Catholic-Protestant Dialogue: An Evangelical Assessment*. London: T & T Clark, 2006.
- Oakes, Edward T. *A Theology of Grace in Six Controversies*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Spurgeon, Charles H. *All of Grace*. Chicago: Moody, 2010.
- Tamez, Elsa. *The Amnesty of Grace: Justification by Faith from a Latin American Perspective*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- Watson, John. *The Doctrines of Grace*. New York: McClure, Phillips, 1900.
- Ziegler, Geordie W. *Trinitarian Grace and Participation: An Entry into the Theology of T.F. Torrance*. Lanham: Fortress, 2017.

<p>Please Note: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.</p>
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