

# Dogmatics Syllabus

## Objectives:

- ◆ To grow in faith, love and holiness by the power of the Spirit.
- ◆ To see Christ and Him crucified as the center of all faith and life.
- ◆ To study various errors to be able to refute them with God's Word.
- ◆ To improve our understanding of God's truth in order to build others in grace, peace, faith, and love.

**Our Course of Study:** We study the doctrines of Holy Scripture for six semesters. Classes meet three times a week, except for the Junior's introduction course which meets five times per week. The various teachings of the Bible are presented and discussed on the basis of an "a priori" acceptance of the Bible as the verbally inspired, inerrant, clear and sufficient Word of God which focuses our faith continually on the universal and objective justification of sinners through the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ, who is our true God and true man Savior. These courses help the student gain a thorough knowledge of the whole will of God for Christian faith and life. The doctrines of the Lutheran Church as set forth in the Lutheran Confessions are examined in the light of Scripture to strengthen the student's conviction that they are in fact drawn from the Bible. This intensive study of Christian doctrine aims to give those who are preparing to become public ministers of the gospel a clear and comprehensive understanding of the truths of God's Word. This will enable them to preach and teach with the assurance, "Thus saith the LORD." The class discussions follow an outline prepared from the notes of Professor John Meyer with revisions and additions made by the WLS faculty, Professor David Lau and Professor John Ude. Franz Pieper's "Christian Dogmatic" - three volumes - is also read and discussed as well as other references. Students write papers and give presentations during the year.

Junior Introduction: Introduction to Theology

First Year, First Semester: Theology

First Year, Second Semester: Theology & Anthropology

Second Year, First Semester: Christology

Second Year, Second Semester: Christology & Soteriology

Third Year, First Semester: Soteriology

Third Year, Second Semester: Soteriology & Eschatology

**Your Daily Assignment:** Have the assigned section of Meyer's notes studied so you are ready to discuss it, any assigned study questions done and any other assigned reading material read before class.

**Presentations:** Have your study prepared for the day indicated. Provide the class with a printed outline of some kind. I will be looking for as many of the following as apply in the situation: a presentation that reflects joyful enthusiasm in the Word; maintains good tone and tempo; good eye contact; employs appropriate, natural gestures; uses illustrations (pictures, diagrams etc); examples from life; good questions; specific law; specific gospel; a message that has a clear purpose; positive focus; covers the main point well; covers the whole topic/ section well; shows conviction in God's Word; so that thorough preparation is evident in everything and a conclusion that ties it all together. (Some may not apply in every situation.)

**Essays:** Use all proper writing techniques, give references for quotes and use a minimum of 1.5 spacing. I will also be looking for the following: an introduction that catches interest and leads to the point, an essay that reflects joyful enthusiasm in the Word; uses illustrations (word pictures, comparisons, diagrams etc); examples from life; specific law; specific gospel; a message that has a clear purpose; positive focus; covers the main point well; covers the whole topic/ section well; shows conviction in God's Word; so that thorough preparation is evident in everything and a conclusion that ties it all together.

**Evaluations:** Individual assignments will be graded and critiqued. An overall evaluation is being determined on the following basis: classroom participation, homework assignments, presentations, responsibility, resourcefulness, respect for God's saving Word and walking as a child of the Light Eph. 5:8.

A $\geq$ 96.67	B+ $\geq$ 90	B- $\geq$ 83.33	C $\geq$ 76.67	D+ $\geq$ 70	D- $\geq$ 63.33
A- $\geq$ 93.33	B $\geq$ 86.67	C+ $\geq$ 80	C- $\geq$ 73.33	D $\geq$ 66.67	F $<$ 63.33

**Absences:** All of you are expected to attend all classes. If you are absent at any class, please submit **all homework due for the past day(s) before our class on the day that you return** to class. **The absence must be made up** by submitting a page of your notes on material which I will assign for that class. It will include but not be limited to the daily assignment that was given. (If typed: 1.5 spacing with one inch margins. If written similar format and neat.) This page must be submitted **within a week** after a return to class. If an absence is such that you could not do the homework, I will set a fitting extension time period to have it done. **To receive credit for this course, there can ordinarily be no more than seven absences.** **Tardiness:** If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings you are tardy. Three tardy's will equal one absence.

**Office Hours:** I encourage you to contact me outside of class hours with questions or concerns. I will generally be available in my office (Ingram Room 6). You may also arrange a specific time at which to meet. I don't have a phone in my office. My home number is 715-955-4127. But, if calling my home, call before 10:00 pm. You may also contact me via Email at "john.ude@ilc.edu".