



# HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

5555 SEMINAR IN THEOLOGY: REVELATION AND SCRIPTURE

Spring 2018, Mon. 8:00-10:55 a.m.

Prof. Mark E. Powell

## ***Course description***

An advanced seminar on divine revelation and Scripture, with an emphasis on the historical development and contemporary discussion of these theological topics. Prerequisite: 5400 Systematic Theology or the permission of the instructor.

## ***Course objectives***

1. Exhibit an understanding of divine revelation and Scripture as developed in the history of Christianity and discussed in contemporary theology.
2. Exhibit an understanding of several contemporary theological movements.
3. Carefully present and critically interact with contemporary proposals on divine revelation and Scripture.

## ***Required texts***

Karlfried Froehlich, *Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980).

Avery Dulles, *Models of Revelation* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1992).

John Webster, *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the [HST website](#). The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books. By going through our website, HST will receive some credit from the order. Thanks for your support.

Additional readings, course notes, a place to submit assignments, and grades are available on the Canvas course page at <http://elearning.harding.edu>.

## ***Accessibility***

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: [mpowell@harding.edu](mailto:mpowell@harding.edu)

Office Phone Number: (901) 432-7725

Office: Ijams Administration Building 209

### ***Requirements and grading***

1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation
2. Seminar paper (15%)
3. Research paper (35%)
4. Mid-term exam (10%)
5. Final exam (40%)

Grading scale: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-75 (C), 74-70 (D), 69 and below (F)

All readings and papers should be completed before the session for which they are assigned. Reading and class participation, or lack thereof, may have a positive or negative effect on the final grade of up to five points.

### ***Academic Integrity***

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

### ***Credit Hour Workload***

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

### ***Students with Disabilities***

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

### ***Library Resources***

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site ([www.hst.edu](http://www.hst.edu)) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

## *Class schedule*

Jan. 22           Orientation to the class; Biblical foundations  
(1) Dulles, chaps. 1-2.

### I. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Jan. 29           Scripture and the early church  
(1) Froehlich, chaps. IV-X.

Feb. 5            Scripture and the Protestant Reformation  
(1) John Dillenberger, ed., *Martin Luther: Selections from his Writings*, (New York: Anchor Books, 1962), 14-19, 35-37.  
(2) John T. McNeill, ed., *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 1, 1.1-9 (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960), 35-96.  
(3) Dogmatic Decrees of the Council of Trent, Sessions 3-4 in *Creeds and Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition*, vol. II, eds. Jaroslav Pelikan and Valerie Hotchkiss (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003), 821-24.

### II. CONTEMPORARY PROPOSALS

Feb. 12           Conservative Protestantism: Traditional Formulations  
(1) Dulles, chap. 3.  
(2) Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* (Philadelphia: P&R, 1948), chaps. 1-2.  
(3) Carl F. H. Henry, "Inerrancy and the Bible in Modern Conservative Evangelical Thought" in *Introduction to Christian Theology: Contemporary North American Perspectives*, ed. Roger A. Badham (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 53-65.  
(4) Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 21, no 4 (December 1978): 289-296.

Feb. 19           Wolfhart Pannenberg; Liberal Protestantism  
(1) Dulles, chaps. 4, 5.  
(2) Wolfhart Pannenberg, ed., *Revelation as History*, (New York: Macmillan, 1968), 125-155.  
(3) Schubert M. Ogden, *On Theology* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1986), chaps. 2-3.

Feb. 26           Karl Barth  
(1) Dulles, chap. 6.  
(2) Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics: A Selection with Introduction by Helmut Gollwitzer*, trans. and ed. G.W. Bromiley (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1994), 29-86.

- Mar. 5 Intensive Course Week
- Mar. 12 Spring Break
- Mar. 19 Roman Catholicism
- (1) Research paper prospectus due
  - (2) Dulles, chaps. 9, 11-13.
  - (3) *Dei Verbum* and *Lumen Gentium* 25 in *Creeds and Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition*, vol. 3, eds. Jaroslav Pelikan and Valerie Hotchkiss (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003), 650-62, 596-98.
- Mar. 26 Postliberal Theology
- (1) Mid-term exam
  - (2) William C. Placher, *The Triune God: An Essay in Postliberal Theology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007), 43-72.
  - (3) Ronald F. Thiemann, *Revelation and Theology* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1985), chap. 7.
- Apr. 2 Black and Feminist Theologies
- (1) James H. Evans, Jr., *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992), chaps. 1-2.
  - (2) Catherine Mowry LaCugna, ed., *Freeing Theology: The Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1993), chaps. 2-3.
- Apr. 9 Canonical Theism
- (1) William J. Abraham, *Crossing the Threshold of Divine Revelation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006) chaps. 4-6.
  - (2) Robert W. Wall, "A Theological Morphology of the Bible: A Prescription for 'Spiritually Disabled' Students" in *Immersed in the Life of God: The Healing Resources of the Christian Faith*, eds. Paul L. Gavrilyuk, et. al. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), 41-62.
- Apr. 16 John Webster
- (1) Webster, *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch*
- Apr. 23 Conservative Protestantism: Contemporary Concerns
- (1) Research paper due
  - (2) Kenton Sparks, *God's Word in Human Words* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008), 17-24, 357-374.
  - (3) Christian Smith, *The Bible Made Impossible* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2011), pp.3-26, 149-178.
- Apr. 30 Final session
- May 7 Final exam

### ***Seminar paper***

Students are required to lead one class discussion by presenting a paper, approximately five pages in length, on the readings assigned for the session. The paper should strike a balance between careful exposition, critical evaluation, and constructive suggestion. In addition, two questions for class discussion should be included at the end of the paper.

The seminar paper should be submitted as a Word or PDF document on Canvas by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the Friday before it is presented. Papers that are not turned in by this time will be penalized 10 points. All students should carefully read the seminar papers before class.

### ***Research paper***

Students are required to submit a research paper, approximately 15 pages in length, on a theological issue related to divine revelation and Scripture. The research paper should carefully follow Turabian's *Manual* and may be penalized up to ten points for style. The research paper should be submitted as a Word or PDF document on Canvas by 5:00 p.m. on April 23. Late papers will be penalized one point per day late (excluding Sundays) for the first three days, and then three points per day late, up to 20 points total.

Possible topics include a detailed treatment of any issue covered in class, or the treatment of divine revelation and/or Scripture by a major historical or contemporary figure.

Students are encouraged to submit a prospectus (this can be informal and sent by email) that includes (1) the topic to be investigated and (2) a preliminary bibliography, by March 19.

Students will have 30 minutes to present their research paper (approximately 15 minutes) and field questions (approximately 15 minutes) on the final class session. This will allow the entire class to benefit from student research.

| <b>Criterion</b>                       | <b>Above Expectations<br/>Grade of A</b>  | <b>Meets Expectations<br/>Grade of B or C</b>   | <b>Below Expectations<br/>Grade of D or F</b>                                   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Presentation and interpretation</b> | Rich presentation and interpretation of theologian and/or theological issue.  | Adequate presentation and interpretation of theologian and/or theological issue.                      | Shallow presentation and interpretation of theologian and/or theological issue. |
| <b>Critical analysis</b>               | Rich critical interaction that both displays appreciation and identifies areas of concern. May include constructive suggestion. | Adequate critical interaction, showing appreciation and/or identifying areas of concern.              | Little or no critical interaction.  |
| <b>Research and scholarly support</b>  | Excellent research in the primary sources and major secondary sources (at least 15 scholarly sources).                          | Adequate research in the primary sources and major secondary sources (at least 10 scholarly sources). | Inadequate research (less than 10 scholarly sources).                           |

Penalties: Grammar and style, late submission

## *Use of technology*

### Canvas Online Learning System

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system or email your professor directly at [mpowell@harding.edu](mailto:mpowell@harding.edu).

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.

### HST Live Interactive Video Education (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course <https://zoom.us/j/9014327725>

Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE orientation session scheduled for January 9 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

### Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.