Ecclesia Theological Seminary

Course Title: Contemporary Pentecostal and Charismatic Issues
Date: 14-18 Nov 2016 (intensive)
Lecturer: Robert P. Menzies, Ph.D.

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the central theological and practical issues Pentecostal ministers face as we seek to minister in a rapidly changing and increasingly “global” world. Special attention will be given to the nature of Pentecostal identity and the biblical foundations for our distinctive convictions. We will also address current controversies related to these core convictions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify the core convictions that define the Pentecostal movement and offer a solid, biblical rationale for these views.

2. Describe the key hermeneutical and exegetical issues in the current debate concerning the nature of Pentecostal theology and practice.

3. Pinpoint key issues confronting Pentecostal churches in the Asia-Pacific region.

4. Develop theological and pastoral responses to contemporary theological issues from a distinctively Pentecostal perspective.

TEXTBOOKS

Required Reading:


Menzies, Robert P. Pentecost: This Story is Our Story (Springfield, Mo: GPH, 2013). 160 pages.


Total Pages of Required Reading: D.Min: 2,010 pages; M.Div: 1,110 pages.
• Designates books not required for M.Div students.

COURSE OUTLINE

| Day 1 | 1) What is the essence of Pentecostalism?  
[Reading: Pentecost; Speaking in Tongues; & Spirit & Power, chs 1, 7-9; The Spirit in the... |
| Day 2 | 2) Pentecostal Hermeneutics: How do we read the Bible? **[Reading: Spirit & Power, chs 2-4; Pentecost, ch. 1]**
|       | a. Historical Developments
|       | b. Different Answers to the key Question
|       | c. Discussion
|       | d. The Way Forward

•Discussion: Responses to *Spirit in the World*

| Day 3 | 3) Healing: Our Theology and Practice **[Reading: Pentecost, ch. 4 & Spirit & Power, chs 10-11]**
|       | a. Key Issues
|       | b. Biblical Analysis
|       | c. Signs & Wonders
|       | d. Discussion concerning our practice

4) Are there Apostles and Prophets Today? **[Reading: A New Apostolic Reformation]**
|       | a. Discussion
|       | b. Biblical Analysis
|       | c. Suggestions for the Future

•Discussion: Responses to *Global Renewal Christianity*

| Day 4 | 5) Eschatology: Where do we fit? **[Reading: Peter Kuzmic, “The Church and The Kingdom of God”]**
| 6) | The Health & Wealth Message: How do we assess this emphasis often prominent in Neo-Charismatic churches?  
[Reading: *Health, Wealth, & Happiness: Has the Prosperity Gospel Overshadowed the Gospel of Christ?] |
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•Discussion: Responses to *Global Renewal Christianity*

| Day 5 | 7) | Missiology: A Pentecostal Perspective  
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| 8) | Conclusion: Why Pentecostal Churches are Growing  
[Reading: *Pentecost*, ch. 5] |
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•Final Exam
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Session Assignments:

1) Read *Pentecost: This Story is Our Story* (Springfield, Mo: GPH, 2013) and be prepared to discuss this book in class.

2) Read *Speaking in Tongues: Jesus and the Apostolic Church as Models for the Church Today* (Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2016). Write a 2,000 (= approximately 4 pages) critique of this book. In the first half of your paper summarize the main points of the book and then, in the second half, describe aspects of the book you liked and felt were persuasive; and also aspects of the book that you did not like and that you felt were not persuasive.

3) Read *Global Renewal Christianity, Vol. 1: Asia and Oceania* (Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2016) and select two chapters that you really liked and two chapters that you did not like. Summarize these chapters and explain why you liked and did not like them (2,000 words = approximately 4 pages). You may be asked to present your paper in class.

4) Read *The Spirit in the World: Emerging Pentecostal Theologies in Global Contexts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009). Again, select two chapters that you really liked and two chapters that you did not like. Summarize these chapters and explain why you liked and did not like them (2,000 words = approximately 4 pages). You may be asked to present your paper in class.


6) Read *Health, Wealth & Happiness: Has the Prosperity Gospel Overshadowed the Gospel of Christ?* (Kregel, 2010) and write a 1,000 word (= approximately 2 pages) book review of this book.

*Designates assignments for D.Min students only.*
**In-Session Assignments:**

1) Read *Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000) and be prepared to discuss in class.

2) Read Peter Kuzmič, “*The Church and The Kingdom of God,*” for Thursday’s class.


4) Read Miller & Yamamori, *Global Pentecostalism: The New Face of Christian Social Engagement* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2007) and be prepared to discuss in Friday’s class.

5) Final Exam on Friday: The final exam, which will include some ‘true or false’ and multiple choice questions, as well as short essay questions, will cover the required reading and our class discussion.

**Post-Session Assignments:**

1) M.Div students: Write a 3,000 word (approx. 6 pages) research paper on one of the topics discussed above (or a topic agreed upon after discussion with your instructor). You should state a clear question and then propose an answer that shows an awareness of dissenting views.

2) D.Min students: Write a 5,000 word (approx. 10 pages) research paper on one of the topics discussed above (or a topic agreed upon after discussion with your instructor). You should state a clear question and then propose an answer that shows an awareness of dissenting views.

**D.Min Evaluation**

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### M.DIV EVALUATION

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Miller, Donald E. & Tetsunao Yamamori. *Global Pentecostalism: The New Face of*


