

BRIERCREST

THEO 654 Theology of the Holy Spirit and Redemption Winter 2021

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Course Dates: March 1-5, 2021

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the identity and redeeming work of the Holy Spirit. Special focus is given to understanding the nature of the Holy Spirit; his relationship to the Father and Son; his roles in sustaining creation, in inspiring and canonizing Scripture, in calling, sanctifying and gifting the Church, and in the resurrection. Contemporary issues in pneumatology will also be examined.

COURSE INTEGRATION

The paucity of theologically rigorous teaching on the person and work of the Holy Spirit has led to serious deficiencies in the study of theology as a discipline in the church, and the lives of individual believers. Restricted to a flattened perspective of “spiritual gifts” or inflated to encompass all manner of “spirituality”, the doctrine of God the Holy Spirit (pneumatology) needs renewed attention and careful study. THEO 654 seeks to develop a biblically informed, theologically responsible pneumatology. Emphasizing the Spirit’s role in creation, inspiration, inscripturation, and particularly, redemption, this class strives to ground any pneumatological discussion within the parameters of classical Christian theism. The course will predominantly focus on the Spirit’s role in applying the redemption won by Christ and will also examine and evaluate modern horizons of contemporary theolog(ies) of the Holy Spirit.

COURSE TEXTS

Ferguson, Sinclair. *The Holy Spirit*. Illinois: IVP Academic, 1997.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit in Ecumenical, International and Contextual Perspective*. Michigan: Baker Academic, 2018.

St. Basil the Great, trans. Stephen Hildebrand. *On the Holy Spirit* (Popular Patristics Series). New York: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2011.

Fee, Gordon D. *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*. Michigan: Baker Academic, 1996.



Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- 1) Have a foundational understanding of the historical, exegetical, and theological teachings concerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Critically reflect on seminal developments within the historic development of the doctrine of the Spirit.
- 3) Be able to articulate the role of the Spirit in applying the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ.
- 4) Analyze and evaluate a variety of contextual pneumatologies and discern the appropriateness with which they may be deployed in modern theological discourse.
- 5) Have a clearer understanding of the role of the Spirit in his or her own life, ministry, and vocation.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

A full course outline and content schedule will be posted to Canvas in the weeks leading up to the course held March 1-5, 2021.

ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all written assignments to Canvas.

Pre-Course Assignments:

"Making Sense of Basil" – Summary and Explication of *On the Holy Spirit* – 20%

After reading *On the Holy Spirit* in its entirety, students are to write a 5-page paper that is to detail the following: a concise summary of Basil's argument(s) against the pagans concerning the person of the Holy Spirit, an explication of Basil's defense of the co-equality of the Spirit with the Father and the Son, and a critique of Basil's theological method. Papers may not exceed 5 pages in length without special permission from the instructor of record.

"Making Sense of Basil" – Summary and Explication Due: March 1, 2021

Contextual Pneumatology Evaluation Paper – 20%

After reading Kärkkäinen, students will select **one** contextual pneumatology (pp. 147-174) and write a 5-page paper that explores the biblical, theological, and contextual sources that support the pneumatology in question. Students may base the majority of their presentation on Kärkkäinen's

work; however, students must also interact with at least 2 primary sources written by authors from within the theological context. A clear and charitable presentation of the contextual pneumatology is required, with a final page dedicated to the student's own evaluation of the view presented.

Contextual Pneumatology Evaluation Paper Due: March 1, 2021

Mid-Course Assignments:

Online Forum Readings, Discussion, and Engagement – 20%

An integral part of classroom learning is the enthusiastic participation of all members of the classroom (instructor included!). Because this course is administrated online, it is even more important that students make an effort to engage with the course material and each other in rigorous and charitable ways. To this end, students are encouraged to engage fully in the classroom environment—this includes online synchronous lectures, as well as Canvas-based discussion forums. Discussion topics and readings will be posted to Canvas, and students are expected to read all supplementary materials and post **at least one response to questions/readings, and also, one engagement with another student (comment, question, objection, affirmation etc.) per day**. It is best if students schedule this time as a part of their weekly in-class learning times. Opportunities to engage in online discussion will also be given throughout the week.

Online Forum Readings, Discussion, and Engagement Due: Throughout the week of March 1-5, 2021

Post-Course Assignments:

Classical Pneumatology Research Paper – 40%

Students will research and write a 10-page paper on any topic germane to classical pneumatology. Acceptable paper topics may deal with any historical, exegetical, or theological issue, theme, or motif related to the topic of pneumatology (with the exception of contextual pneumatologies—hence the assignation of “classical”). Students are encouraged to consider potential paper topics *before* the start of the class so as to ensure ample time to research, write, and edit their work. This assignment has a phased grading system in place:

- 1) 10% - submission of topic and initial bibliography **(Due: March 19, 2021)**
- 2) 10% - thesis statement and detailed outline **(Due: April 2, 2021)**
- 3) 60% - final essay (content) **(Due: April 30, 2021)**
- 4) 20% - final essay format (Chicago), grammar, mechanics, etc. **(Due: April 30, 2021)**

Extensions will not be granted for any of the assignment phases listed above.

Classical Pneumatology Research Paper Final Due Date: April 30, 2021

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

In order to benefit fully from a seminary education, to be good stewards of time and finances, and to be considerate of their classmates and faculty members, students must be in class at every opportunity.

Modular Courses

Students are expected to attend 100 per cent of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, arrangements must be made with the course professor before the first day of class. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending class, a maximum of one (1) full day of class can be foregone. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Online Courses

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending scheduled meeting times, then up to 20% of meeting time can be foregone. Students missing scheduled meeting times should make every effort to inform the course professor prior to any time missed. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Semester-Based Courses

All students missing more than two full weeks of a particular course from registration to the last day of classes will receive an automatic fail (0%). A student may appeal a course failure due to excessive absences. Successful appeals will be granted only in rare cases where all absences are clearly beyond the student's control. Appeals must be made through the Academic Appeal Process.

Course Schedules

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Director of the Academic Resource Centre in person (L234 in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (academicresourcecentre@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A full bibliography will be posted to Canvas. Note: students are welcome and encouraged to add to the posted bibliography. This Bibliography will be available for download (for future reference).