

# BRIERCREST

## THEO 654 Theology of the Holy Spirit and Redemption Winter 2023

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Course Dates: March 27 - 31, 2023  
Online Modular Course

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 doctrine of the Holy Spirit is a fundamental feature of Christian theological understanding. The Holy Spirit appears ubiquitously in Holy Scripture, in Christian theology and in creation. Because this doctrine is integral to our understanding of God, it necessarily shapes our view of such important themes as Creation, Salvation, the nature and mission of the Church, Scripture, the Christian Life, and the consummation of all things. Significant disagreements have arisen within the church regarding the person and work of the Holy Spirit with far-reaching implications for the liturgy, worship, mission and unity of the church. In addition, a wide variety of worldviews today promote the value of "spiritual" insights and experiences, yet these often fail to align with the biblical and theological understanding of the nature and functions of the Holy Spirit represented in the Great Tradition of the Christian Church. In light of this, faithful Christian engagement in the church and in the world must attend to careful reflection upon the reality of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. This course is designed to introduce the biblical and traditional teachings of the Christian faith regarding the Holy Spirit and his work as a basis for faithful Christian assessment of the various views of the Spirit and "spirituality" proposed in the church and world today.

### COURSE TEXTS (REQUIRED)

Badcock, Gary D. *Light of Truth and Fire of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.  
Holmes, Christopher R. J. *The Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.  
Sherman, Robert. *Covenant, Community, and the Spirit: A Trinitarian Theology of Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015.  
Webster, John B. *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

*Students are expected to refer Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <http://briercrest.ca/current/seminary/academics/important-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

Students who complete this course of study should be able to:

- a. Articulate a basic understanding of the essential terms and themes related to the Christian doctrine of God the Holy Spirit, including his divine being, the trinitarian personal relations and mission of the Holy Spirit, as well as the work appropriated to the Holy Spirit in Redemption, the generation and function of Scripture, the sanctification and glorification of the Church, and the consummation of the cosmos.
- b. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the biblical, historical and theological development of the Great Tradition of the Christian Church regarding the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, as well as an awareness of the major theological movements and voices having an impact in the field, including the *filioque* controversy, the twentieth century “rediscovery” of the Trinity, and the emergence of “social trinitarianism.”
- c. Read and critically assess various academic theological proposals pertaining to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, on the basis of sound biblical and theological understanding.
- d. Discuss the significance of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit for other theological loci such as creation, providence, salvation, ethics, and Christian life and hope.
- e. Reflect meaningfully on the relation of theology, faith and ministry in the contemporary context of the church and the world.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Date	Topic	Student Presentation
Mar 27 am	Intro to the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit Badcock, Introduction; Keener; Welker; Holmes, Ch. 1, Excursus 1	
Mar 27 pm	Biblical Sources Badcock, Ch. 1; <i>ISBE</i> , “Holy Spirit”	The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament; Luke-Acts; John; or Paul
Mar 28 am	The Holy Spirit in the Church Fathers Badcock, Ch. 2-3; Holmes, Ch. 2-3	Tertullian; Origen; Athanasius; the Cappadocian Fathers; or Augustine
Mar 28 pm	The Holy Spirit in the Medieval Era Holmes, Ch. 4-5, Excursus 2	Aquinas
Mar 29 am	The Holy Spirit in the Reformation Era Badcock, Ch. 4	Luther; Calvin; or the Anabaptist Tradition
Mar 29 pm	The Holy Spirit in the Modern Era Badcock, Ch. 5-6	Pietism; Schleiermacher; John Owen; John Wesley; Jonathan Edwards; Or the Modern Charismatic Movement
Mar 30 am	A Trinitarian Doctrine of the Holy Spirit Badcock, Ch. 7-8; Holmes, Ch. 6-7;	Karl Barth; Thomas F. Torrance; Karl Rahner; Wolfhart Pannenberg; or Jürgen Moltmann
Mar 30 pm	Regeneration, Church and Tradition Holmes, Ch. 8-10; [Optional: Webster, <i>Holiness</i> , Ch. 1-4]	The Holy Spirit and... Salvation; Holiness; the Church; the Gifts; Preaching; or Evangelism

Mar 31 am	The Holy Spirit in Faith and Life Badcock, Ch. 9; Webster, <i>Holy Scripture</i> , Ch. 1-3	The Holy Spirit and... the Christian Life; Scripture; Prayer; or the Beatific Vision
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A revised schedule will be provided once students have signed up for presentations.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all written assignments to Canvas.

### *Pre-Course Assignments:*

- 1. Reading (5%):** The following readings should be completed before the beginning of class: Badcock, Holmes, and Webster (approx. 600 pages). These materials will form the essential content for lectures and class discussions. This assignment is to be completed by the beginning of class **Monday, March 27**. Students should attest to their having completed the assigned readings by a simple email statement to the instructor so indicating.
- 2. Argument summary (15%):** Students will write a four-page (1000 word) double-spaced summary of the main argument of Gary Badcock's *Light of Truth and Fire of Love*. The goal is *not* to summarize each aspect of Badcock's work, but to identify clearly and succinctly his overall view of the subject matter and the key supporting arguments he employs to defend his position. That is, according to Badcock, what is the state of the question as regards the doctrine of the Holy Spirit? What are the options for the advance of theology? What significant proposal(s) does Badcock make in this regard and why? Do you find them compelling? Why or why not? References to Badcock's work can be made in parentheses within the essay. A significant amount of class time will involve open discussion of Badcock's work. This assignment is to be completed by the beginning of class **Monday, March 27**.

### *Mid-Course Assignments:*

**Class presentation (25%):** Select one topic from the list below and prepare a presentation and discussion time of 30-45 minutes. Students will prepare a 750 word summary handout (one page, single-spaced, double-sided, copied and distributed to each member of the class in advance of the presentation). Point form is acceptable. Include a "References Cited" section at the end. Other topics may be approved, however, these must be arranged in advance with the instructor. **Note well:** In order to facilitate scheduling, students are requested to contact the instructor at [ddawson@briercrest.ca](mailto:ddawson@briercrest.ca) to sign up for a topic beginning as soon as March 1 and no later than March 24. Topics will be assigned on a first come, first served basis, and will be scheduled to coordinate (roughly) with the development of the course content through the week. A schedule of presentations will be made available the first day of class. Evaluation of your work will be based upon the quality of both the content and presentation. This assignment is to be completed for the assigned presentation time in the course week, **March 27-31**.

Students should consult both primary and secondary sources for their research. It is recommended that at least eight substantial resources from major monographs and/or periodicals be consulted as a basis for research.

Each presentation should seek to:

- Identify the distinctive features and emphases of the chosen author, tradition or theme.
- Set each pneumatological view or theme in its historical and theological context.

- Discuss the underlying understanding of the Holy Spirit in His immanent and economic Trinitarian reality as reflected in these ideas.
- Evaluate the congruence of these ideas with Scripture and the Christian Tradition.
- Comment upon the practical implications of these ideas in the life and mission of the church.
- Assess the value (strengths and weaknesses) of this view, tradition or theme for the advance of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit going forward.

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament; Luke-Acts; John; or Paul.

Tertullian

Origen

Athanasius

The Cappadocian Fathers (concentrate on one or do all three)

Augustine

Thomas Aquinas

Martin Luther

John Calvin

The Anabaptist Tradition

Pietism

Friedrich Schleiermacher

John Owen

John Wesley

Jonathan Edwards

The Twentieth Century Charismatic Movement

Karl Barth

Thomas F. Torrance

Karl Rahner

Wolfhart Pannenberg

Jürgen Moltmann

The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life

The Holy Spirit and Salvation

The Holy Spirit and Holiness

The Holy Spirit and the Church

The Holy Spirit and the Gifts

The Holy Spirit and Preaching

The Holy Spirit and Evangelism

The Holy Spirit and Prayer

The Holy Spirit and Scripture

The Holy Spirit and the Beatific Vision (*Theosis*)

***Post-Course Assignments:***

1. **Reflective Essay (20%):** Write a six page (1500 word) double-spaced personal reflection and response based on Robert Sherman's *Covenant, Community, and the Spirit*. Each student should reflect upon the place and experience of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in his or her own spiritual tradition in light of the major proposals of Sherman's work. A summary of the book's content is not required. The purpose is rather that the student

reflect critically upon his or her own tradition in light of the main propositions of Sherman's book. This assignment is due no later than **11:59 p.m., May 26, 2023.**

2. **Research Paper (35%):** Building upon course content, write a ten page (2500 word) research paper. Select a theme relevant to the course (perhaps developing your classroom presentation), and write a research paper with a clear thesis (proposition which you intend to prove), logically developing the idea through a series of insightful and substantial arguments to a persuasive conclusion. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of your subject matter by providing an appropriate account of its biblical and theological context, drawing upon the major authorities in the field, accurately employing technical theological vocabulary and arguments, and advancing judicious and substantive insights in support of your thesis. Each student is strongly encouraged to discuss the topic and focus of their research paper with the instructor (if not in class, by email or possibly skype) well in advance of the due date. This assignment is due no later than **11:59 p.m., May 26, 2023.**

## 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 Academic Resource Centre Coordinator in person (L234 in the Library) or by email ([ntooke@briercrest.ca](mailto:ntooke@briercrest.ca)). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Badcock, Gary. *Light of Truth, Fire of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1997.
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- Barrett, Matthew. *Simply Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2021.
- Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics I/1, The Doctrine of the Word of God*, pp. 448-489. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1936, 1975.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Gift of Freedom" in *The Humanity of God*, pp. 35-63. Trans. by John Newton Thomas and Thomas Wieser. London: Collins, 1961.
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- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Translated by Henry Beveridge. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.

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(See also the bibliography in Badcock, pp. 274-296.)

Classical texts online:

Augustine, *De Trinitate*. <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1301.htm>

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica. Part 1. Q 36*. <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1036.htm>

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica. Part 1. Q 37*. <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1037.htm>

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica. Part 1. Q 38*. <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1038.htm>

Basil, *De Spiritu Sanctu*. <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3203.htm>