I. Course Description

A study of Barth’s life and teachings in the context of German liberalism, Kierkegaard and the world wars. Focus upon the contributions and dangers of either Volume I, II, or IV of the *Church Dogmatics*.

II. Objectives

1. Discover the power and beauty of theology.

2. Begin to understand the architecture of theology, how a decision in one area leads to corresponding moves in others.

3. Develop the ability to carefully read and interact with significant theological statements.

4. Understand how Barth’s historical context and dialogue partners shaped his theology.

5. Appreciate the importance of Karl Barth to contemporary theology, especially his significance to the emerging church.

6. Critically evaluate Barth’s dogmatics, incorporating his best insights into our own ministries while avoiding his mistakes.

7. Specifically study Barth’s doctrine of God, including his position concerning natural theology, knowledge of God, the nature of God, and the divine attributes.

8. Specifically study Barth’s doctrine of reconciliation, including his views on Christ’s incarnation, atonement, and resurrection, the fall and justification of humanity, and the Holy Spirit’s role in gathering the church.

III. Textbooks


The Hoch Bookroom (HBR) sells new copies of course textbooks and supplementary texts at costs comparative to online vendors. The HBR is committed to providing textbooks through drop/add week of each semester. After drop/add week it is not guaranteed that all textbooks will remain in stock due to the nature of inventory returns. In addition to purchasing books during store hours, students can call the HBR to order books by phone and pay with a credit card. Books can be shipped to the student for a fee or can be picked up from the front desk of the GRTS Faculty Center. HBR hours and contact information are posted online at https://www.cornerstone.edu/grts-hoch-bookroom.

IV. Requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two page analytical papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The quality of the student’s classroom participation and ability to complete the assigned reading may raise or lower his final grade. Per the seminary catalogue, students may miss one class period without penalty, but each additional absence will result in one letter grade reduction per absence. It is the specific policy of this professor and generally of the institution to not grant incompletes for coursework.

Papers and Projects in Bible and Theology courses should be formatted and sources documented according to the GRTS Guideline for Papers. This guideline is based on the Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style and the SBL Handbook of Style. To access this style guides in Moodle (Learning Management System):
  - Go to moodle.cornerstone.edu
  - Select “New Student Resources” course
  - Click on the “General Information” tab/folder

Copyright Violation and Plagiarism: Copyright violation and plagiarism have serious ramifications for Cornerstone/GRTS students, both legally and ethically. Unauthorized copying or use of copyrighted materials, including downloaded files of various kinds, can result in criminal charges and fines. Plagiarizing another’s words or ideas (passing them off as your own) can result in loss of grade or failure. For a fuller explanation of these issues or of CU’s copyright policy, see Miller Library’s website (under Library Services menu)—“Copyright, Fair Use, & Plagiarism”: http://library.cornerstone.edu/content.php?pid=125720&sid=1079827

Email Communication: Email is the official means for communication with every enrolled student. Students are expected to receive and read those communications in a timely fashion. Since the seminary will send official communications to enrolled students by email using their Cornerstone University email addresses (i.e., first.last@cornerstone.edu), students are expected to check their official email
addresses on a frequent and consistent basis to remain informed of seminary communications.

Students can access their Cornerstone University email account as follows:
- Go to gmail.cornerstone.edu
- Enter CU username (e.g., n0236522) and password

Students can forward or IMAP their “@cornerstone.edu” email to a preferred address as follows:
- Log into CU email
- Select “Settings” in the upper right hand corner
- Select “Forwarding and POP/IMAP”
- Follow the on-screen instructions

Students are responsible for any consequences resulting from their failure to check their email on a regular basis for official seminary communications.

**Disability accommodation**: the University will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of accommodation is to provide equal access to educational opportunities to students affected by disabilities, and the university does not intend that the standards be altered, nor that the essential elements of programs or courses be changed. Students having documented disabilities may apply for accommodations through Student Disability Services (SDS), which is part of the Cornerstone University Learning Center located in Miller Hall on the main campus.

In the event that students have questions regarding whether they are eligible for accommodations, how they might provide appropriate documentation of disabilities, or how they might handle a disagreement with a professor over questions of accommodation, the Director of Academic Support should be contacted immediately at (616) 222-1596 or via email at learningcenter@cornerstone.edu. Further information about applying for and utilizing accommodations is provided in the Student Handbook and on the university’s website.

**Inclusive language**: as noted in the GRTS academic catalog, writing and discussion should reflect the GRTS policy on inclusive language when referring to other people, regardless of their gender, nationality, culture, social class or religion.

**Confidentiality and Disclosure**: Information shared by a student with a faculty or staff member in individual settings will remain confidential, except under the following conditions:
- There has been serious harm or threat of harm to self or others
- There is reasonable suspicion of abuse of a child, elder or vulnerable person.
- There is a court order mandating disclosure of information.
• There is a dispute between a student and faculty/staff member and disclosure is necessary for resolution.
• The faculty or staff member requests supervisory consultation with CU administration.

**Student Course Evaluation:** In the last two weeks of each resident course, all students are expected to complete a course evaluation (IDEA Form). This paper-based assessment form will be distributed and completed in class. In Ministry Residency, Counseling Practicum and Counseling Internships, and for all online courses, student evaluations will be completed within Moodle. These assessments provide an opportunity for students to offer feedback to professors on the quality of the learning experience, feedback that informs future offerings of the course. More information about these evaluation processes will be provided late in the given semester.

**V. About the Papers**

*Analytical Papers*

Each student must write a two page analysis on two of the assigned readings. Each paper should present a brief description of the document, a clear summary of Barth’s argument, and any pertinent historical or theological comments, with an eye toward stimulating class discussion. The student will distribute copies of this paper to other class members, who, through their own reading of the assigned text, will be prepared to discuss the paper when it is presented to the class. These papers are due in the seminary office at noon on the day before they will be discussed in class.

*Summaries*

Each student must write a one page summary (single-spaced) on the reading each week. The student may opt to write on only one of the readings for the weeks that have two. The summaries must be turned in at the beginning of the class for which they were prepared. Each summary must include: the main point of the passage, its significance, and some analysis and critique. The summaries should not include lengthy quotations from the passage (which looks suspiciously like filler). Rather paraphrase Barth’s meaning in your own words, restricting direct quotations for the most salient points.

**VI. Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>95-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>92-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>85-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>81-78</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 &amp; below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4
### VII. Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>Introduction to Barth’s Theology</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>The nature of the knowledge of God</td>
<td>II/1:3-62, § 25 The Fulfillment of the Knowledge of God</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Doubt and certainty</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Natural theology</td>
<td>II/1:63-178, § 26 The Knowability of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Knowledge of and language about God</td>
<td>II/1:179-254, § 27 The Limits of the Knowledge of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Nature of God, trinity, simplicity</td>
<td>II/1:257-350, § 28 The Being of God as the One Who Loves in Freedom and § 29 The Perfections of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Divine grace and holiness, mercy and righteousness, patience and wisdom</td>
<td>II/1:351-439, § 30 The Perfections of the Divine Loving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Divine simplicity and infinity, God's presence in creation</td>
<td>II/1:440-90, § 31 The Perfections of the Divine Freedom: The Unity and Omnipresence of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divine immutability, incarnation, omnipotence, and foreknowledge</td>
<td>II/1:490-607, § 31 The Perfections of the Divine Freedom: The Constancy and Omnipotence of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Covenant and atonement</td>
<td>IV/1:3-78, § 57 The Work of God the Reconciler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Salvation and the Christian life</td>
<td>IV/1:79-154, § 58 The Doctrine of Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nov. 19  Atonement  IV/1:211-83, § 59 The Obedience of the Son of God: The Judge Judged in Our Place

Resurrection  IV/1:283-357, § 59 The Obedience of the Son of God: The Verdict of the Father

Nov. 26  Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3  Knowledge of sin and of Christ, sin as pride, fall of humanity  IV/1:358-513, § 60 The Pride and Fall of Man

Dec. 10  Judgment of God, pardon of humanity, justification by faith  IV/1:514-642, § 61 The Justification of Man


VIII. Bibliography

Primary Sources


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Secondary Sources


Ford, D. Barth and God’s Story. Frankfort am Main: Lang, 1981.


How to Read Karl Barth: The Shape of His Theology. New York: Oxford


Clark, 1981.


The Digital Karl Barth Library, [http://solomon.dkbl.alexanderstreet.com](http://solomon.dkbl.alexanderstreet.com)