

Course Syllabus
KNT2431HF – Church Ministry and Sacraments
Knox College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2019

Instructor Information

Instructor: J. Vissers, Principal and Professor of Historical Theology
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Course Identification

Course Number: Course Code **KNT2431HF**
Course Format: *In-class*
Course Name: Church, Ministry and Sacraments
Course Location: Knox College Academic Wing
Class Times: Wednesdays 9:00am – 11:00am
Prerequisites: KNT1101 - Reformed Theology in Dialogue

Course Description

This course explores the theology of church, ministry, and sacraments in the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition, in dialogue with ecumenical, historical, and global perspectives, especially the development of 20th century missional ecclesiology.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts:

- Karkkainen, Veli-Matti, *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical, and Global Perspectives*. InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Kerr, Hugh T. (Editor) *Calvin's Institutes: A New Compend*. Westminster John Knox, 1989

- *Westminster Confession of Faith* (1646) (WCF), Free Presbyterian Publications, 1994; available online in various sources, including the website of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, www.presbyterian.ca
- *Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief* (LF), The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1984; available from the Resource Centre at National Office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in English, French, and Korean; also available online at www.presbyterian.ca
- *A Catechism for Today*, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2006; available online under resources at www.presbyterian.ca
- *Confessing the Faith Today: The Nature and Function of Subordinate Standards*, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2009; available online under resources at www.presbyterian.ca
- *Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation*, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1955; available online under resources at www.presbyterian.ca

Recommended Course Texts:

Bryden, Walter. *Why I Am A Presbyterian*, Toronto, 1934.

Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*, Doubleday, 1974.

Fensham, C.J. *Emerging from the Dark Age Ahead: The Future of the North American Church*. Toronto. Clements Academic, 2011. (also available on Google books)

Moltmann, J. *The Church in the Power of the Spirit*. London: SCM, 1977 (or later)

Russell, Letty M. *Church in the Round: Feminist Interpretations of the Church*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1993

Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS

- explain the major themes of reformed ecclesiology as they have developed in a multi-cultural world – i.e. what does Calvin have to do with a post-colonial world?
- situate the primary doctrines of reformed ecclesiology within an ecumenical context
- integrate an understanding of reformed ecclesiology and the cultural context with one's grounding in the faith to demonstrate growth
- explain one's own ecclesiology and apply this owned theology to justice, social and ecclesial issues in the world today
- demonstrate the ability to apply reformed ecclesiology to a teaching and preaching ministry within a congregation
- demonstrate the ability to interact appropriately within a situation where competing theological viewpoints are held

(B) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- a willingness to use thinking, problem solving and decision-making abilities to achieve personal, ecclesial and societal goals
- the ability and commitment for life-long learning
- the ability to accurately self-assess.

(C) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

- an ability and willingness to use knowledge sufficient for professional levels of interaction
- an ability to think, problem-solve, and make decisions at a critical level of operation and act to improve (e.g. require students to recognize methods, etc. modelled in class and apply them as well as evaluate them critically, e.g. they pose appropriate questions and start to formulate answers)
- the ability and willingness to adapt to change and manage conflict arising from change in socially constructive and professional ways (e.g. show a willingness to enter into discussion with others in conflictual situations and to listen to them reflectively)
- the ability and willingness to identify pastoral boundaries that raise ethical and pastoral questions and to formulate appropriate responses to such boundary issues.

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas:

Reading reflection papers and presentations (40%) on course readings; in addition to participating in the regular activity of the class, including reading the required texts ahead of class, each student will write four reading reflection reports and present two of these in class, one in the first half of the class (on ecclesiology) and one in the second half of the class following reading week on ministry or sacraments. These papers are worth 40% = 4 reports X 10%. See schedule below for dates and topics. These reading reflection papers should be two pages (400 – 500 words, double-spaced) and give evidence of having read these texts carefully by offering a brief summary and raising critical questions for discussion. Assigned dates for presentations will be made during the first class.

Personal Reflection/Statement Paper (20%) on the following topic/question: the preamble to the ordination questions of the PCC and the meaning of subscription. What does it mean to you to answer the ordination questions in the affirmative? This paper should focus on the two documents: the preamble to – and the ordination questions in the Book of Forms and the PCC document *Confessing the Faith*. However, it is not intended to be a paper on these documents per se, rather a paper in which you explore and set out your own understanding of what it means to affirm the theological standards of the church. The paper should be 1000 – 1500 words (5– 6 pages double spaced). Due: November 13, 2019.

Theological Essay (40%) on a topic from the course selected from a list of topics to be distributed at the beginning of the course, and in consultation with the instructor. This paper should be a substantial scholarly paper (12 – 15 pages). Due: December 4, 2019.

Grading System

A+ (90-100)
A (85-89)
A- (80-84)
B+ (77-79)
B (73-76)
B- (70-72)
Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline.

Late Penalty: 4 % points deducted per week late (2 % points off by Monday, 2 % points more by Thursday)

This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor.

Final Deadlines: The deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. The absolute deadline is the final day of examination week at 5 pm. Late penalty will apply for such late submission. *Handing in after the absolute deadline will disqualify the material from being graded.* Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes (examination week) in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist. The instructor will strive to create a safe learning environment for all students in the class. Please alert the instructor to special needs and concerns.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

See also the Knox College Basic Degree Handbook

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a reasonable but timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Week 1: September 11

Introduction to Ecclesiology: Themes in the doctrine of the church, the nature of the church, Scriptural vision of God's promise and the place of the church. No required readings.

Week 2: September 18

Classical Ecclesiology: Marks of the church, Images of the church, models and metaphors of the church, the signs of the church

Presentations and Discussion on Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Reformed ecclesiologies.

Required Reading: Karkkainen, 7-58; Kerr/Calvin, 129-137;

Week 3: September 25

Ecumenical Ecclesiology: The unity of the church, church union in Canada, ecumenism

Presentations and Discussion on Free Church, Pentecostal/Charismatic, and Ecumenical Movement ecclesiologies.

Required Reading: Karkkainen, 59-91; WCF, 25,26; LF, 7.1

Week 4: October 2

Missional Ecclesiology: The church born in mission and existing in mission, congregational revitalization and church planting.

Required Reading: Karkkainen, 93-161; LF, 9

Presentations and Discussion on Moltmann, Volf, and Newbiggin

Week 5: October 9

Contextual Ecclesiology: paradigms through history/constants in context, alternative community, the church as sign in the world.

Required Reading: Karkkainen, 163-233

Presentations and Discussion on Base Ecclesial Communities in Latin America, Feminist Ecclesiology, African Independent Churches' Ecclesiology.

Week 6: October 16

Structural Ecclesiologies: forms of church polity, denominationalism, local ecclesiology, church and state, church discipline, ecclesiology and the social sciences.

Required Reading: Kerr/Calvin, 169-180; WCF, 23,30, 31; *Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation*.

Presentation and Discussion on the *Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation*.

OCTOBER 23: READING WEEK. No class.

Week 7: October 30

Ministry: The office of Word and Sacraments, ordination, eldership.

Required Reading: Kerr/Calvin, 138-143; LF, 7.2; *Together in Ministry (PCC)*; *Theology of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments (PCC)*; Preamble to Ordination Questions, *Book of Forms*.

Presentations and Discussion on *Theology of Ordination (PCC)*, and Preamble to Ordinations Questions.

Week 8: November 6

Preaching: the church as herald, expository preaching, lectio continua, the life of the preacher as a minister of the Word

Required Reading: Kerr/Calvin, 143-153; LF, 7.3, 7.4; *Confessing the Faith Today* (PCC); *WCC BEM Document* – section on ministry, 16-31 (*Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*);

Presentations and Discussion on *Confessing the Faith Today* (PCC), and *WCC BEM Document*, section on ministry (16-31).

Week 9: November 13

Sacraments: The Sacramentality of the Church and its People: the church as sacrament, the means of grace, the ministry of sacraments

Required Reading: Kerr/Calvin, 154-157; WCF, 27; LF, 7.5

Presentations and Discussion on Calvin on Sacraments.

Week 10: November 20

Baptism: Theology of Baptism, Baptism of infants/children; affirmation of faith; Calvin, WCF, LF, BEM, Service of Baptism.

Required Reading: Kerr/Calvin, 157-162; WCF, 28; LF, 7.6; BEM, 1-7; Service of Baptism and Service of Affirmation of Faith in Book of Common Worship.

Presentations and Discussion on BEM.

Week 11: November 27

The Lord's Supper: holy communion, eucharist

Required Reading: Kerr/Calvin, 162-168; WCF, 29; LF, 7.7; BEM, 8-15; Communion service and The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Book of Common Worship and Book of Praise).

Presentations and Discussion on BEM on Eucharist.

Week 12: December 4

Worship and Prayer: doxology and ecclesiology; private and public prayer; the life of the minister as worship leader; worship, community, mission, and the Triune God of grace. Eschatology, the reign of God, and the future of the church. No required readings.