



Denominational Heritage and Structure

THEO415

Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course is designed to assist students in the knowledge of their chosen denomination as it relates to the universal Church. Independent research and personalized instruction will be part of the learning process.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

- Webber, C. (1999). *Welcome to the Episcopal Church: An introduction to its history, faith, and worship*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing.
- Schreck, A. (2004). *Catholic and Christian: An explanation of commonly misunderstood Catholic beliefs* (20th Anniversary ed.). Cincinnati, OH: Servant Books.
- Campbell, T. (2011). *Methodist doctrine: The essentials* (Revised ed.). Nashville, TN: Abington Press.
- Shurden, W. B. (1993). *The Baptist identity, Four fragile freedoms*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing.
- Gritsch, E. W. (1994). *Fortress introduction to Lutheranism*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
- Lingle, Walter L. & John W. Kuykendall (1988). *Presbyterians: Their history and beliefs* (4th revised ed.) Atlanta: John Knox Press.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Articulate the diversity and the similarity across different churches
- Evaluate the various theological and ecclesiological differences between churches
- Explain one's own theological heritage and be able to lead others into a deeper appreciation of it
- Read carefully and critically; making careful distinctions between concepts and doctrines
- Write with accuracy and precision
- Contribute to preparation for ministry in church, church leadership, or further graduate studies in theology and ministry

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	300	30
Book Reviews	6	300	30
Interview Assignment	1	100	10
Cross-Denominational Worship Experience	1	100	10
Final Project	1	200	20
Total Points		1,000	100

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Catholic and Christian</i> and <i>Welcome to the Episcopal Church</i> Participate in the Introductions discussion forum Begin working on your Interview Assignment due in Unit 1 Submit Proposal for Cross-Denominational Worship Experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 Discussion <i>Catholic and Christian</i> book review
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism</i>, chapters 1-2, 7-postscript 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Discussion <i>Welcome to the Episcopal Church</i> book review Interview Assignment
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Presbyterians</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 Discussion <i>Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism</i> book review
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Methodist Doctrine</i> Begin working on your Final Project due in Unit 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 Discussion <i>Presbyterians</i> book review
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>The Baptist Identity</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 Discussion Cross-Denominational Worship Experience <i>Methodist Doctrine</i> book review due
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>The Baptist Identity</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 6 Discussion <i>The Baptist Identity</i> book review Final Project

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.