

Syllabus for
GTHE 508—Signs and Wonders and the Healing Ministry
1–2 Credit Hours
Spring 2011

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Provides a Biblical, theological, and practical examination of signs and wonders and miracles in the ministry of the Church. The course provides practical, contemporary demonstration of this Biblical concept by exposing students to leaders in the Body of Christ who exercise signs and wonders in their ministries.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study biblical principles concerning the manifestation of signs, wonders, and miracles.
- B. Become acquainted with the working of miracles in the contemporary church.
- C. Learn to develop a greater walk of faith and a more intense discipline of prayer.
- D. Study the practice of ministry from selected spiritual leaders.
- E. Learn to develop an expectation of the manifestation of signs and wonders in personal life and ministry.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Explain scriptural validity for signs, wonders, and miracles.
- B. Trace the continuation of the miraculous in church history.
- C. Discuss the importance of the working of miracles in the contemporary church.
- D. Discuss the relationship of faith and prayer to the manifestation of signs and wonders.
- E. Describe the ministry of signs and wonders as exercised by selected spiritual leaders.
- F. Discuss the importance of formulating expectations concerning the place of signs and wonders in personal ministry.
- G. Prepare and discuss a personal course of action designed to foster the development of a ministry characterized by signs and wonders.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Banister, Douglas. *The Word and Power Church: What Happens When a Church Seeks All God Has to Offer?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.

Mathew, Thomson K. *Spirit-Led Ministry in the 21st Century: Empowered Preaching, Teaching, Healing and Leading.* Fairfax, VA: Xulon Press, 2004.

Roberts, Oral. *When You See the Invisible You Can Do the Impossible.* Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 2005.

2. Other None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

None

2. Other None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or

failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. School of Theology and Missions Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the School of Theology and Missions. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is as follows:

- a. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **8** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **12** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **8** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If the class meets once a week, then the missing of **3** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **5** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**.
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
 - c. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
 - d. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
 - e. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
 - f. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Final grades are determined by the accumulation of points for the requirements listed below. M.Div. students following degree plans prior to fall 2004 take this class for **two** credit hours, and students starting fall 2004 take the course for **one and one-half** credit hours. M.A. students following degree plans prior to fall 2004 take this class for **two** credit hours and students starting fall 2004 for **one** credit hour. M.Div. and M.A. students following the fall 2006/spring 2007 degree plans take this class for two credit hours.

- a. Read the four Gospels and Acts using any New Testament. Develop a marking system (color coded, underlining obvious symbols, etc.), and designate all passages in which signs, wonders, and healings were wrought by Jesus, the apostles, or others. The marking system should make distinctions by category (physical healing, exorcism, miracle, etc.). Summarize findings about signs and wonders and healings in the New Testament, and draw implications for ministry today. Make this three page paper, double spaced with one inch margins, including a title page consistent with the Turabian form and style manual (**50 points**).
- b. All students read Oral Robert's book *Still Doing the Impossible*, Dr. Thomson K. Mathew's book *Spirit-Led Ministry in the 21st Century*, and Douglas Banister's book *The Word & Power Church: What Happens When a Church Seeks All God Has to Offer?* All students must be prepared to answer questions for the final reflection paper. **Please**

note that all papers should be typed, double spaced with one inch margins, including a title page consistent with the Turabian form and style manual.

- (1) For **two** credit hours, prepare a 4- to 5-page critique on *Spirit-Led Ministry in the 21st Century* (**50 points**), and provide 4- to 5-page book summaries of *Still Doing the Impossible* (**50 points**) and *The Word & Power Church: What Happens When a Church Seeks All God Has to Offer?* (**50 Points**), highlighting the major concepts presented and how they have made a difference in your personal life. Students must verify that the required textbooks have been read.
 - (2) For **one and one-half** credit hours, prepare a 3- to 4-page book critique on *Spirit-Led Ministry in the 21st Century* (**35 points**), and write 3-page reflection papers on *Still Doing the Impossible* (**20 points**) and *The Word & Power Church: What Happens When a Church Seeks All God Has to Offer?* (**20 points**). Students must verify that the required textbooks have been read.
 - (3) For **one** credit hour, students verify that the required textbooks have been read, and write three personal reflection papers, one for each required textbook
- c. Document personal participation in the following practical experience (**50 points**):
- (1) Take an active part in an event involving signs and wonders ministry. This event may be a service, prayer meeting, or a similar occasion, and the student's participation may be speaking, testifying, praying, laying on hands, etc.
 - (2) Write a 2-page description and summary of personal participation in which the student had the opportunity to minister to someone utilizing the concepts learned in class such as praying for the sick, laying on of hands, or the gifts of the Spirit. Include a detailed description of the experience with elements such as the setting, type of ministry (healing, etc.), how the student ministered to the individual, and what took place during and after ministry. Also include a section describing the student's personal reaction to the experience, highlighting thoughts, feelings, and expectations and how the student utilized the principles taught in class to minister to the person.
- d. The final reflection paper is on *Signs and Wonders and the Healing Ministry*. Describe your own biblical and theological perspective on signs and wonders. Students should use a personal journal throughout the semester for this final paper (**50 points**).
- e. Grading:
- | 2 Credits | 1.5 Credits | 1 Credit |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| A=270-300 points | A=203-225 points | A=135-150 points |
| B=240-269 points | B=181-202 points | B=120-134 points |
| C=210-239 points | C=158-180 points | C=105-119 points |
| D=180-209 points | D=136-157 points | D=90-104 points |
| F=179 points and below | F=135 points and below | F=89 points and below |
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.

- b. WPA requirements for this course:
None
 3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
 - a. This course features noted individuals involved in healing ministries with personal insights and experiences.
 - b. Some class sessions feature a lab session in which biblical principles are applied to the working of signs, wonders, and miracles.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Regular class lectures focus on the healing ministry of Jesus and the current operation of the Holy Spirit in signs, wonders, and miracles and the relation of faith and prayer to the working of signs and wonders. Guest lectures would be supplemented by STM professors. Topics could include:

- Signs and Wonders in Church History
- Signs and Wonders in Luke/Acts
- Theology of Signs and Wonders
- Signs and Wonders in Practical Ministry
- The Practice of Signs and Wonders
- Videos of Oral Roberts's tent meetings
- The Holy Spirit in Life and Ministry
- Charismatic Life, Discipleship, and Worldview
- Spirit-Empowered Ministry

A schedule of guest speakers and seminars will be distributed in class.

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
School of Theology and Missions**

STM Distinctive for All Degree Programs

**FED 501—Teaching Methodology, Dr. Cheryl Iverson
GTHE 507—Holy Spirit in the Now, Dr. Daniel Thimell
GTHE 508—Signs and Wonders and the Healing Ministry, Dr. Cheryl Iverson
GTHE 517—Seminar in Theological Research, David Hebert**

Spring 2011

These courses contribute to student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution—Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution—Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution—Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution—Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	The Holy Spirit/Signs and Wonders			
Articulate a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit.	X			
Experience personally the work of the Holy Spirit to discover and develop unique spiritual gifts for integration and ministry.	X			
2	Professional Ministry/Personal Development/Teaching Methodology			
Articulate clearly ministry/professional calling.				X
Minister to spiritual and academic needs of others in a professional context.				X
3	Theological Research			
Demonstrate a mastery of theological research tools and methodology.				X