

Syllabus for
GTHE 659—Ecclesiology: Church in the 21st Century
3 Credit hours
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the nature, forms, polities, marks, and functions of the church, including an examination of the church as a charismatic fellowship and the promise of a Trinitarian ecclesiology, with a view toward a practical vision for doing church work in today's world.
Prerequisite: None.

The Doctrine of the Church deals ultimately with doing church in today's world. The Pentecostal/Charismatic revival transformed the church in the twentieth century, and now, more than ever, several questions are being confronted: "What is the nature and importance of the church in God's overall plan of redemption? What precisely is the church? What should the church be doing as we enter the new millennium with all of its problems and promise?" With these programmatic questions in mind, the nature of the church as a charismatic fellowship is explored. A Trinitarian ecclesiology is developed. The meaning and importance of baptism and the Lord's Supper is also explicated. The riches of biblical, historical, and contemporary theology are kept in mind with a view toward a practical vision for doing church in today's world.

II. COURSE GOALS

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

- A. Obtain an overview of the biblical theology of the church.
- B. Explore how the doctrine of the church has been presented through the history of the church.
- C. Examine the forms, polities, marks, and functions of the church.
- D. Examine the significance of the church as a charismatic fellowship.
- E. Study the contemporary explorations of a Trinitarian ecclesiology.
- F. Study the theological and spiritual significance of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- G. Explore in-depth the practical dimensions of the doctrine of the church in terms of doing church in today's world.

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. Demonstrate through written examinations a comprehensive grasp of the material covered in the class lectures, discussions, and assigned readings.
- B. Provide a comprehensive oral or written explication of the nature, forms, polities, marks, and functions of the church.

- C. Present and discuss effectively the biblical portrait of the church as a charismatic fellowship.
- D. Explain orally or in writing the Trinitarian understanding of the church, especially as this viewpoint is being presented in contemporary theology.
- E. Develop and discuss a viable theology of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- F. Discuss the importance of gaining a grasp of the salient practical issues involved in doing church in today's world.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Harper, Brad and Paul Louis Metzger. *Exploring Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2009. ISBN: 9781587431739

Russell, Bob. *When God Builds a Church*. West Monroe, Louisiana: Howard Publishing, 2000. ISBN: 9781582291253

Other

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. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry 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 are received but are 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 administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:

- a. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
- b. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.
- c. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- d. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
- e. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- f. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- g. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

5. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

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.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Research paper	20%
Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	40%
Class participation	10%

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

- d. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059 ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- e. WPA requirements for this course:
None

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

Lectures
Class discussions and presentations
Guest speakers

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Topic
1	Definitions of the Church
2	Images and Forms of the Church
3	Church Polities
4-7	Marks of the Church
8-11	Functions of the Church
12-15	The Contemporary Church

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
M. A. Theological/Historical Studies**

GBIB 659 Ecclesiology: Church in the 21st Century

Dr. Larry Hart, Instructor

Fall 2015

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Theological/Historical Studies degree 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
Theological Perspective				
Articulate the specifics of the Christian belief system within contemporary society.		X		
Reformation Traditions				
Demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of Christian tradition during specific time periods.		X		
Development of Doctrine				
Demonstrate basic knowledge of key theologians and the development of doctrine within the history of Christianity.		X		
Specialized Research				
Research specialized topics in history and theology of the Christian church in a manner that demonstrates historical integration and theological reflection.		X		
French/German Language				
Translate Scripture and historical documents in either French or German on an entry level.				X
Pentecostal/Charismatic Foundations				
Demonstrate awareness of Pentecostal/Charismatic distinctives and historical development.				X