Syllabus for
GTHE 700— Post-modernism and 21st Century Ministry
3 Credit hours
Fall 2015

I.   COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of various expressions of the post-modern mood in popular culture and in philosophy and theology.   Investigates ways in which Christian ministry in the 21st century can be pursued in light of strengths and weaknesses in post-modernism.
Prerequisites: None.

II.   COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:
A.   Examine various forms of postmodernism in light of the historic Christian faith.

B.   Identify postmodern themes in art, architecture, philosophy, and theology

C.   Respond to the postmodern rejection of any all-embracing explanation of history.

D.   Critique postmodernism's tendency to relativize ethics.

E.   Explore paradigms for an engagement of ministry with postmodern culture in the 21st century.

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.   Discuss critically the major forms and themes of postmodernism.

B.   Discuss ways in which 21st century ministry can be conducted in the light of postmodernism.

IV.   TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A.   Required Materials
1.   Textbooks

DeYoung, Kevin and Kluck, Ted. *Why We're Not Emergent: By Two Guys Who Should Be.* Chicago: Moody Press, 2008. ISBN: 0802458343.

Dockery, David S. *The Challenge of Postmodernism: An Evangelical Engagement,* Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2001. ISBN: 0801022746

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. 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

2

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 Ministry. 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. 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
        a. Grading:

Book Critique	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

        b. Grading scale:
        A=90-100%
        B=80-89%
        C=70-79%
        D=60-69%
        F=59% 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. The course consists of collateral reading of the text, lectures, and discussions. It is vital that students participate in discussion and dialogue.
        b. Course requirements do not necessarily constitute requirements for an approved incomplete grade. Make-up exams are comprehensive, without reviews.
        c. Book critique on Sweet text.
        d. A 10-page research paper on Christianity and Postmodernism.
        e. Final take home exam (essay). To be distributed at the end of class.

C. COURSE CALENDAR:

Week	Topic
1	Premodernism
2	Modernism
3	The Enlightenment
4	Nietzsche
5	Derrida
6	Foucalt
7	Lyotard
8-10	Engaging Postmodernism
11-15	Ministry in Postmodern Society

Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
Master of Divinity

GTHE 745 Postmodernism & 21st Century Ministry **Dr. Daniel Thimell, Instructor**

Fall 2015

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity 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
Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context				
Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations.		X		
Exegetical Tools to Translate/Analyze Biblical Text				
Interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages using critical exegetical tools, and write a hermeneutical and exegetical paper.				X
Knowledge of Christianity				
Present a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity.	X			
Knowledge of Christian Theology/Doctrine				
Exhibit a basic knowledge of contents and methods of Christian theology.	X			
Biblical/Theological Basis for Ministry Strategies				
Present practical ministry skills and strategies.		X		
Christian Ethics for Social Issues				
Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles.	X			
Theology and Theory of Ministry				
Develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to the student's background and calling.		X		
Skills for Contemporary Ministry				
Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts.			X	