

# **S-118 Systematics IV**

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis  
(Tuesday & Friday 10:25-11:50)  
Dr. Joel D. Biermann

## **Course information**

### **Catalog Course Description**

This course examines and considers Christian doctrine of and theological reflection upon the Church and the Office of the Holy Ministry, especially with application to contemporary theological issues such as the church's mission and evangelism, ecumenism, church fellowship, the relationship of the baptized and the public ministry, the ordination of women, and the relationship between the church and the world.

### **Course goals**

Through readings of primary and secondary sources and class discussions, this course will seek to—nourish in the students:

- Willingness to speak faithfully as servants of the Word.
- Appreciation of theology as an essential church practice.
- Confidence in the Word of God.
- Faith in God, Christ, and the Spirit.
- a love for the study of theology and its practical relevance for ministry and life.

develop in the students the ability to:

- Describe the key components of a Lutheran ecclesiology.
- Articulate the Lutheran understanding of the Office of the Holy Ministry.
- Discriminate, construct, and measure the formulation of theological responses to issues in ecclesiology.
- Participate in the rhetoric of theological dialogue.
- Recognize and characterize theologically issues and situations in the world.

develop in the students their knowledge and understanding of:

- Pressing questions confronting congregations such as communion practice, church discipline, the role of women in the church, and the church's role in the world.
- The fundamental issues confronting the church in the areas of ecclesiology and the Office of the Ministry and the theological basis for responses to those issues.
- The nature and uses of doctrine in the life of the church.

### **Course procedure**

The ordinary procedure will be for students to read the material assigned for each class period, attend the scheduled lecture, and participate in class discussion.

### **Course outline and schedule**

#### **March 7**

AC 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 28; Ap 7, 8, 15, 28; SA III, 10, 12; FC Ep. & SD 10

#### **March 10**

Marquart 1-31, 103-111

CTCR, *The Ministry* (1981) 6-9

**March 14**

C.F.W. Church & Ministry 19-23, 27-33, 38-43, 49-58, 67-82, 87-95, 161-174, 177-184,  
191-193, 198-202, 213-216, 219-231, 247-261, 268-279, 289-299

**March 17**

Marquart 112-119

Nagel, "The Office...in the Confessions," CJ (July, 1988) 283-299

**March 21**

Pieper 397-435, 439-469

CTCR, *Ministry* 10-16

**March 24**

Marquart 145-165

CTCR, "Theology and Practice...Divine Call" (2003)

**March 28**

Sasse, *The Lonely Way*, vol. 2 "Lutheran Doctrine...Ministry" 117-139

Sasse, *We Confess* 1:88-99

**March 31**

Marquart 120-144

**Short Essay Due**

CTCR, *Ministry* 16-22, 24-31

**April 4**

Marquart 195-219

**April 7**

Marquart 41-100

**April 11**

CTCR, *Church Discipline in the Christian Congregation*, 1985

**April 18**

CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper* (1999)

Biermann, "Step Up to the Altar" CTQ, 72 (2008) 151-162

**April 21**

Marquart 166-171

Zerbst, F. *The Office of Woman* 104-124

**April 25**

CTCR *Service of Women* (2005)

Hays, "Awaiting the Redemption..." in *Virtues and Practices*, 206-214

**April 28**

Stewardship: A Theological Perspective

Forell, Preus, and Pelikan

**May 2**

CTCR, *Guidelines for Participation in Civic...* (2004)

Krauth, *Conservative Reformation*, 192-200

**May 5**

**Long Essay Due**

Sacramone, "Lutheran Again" ([www.firstthings.com](http://www.firstthings.com) Jan. 28, 2008)

Yeago, "Sacramental Lutheranism..." *Lutheran Forum*, 34:3, (2000) 6-16.

**May 9**

**Examination**

**May 12**

**Book Review Due**

Hauerwas and Willimon

## **Course books**

### *Required books*

- Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. *Resident Aliens*. Abingdon Press, 1989.
- Kolb, Robert and Timothy Wengert, eds. *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.
- Marquart, Kurt E. *The Church and Her Fellowship, Ministry, and Governance*. Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics, vol. 9, edited by Robert D. Preus. Fort Wayne, IN: The International Foundation for Lutheran Confessional Research, 1990.
- Pieper, Francis. *Christian Dogmatics*. vol. 3. St. Louis: CPH, 1953.
- Sasse, Hermann. *"We Confess" Anthology*. Translated by Norman Nagel. St. Louis: CPH, 1984.
- Walther, C.F.W. *Church and Ministry*. St. Louis: CPH, 1987.

## **Bibliography**

- Biermann, Joel. "Step Up to the Altar," *Concordia Theological Quarterly*. 72 (April, 2008) 151-162.
- Dreher, Rod. "Christian and Countercultural" *First Things* February, 2015.
- George W. Forell, Herman A. Preus, and Jaroslav Pelikan. "Toward a Lutheran View of Church and State," *The Lutheran Quarterly*. Vol. V, No. 3 (August, 1953), 280-290.
- Hays, Richard. "Awaiting the Redemption of our Bodies." In *Virtues & Practices in the Christian tradition*. Edited by Nancey Murphy et. al. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press Intl., 206-214.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *Approaching the End: Eschatological Reflections on Church Politics and Life*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013. ISBN: 978-0802869593
- Jenkins, Philip. *New Faces of Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Krauth, Charles Porterfield. *The Conservative Reformation and Its Theology: As Represented in the Augsburg Confession and in the History and Literature of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Introduction by Lawrence R. Rast Jr. St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 2007.
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Theology and Practice of the Divine Call: A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*. n.p.: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 2003.
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Church Discipline in the Christian Congregation: A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*. n.p.: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1985.
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Admission to the Lord's Supper: A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*. n.p.: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1999.
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *The Service of Women: A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*. n.p.: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 2005.
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Office of National Missions – Stewardship. "Stewardship: A Theological Perspective." n.p.: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 2012.
- Nagel, Norman. "The Office of the Ministry in the Lutheran Confessions," *Concordia Journal* (July, 1988) 283-299.
- Sacramone, Anthony. "Lutheran Again," *First Things*. Jan. 28, 2008).
- Sasse, Herman. Edited by Ronald Feuerhan and Matthew Harrison. *The Lonely Way*, vol. 2. "The Lutheran Doctrine of the Holy Ministry," 117-139.
- Yeago, David. "Sacramental Lutheranism," *Lutheran Forum*. 34:3 (Winter, 2000) 6-16.
- Zerbst, Fritz. *The Office of Woman in the Church*. CPH, 1956, 104-124.