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DO 501 Basic Christian Doctrine

Chris Fisher

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Syllabus

Course: DO501 X2 (SP 2009)
Title: Basic Christian Doctrine

Hours: 3.00

Published: Yes, on 02/08/2009

Prerequisites:

None

Department: Doctrine **Faculty:** Rev. Chris Fisher



Email: chris.fisher@asburyseminary.edu

Office: EXL SPO:

Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 Online via ExL.

Maximum Registration: 22

Catalog Description: An introductory course that bases the theological formation of students upon biblical data as well as upon the classical Christian tradition, contemporary theology, and Wesleyan theological distinctives with a view to helping students grasp the importance of theology for the practice of ministry. ST501 is a recommended preparatory course.

Objectives:

DO501-XS09: Basic Christian Doctrine (3 Credits)

<u>DO501-XS09: Basic Christian Doctrine</u> (3 Credits) This is a FINAL VERSION of the Syllabus: February 8, 2009 Prerequisites: None Enrollment Limitations: \(\leq 22 \) students.

L Fisher

Dr. Christopher

Date of Course: ExL Spring 2009: Feb. 9 – May 22, 2009

<u>Catalog Description</u>: An introductory course that bases the theological formation of students upon biblical data as well as upon the classical Christian tradition, contemporary theology, and Wesleyan theological distinctives with a view to helping students grasp the importance of theology for the practice of ministry.

Professor: Dr. Christopher L **Fisher**, Adjunct Professor of Theology.

Most course correspondence is done online through Firstclass and email. Please address all class-related email correspondence **To Professor** (in the Moodle Virtual Classroom); for emergencies, send an email to my personal address: chris-fisher@asburyseminary.edu, or contact me at my office phone: 570-385-3941 (Mon-Thurs. 9am-11am, EST). Office Fax: 570-385-6842 (please call 570-385-3941 before faxing). Mailing Address: 420 Saylor Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972.

Table of Contents

DO501 Course Objectives
Required Texts
Course Description
About Your Instructor
What I expect of You
Course Schedule
Course Requirements/Assignments
Notes on How to Submit your work
Using FirstClass: Class Structure
ExL Support Contact Information

Academic Policies, etc.
Spring 2009 Academic Semester Schedule

Seminary

DO501 Course Objectives:

Having successfully completed this course, students will have:

- l. Grown in their knowledge and love for God through the study of Christian theology.
- 2. Been introduced to all the major areas in the study of Christian theology, such as the doctrines of Revelation, Christology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, etc.
- 3. Grasped the vital connections between theology, the Christian life and the practice of ministry.
- Established a basic understanding of the classical tradition of systematic theology, engaged with contemporary forms of theology and studied the doctrinal emphases of Wesleyan theology.
- 5. Examined, evaluated and used a reasonable range of literature related to the study of Christian theology.
- 6. Used theological literature reflecting the global and historical character of theology as well as the multi-ethnic and cross-cultural nature of ministry.
- 7. Developed a working theological vocabulary, a knowledge of theological themes and a theological approach that will support further study in theology and related disciplines.

Table of Contents

Required Texts:

All texts will be available from the bookstore (toll free at 866-855-8252). See the **Course Schedule** of this syllabus for details of reading assignments during the course.

The Bible (NRSV, NIV, or TNIV)

The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity & Diversity, by Roger E. Olson (Intervarsity, 2000). ISBN: 0830826955.

Christian Theology: An Introduction, 4th Edition, by Alister E. McGrath (Blackwell, 2005), ISBN: 1405153601.

The Christian Theology Reader, 3rd Edition, ed. Alister E. McGrath (Blackwell, 2005), ISBN: 140515358.

The Way to Heaven: The Gospel according to John Wesley, by Steve Harper (Zondervan, 2003). ISBN: 0310252601.

Theology in the Context of World Christianity, by Timothy C. Tennant (Zondervan: 2007), ISBN: 0310275113.

Recommended Texts (not required):

Nicene Christianity: The Future for a New Ecumenism, ed. Christopher R. Seitz (Brazos, 2001), ISBN: 1587430215.

Mere Christianity, by C.S. Lewis (HarperSanFrancisco, 2001). ISBN: 0060652926.

Theology: The Basics, by Alister McGrath (Blackwell: 2006) ISBN: 1405114258.

Why I am a Christian, By John R.W. Stott (InterVarsity, 2004). ISBN: 083083205X.

Wesley for Armchair Theologians, by William J. Abraham (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005). ISBN: 0664226213.

Course Description: If *theology* is thought and talk about the knowledge of God, then *doctrine* is the version of theology your church has accepted as standard and binding. In this class, we will explore together the major areas of Christian theology and doctrine, learning something of both their historical and philosophical development and contemporary issues surrounding their understanding. We will examine the main controversies in the development of basic Christian doctrines, explore some of the distinctives of Wesleyan theology, and see the vital importance of sound doctrine for the church's ministry and mission today.

For instance, one of your church members comes to you after reading *The Da Vinci Code* with doubts about both the church and about Jesus' character, and questions about the Gnostic gospels and Jesus' divinity. How do you respond? It turns out the church has faced and withstood exactly this type of theological confusion since its earliest centuries. Creeds and the Canon are just part of its response that we will study together.

The over-arching purpose of the course is to introduce you to, and ground you in, sound doctrine, improve your tools for doing theology, and also to give you an awareness of the richness of the Great Tradition of Christian faith. As a pastor myself, I will bring to the table my own interaction with the church and the ministry. May the Lord bless us as we seek to learn more of him together.

About your Instructor: Originally from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, I am an engineer and ancient history man by early training. I have a B.S. in Engineering Physics and a B.A. in Classicial Civilization from Lehigh University (1984), an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary (1990), and a PhD in Systematic Theology from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland (2004). I have special interests in the dialog between faith and science, philosophical theology, patristics, and apologetics. I love adventure novels, war history, movies, travel, and exploring the outdoors with my family. My wife, Elizabeth, formerly Santos, is from Puerto Rico, and works as a marriage and family therapist. We have three children, Luke, Mercy and Raquel. I am an ordained elder in the Eastern Pa Conference of the UMC and serve as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

Table of Contents

What I expect of you:

- A. Participation in online discussion in the forums of each module. You will already have had the ExL tutorial. For further help, consult the information commons on using Moodle.
- B. On time completion of assignments. If you cannot complete an assignment, for reasons of an unexpected emergency only (see bullet point E), please contact me before the due date as I will be moving the class forward almost immediately to the next module.
- C. Your honest questions when you don't understand the material or the instructions. If you have a question about the material or about the assignments, please ask in the discussion center, so everyone may benefit from your question. If you have a problem with me,

- please e-mail me privately to see if we can resolve the problem.
- D. Your patience as we work together in this medium. I'll try to be gracious with all of you, and I ask you to have patience with me as we learn together.
- E. **Important Notes on Emergencies:** Asbury Theological Seminary will not allow any student to take an "incomplete" for a course for any reason except "unexpected emergency" which does not include outside work-related problems. If you realize you cannot finish the course and we are still in the first half of the semester, it would be more advantageous to you to drop the course. However, please talk to me privately first.
 - a. You will need to re-arrange your priorities in order to be free to take this class and give the theological education God has called you to its proper place in your life.
 - b. Please note: <u>Church emergencies are not excused absences!</u> If you are a student pastor or otherwise engaged in professional church work, funerals, hospital visits, or pastoral calls for sickness or death do not constitute an emergency for purposes of this course. Likewise, vacations, business trips, etc., do not qualify as excused absences. Personal and family illness or emergency are the only grounds for consideration of excused absence from regular participation in the course.

Table of Contents

Course Schedule: (Note: this is a provisional version)

Week	Module	Topics/Assignment Due	Reading	
2/9	#1:	Course Introduction, Historical Survey	Olson: Intro; Ch. 1-4	
		Foundations and Methods of Theology	McGrath Ch 1-8;	
		The doctrine of Revelation	Tennant Ch. 1, 3	
2/23	#2:	The doctrine of God	Olson: Ch. 5-8;	
		The Trinity, Creation & Providence	McGrath: Ch. 9-10	
			Tennent Ch. 2	
3/9	#3:	Human Nature	Olson: Ch. 9-10;	
		The person and work of Jesus Christ	McGrath: 11-12, 14	
			Tennent Ch. 4	
			Harper: Ch. 1-2	
3/10		Assignment B: Movie Review (Due Midnight)		
3/23	#4:	Jesus Christ, Part II	Olson: Ch. 11, 12;	
		The Doctrine of Salvation	McGrath: Ch. 13	
			Tennent Ch. 5, 6	
			Harper: Ch. 3-6	
3/30-4/5		Reading Week		
4/7		Assignment C: Theological Reflection on your own story (Due Midnight)		
4/10-1	2	No Class – Good Friday/ Easter		
4/13	#5:	The person and work of the Holy Spirit	Olson: Ch. 13;	
		Doctrine of the Church	McGrath: Ch. 15-16	
		The Sacraments	Tennent Ch. 7, 8	
			Harper: Ch 9;	
5/4	#6:	Sanctification; Mission	Olson: Ch.14, 15;	
		Eschatology – the doctrine of Last Things	McGrath:Ch.17-18	
			Tennent Ch. 9, 10	
			Harper: Ch.7-8, 10-12	
5/12 Assignment D: Research Paper (Due Midnight			night)	
5/18-22		Final Exam		
		Reading Report due		

Table of Contents

Course Requirements/Assignments: Provisional Version

A. Class participation: 36% of final grade. Since we don't have lecture time in this class, the format centers around the weekly readings, assignments & online discussion in six modules. Your regular and timely interactions in this medium are a significant part of your grade. Discussion of **Module Questions** and response posts are expected in each module.

Module Questions: On average, you are expected to post a reply to the professor's discussion questions (~200 words), read all other posts and respond to a minimum of two (2) of those posts (~100 words) each week. Some weeks the assignment will differ from these directions. More precise instructions will be included as each module is posted. All responses should be posted in the relevant module forum (See *Using Moodle* below). The professor is not as concerned with how much you write as with what you write. Make your response concise but thoughtful. Try to avoid short 'only praise' responses, although it is appropriate to begin a response with interaction on what you liked about a particular post. As we get started, you should anticipate that the 'participation' requirement will fulfill itself, if you are actively participating in the discussion center dialogue on a regular basis. **Keep up!** When a new module begins, you will no longer be able to add to discussion threads of the previous module, and your participation grade will

reflect what you accomplished within a given forum's assigned dates. Note: Moodle records your reading history of all posts.

B. Movie Review/Response: 12% (Due March 10, midnight). Select one of the movies from the list later in the syllabus. Watch the movie and write a 1500 word essay describing your reaction to the movie, with theological commentary, response and critique. You may choose a movie not on the list after obtaining the professor's approval. **Note:** Please be aware that some of these movies are rated R. Choice of movie is at your own discretion. Although it is possible to find books in the library on these movies, I am less interested in what they have to say than in *your own* theological engagement and reaction to the movie. Please wait until near the end of February to view your movie, using the directions posted in Module #2.

Movie list

- § The King of Kings (1927), dir. Cecil B. DeMille (silent)
- § The Robe (1953), dir. Henry Koster
- § The Greatest Story Every Told (1965), dir. George Stevens
- § The Poseidon Adventure (PG, 1972), dir Irwin Allen. Or new version (2006)
- § E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (PG, 1982), dir. Steven Spielberg
- § The Mission (PG, 1986), dir. Roland Joffé
- § Jesus of Montreal (R, 1989), dir. Denys Arcand
- § Romero (PG-13, 1989), dir. John Duigan
- § Dead Man Walking (R, 1995), dir. Tim Robbins
- § Contact (PG-13, 1997), dir. Robert Zemeckis
- § The Matrix (R, 1999), dir. Wachowski & Wachowski (Part 1, 3, or all three)
- § The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (PG, 2005), dir. Andrew Adamson
- § Signs (PG-13, 2002), dir. M. Night Shyamalan
- § The Passion of the Christ (R, 2004), dir. Mel Gibson
- § Another film of your choice with significant Christian theological themes (if approved by the Professor...)

C. Assignment C: <u>Theological Reflection on your own story</u>: 12% (Due April 7, midnight): This is an individual assignment with a group component.

Write a Theological Reflection Paper (5 pages 12 font double-spaced) where you consider your own spiritual journey in the light of the Order of Salvation that Harper roughly outlines in *The Way to Heaven* (especially chapters 2-6; the order includes Prevenient Grace, Convicting or Converting Grace, Justifying Grace, Sanctifying Grace, and Glorifying Grace). How does the Order of Salvation parallel your experience? Are there aspects of your experience that don't fit the Order of Salvation he describes? Are there aspects that are hard to place within that order? Make sure that you don't merely "tell your story" but that you reflect theologically upon it.

This paper will become a part of your Christian Formation Portfolio and focuses on "Crisis Moments and Continual Process," one of the formative values in the Christian Formation Program. This formative value considers "specific and unique momentary submissions of the believer to God and processes that can be mapped against human, spiritual, psychological, social, and cultural development" (value description). The paper is designed to "enhance your ability to establish self reflective practices leading to an integrated vision of Christian formation" (desired practice).

Post your paper to the "Assignment C" Group icon in Module 4 by **Midnight, April 7**. Read each of your fellow group member's papers, and respond with substantive engagement to each one in about 100 words. You may pursue dialog with each other until **Midnight, April 18**, early in Module 5.

- D. Research paper: Annotation of the Nicene Creed: 20% (Due May 12, midnight).. Prepare a 10 page (~2500 words) substantive annotation of the Nicene Creed, which aims to educate parishioners on its theological importance, and the meaning of each sub-paragraph and clause. Include a one-page introduction with a brief historical analysis of why the creed was written, and a conclusion on its lasting theological significance. Prepare this as if you will actually use it in Church as the basis for a Sermon Series or Christian Education Class.
- E. Final Exam: 20% May 18 May 22, 2009, 4:00 PM. Details to be announced.
- F. Reading Report: You will give a self-report of your reading in the course texts at the end of the term (The Reading Report is due May 22, 4:00 PM). This report should include the total number of pages read, including collateral reading (for papers, etc.), as well as the percent of each course text read. Please read the following important note on reading & grades:

IMPORTANT NOTE ON READING AND GRADES: Since your reading is such a critical part of the class, your final grade will be constrained by the amount you read (the sum of other assignment grades will be limited by this). Bear in mind that an "A" requires 'exceptional and outstanding effort.' **You must read the designated number of pages from the required and collateral reading to be eligible for the matching grade:** A:1500+ pgs; A-:1400-1500; B+:1300-1400; B:1200-1300; B-:1100-1200; C+:1000-1100; C:900-1000; C-:800-900; D+:700-800; D:600-700; D-:500-600; F:500 or less.

Notes on How to Submit Your Work:

Submit your written graded assignments electronically via the relevant **Assignment Activity** in the **Module in the Course Information Center**. Send them by the due date and time (Eastern Standard Time). Grades will be available (and viewable only by you) within 1 to 2 weeks of submission (depending on length of assignment), in the same Activity slot.

The e-format must be in Rich Text Format (.rtf). Both MS Word and Word Perfect will save in this format.

The formal written assignments must be typed and double-spaced (11 or 12 pt.), with appropriate term-paper style and

bibliographic referencing conforming to Turabian or *The Chicago Manual of Style* (be consistent).

Please put your name(s) for each assignment on the <u>cover page only, NOT in the header/footer section</u>.

Table of Contents

Using Moodle: Class Structure

(This is provisional information: We are fairly new to Moodle!)

The Course Information Center: contains most relevant links for the class, including syllabus, assignments, discussion forums, etc. This is the heart of the online classroom.

Course News and Announcements: I will post news and announcements everyone should view (touching on scheduling issues, emergency notifications, news of interest to the whole class, etc.) here. Check it for new messages regularly.

Ta Professor: is for private correspondence between you and me (the prof). This will contain items that you do not want or do not think appropriate to appear publicly before the full class. Do not send assignments to this location! (These are submitted via the assignment links in the Course Information Center.) Also, do not use this for general course related questions, the answers to which will be of interest to everyone. These should be posted in the Course Questions link of the Course Information Center.

Course Questions: for general course related questions, the answers to which will be of interest to everyone.

Prayer Forum: is the place to ask for prayer and respond to prayer needs.

Gpen Forum: is for open dialogue on anything not specifically required by the assignments. Please adhere to online etiquette protocols.

Assignment Links: on the bottom of the Course Information Center, this is where your regular module assignments will be described and where you should respond, whether by forum discussion, uploaded file (e.g., a paper to be graded), or small group conversation (see below).

Resources: in the left panel of the virtual classroom, is where course lectures, videos, articles, etc., will be posted.

Gxoups: in the left lower panel of the virtual classroom, is where you will interact with a small team of fellow students.

Tatades: you can view your ongoing grade at anytime. (This is the only category under administration that you have available.)

Table of Contents

Virtual Support Contact Information

For technical support, library research support, library loans, and Virtual media contact Information Commons:

Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2233; Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

For general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Virtual program, contact Dale Hale:

ExL Office@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2393

Accessing Information Commons Materials

- 1. General Questions:
 - a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm
- 2. Materials Requests:
 - a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here:

http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm

- b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.
- c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.
- 3. Research Questions:
 - a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.
- 4. Online Databases:
 - a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

Table of Contents

Academic Policies, etc.

Copyright Policies

The copyright law of the United States (title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specific conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law.

Virtual Media Copyright Information

By the using this material, you are consenting to abide by this copyright policy. Any duplication, reproduction, or modification of this material without express written consent from Asbury Theological Seminary and/or the original publisher is prohibited.

Plagarism: It has been said that the difference between good scholarship and academic theft is whether you acknowledge your sources. Plagiarism is the presenting of another's ideas or writings as one's own, including in both written and oral presentations. Please be aware of the Seminary's policy regarding plagiarism, which policy will be followed in all cases of suspected plagiarism (see *Academic Integrity* in the Student Guidelines, p. 31f). Please also be aware that a simple Google search may reveal whether a phrase in an assignment has been lifted without proper acknowledgement from a web or other source. Conduct that is considered dishonest includes: reusing previously and/or concurrently submitted material in another class without faculty permission, cheating by copying from another's work, allowing another to copy from one's own work, reading an examination prior to the date it is given without the instructor's permission, and similar types of conduct. This policy extends to properly acknowledging and documenting all resources used, including but not limited to other students, online/web sources, newspapers, etc.

Incomplete Work: Please be aware of the Seminary's policy on incomplete work: "A grade of 'I' denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of the course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as 'F'." (From ATS 2004-6 Catalog p. 29). If you think you will not be able to finish the work of the term due to such non-emergency contingencies, it might be better to drop the course completely before the final 'drop date' to avoid such a failing grade. The student must file a petition with myself and the student's advisor prior to finals week (by May 15) for permission to receive an "I" at the end of a semester. See Seminary catalog for further details of the procedure.

Late Assignments:

Major graded Assignments will be docked 5% for each day or portion thereof past the due date they are turned in late, up to 10% per week: (1 day late = 5%; 2-7 days late = 10%; 8 days late = 15%; 9-14 days late = 20%, etc.).

The final exam and final reearch paper must be turned in by the last day of exams week to receive any credit in the final grade, unless an extension has been requested and granted.

Module assignments must be turned in during the appropriate module to receive credit.

Please see the important note above in 'What I Expect of You' about excused and unexcused absence.

Grading and Evaluation: The seminary catalog specifies the following 4.00 grading system:

- A 4.00 Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of objectives.
- **B** 3.00 Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives
- C 2.00 Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives: Average.
- **D** 1.00 Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives
- **F** 0.00 Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

A (4.0) 94-100; A- (3.7) 91-93; B+ (3.3) 88-90; B (3.0) 84-87; B- (2.7) 81-83; C+ (2.3) 78-80; C (2.0) 74-77; C- (1.7) 71-73; D+ (1.3) 68-70; D (1.0) 64-67; D- (0.7) 61-63; F (0.0) 60 and below.

Please note that 'average' is **C** work. For 'good, strong work' you get a **B**. In order to get an **A**, you must produce 'exceptional work that surpasses the objectives of the course'; that usually translates into a combination of the following:

Well researched and comprehensive analysis and criticism that goes beyond what is required for the assignment.

Work that is exceptionally articulated, well structured, logical and concise;

Ineightful and creative work that includes elaborate and profound interaction with the material and advances the present discussions on the subject matter.

Following are the five main rubrics for grading of assignments:

Grammar & Referencing: Includes spelling, punctuation, syntax, sentence structure, proper and consistent referencing of sources.

Obtaining good linguistic skills is part of your professional development. While I am ultimately most interested in content issues, persistent grammatical and spelling errors will reduce your grade.

Style & Structure: Stylistic elements; General flow and orderly arrangement of the paper; Did you follow an outline? Watch out for poor structure or stream-of-consciousness writing.

Comprehension: Do you know and understand the relevant material? Is it covered in the paper? Is there insufficient interaction with the material or insufficient research?

Logic: Is your argument sound? Balanced? Does it answer the critiques? Watch out for faulty logic or weak argument; incoherence; lack of discernment in evaluating what is at stake in the argument.

Perpose: Do you answer your original question or thesis? Do you accomplish the purpose of the paper? Did you answer the wrong or a different question?

Writing Standard: Please follow Turabian or The Chicago Manual of Style. Be consistent in your style in any given assignment.

Online Etiquette: As master's level students, you are expected to use correct grammar and spelling in all your communication. Though I will not grade your grammar and spelling in the Discussion Center, everyone benefits in understanding when we all follow the same grammatical rules. Also please do not use normal e-mail abbreviations such as "LOL" or "BTW" since others (like your instructor) may not understand their meaning. The exception to this rule: you can communicate however you desire in the Chat Center, as long as the approach is respectful.

Note on this Syllabus: This syllabus is intended for distribution to members of the course and others by my permission. It is not intended for general distribution on the internet. Permission to copy, whole or in part, must be requested from the instructor.

Table of Contents

Asbury Theological Seminary Spring Semester 2009 Schedule

January

31 Spring New Student Orientation, Florida campus

February

- 2-6 Kingdom Encounter Ministry Conference, Florida campus
- 5-6 Spring New Student Orientation, Kentucky campus
- 9 Classes begin
- 13 Last day to drop a course with a refund by 3 p.m. (EST) close of all registration for additional courses by 3 p.m. (EST)
- 13 Last day to apply for May 2009/August 2009 graduation by 3 p.m. (EST)
- 18-19 Beeson Lectures, Kentucky campus, Speaker: Dr. Ellsworth Kalas
- 26-March 2 Healing Conference, Kentucky campus, Speakers: Larry and Audrey Eddings
- 27 Payment of fees due in the Business Office

March

- 12-13 Theta Phi Lectures, Kentucky campus, Speaker, Dr. Randy L. Maddox
- 20 Last day to withdrawal from the institution or current semester with a prorated refund by 3 p.m. (EST) last day to drop a course without a grade of "F" by 3 p.m. (EST)
- 30-April 3 Spring Reading Week
- 30-31 Seminary offices closed Spring Reading Week
- TBA Dinkins Lectures, Florida campus, Speaker: TBA

April

- 6 Classes Resume
- 10 Good Friday no classes, seminary closed
- 25 Last day to remove incompletes (fall 2008 and January 2009)

May

- 11 ExL course registration begins for students within an 85-mile radius of a geophysical campus for summer session
- 11-15 Graduates Week
- 16 Commencement, Florida campus
- 18-22 Final exams
- 22 Semester ends
- 23 Commencement, Kentucky campus
- 25 Memorial Day no classes, seminary closed
- 29 Spring semester grades due

Table of Contents