

514 Postmodernism in the Church

BEAR VALLEY BIBLE INSTITUTE

3 semester hours

William Woodson, Instructor

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:

A study of developments moving toward the embrace of postmodernism by some among churches of Christ; the major components of this philosophical-religious stance; careful study of leading book embracing postmodernism within our brotherhood; evaluation and critique of these views.

Course Objectives:

1. To become familiar with the historical development of the embrace of postmodernism among some in churches of Christ.
2. To become familiar with various books, for and against postmodernism, in the religious/philosophical situation at present.
3. To become familiar with particulars of postmodernism as embraced by some within churches of Christ.
4. To become familiar with the weaknesses and mistakes of postmodernism as evidenced within churches of Christ.
5. To demonstrate quality of mastery of subject matter and ability to evaluate and critique these views.

Course Approach:

This course is offered on campus during Blitz Week. The week begins with a survey of doctrinal developments leading to the embrace of postmodernism. Discussion of particulars of postmodernism in general will move toward familiarity of the characteristics of postmodernism. At least one day will be spent discussing a major book on the topic. Opportunity will be provided for discussion of major topics as related to churches of Christ. Reviews and testing will enable assessment of students' competence in the topic.

Course Requirements:

1. Reading. The following books must be read and reviewed:

- Shelly, Rubel, and John O. York, The Jesus Proposal. Leafwood: Siloam Springs, 2003.
- Carson, D.A., Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2005.

The following books are not required, but they are suggestions for those wishing more advanced study material:

- Erickson, Millard J., Paul Kjoss Helseth, Justin Taylor, Reclaiming the Center Confronting Evangelical Accommodation in Postmodern Times. Crossway: Wheaton, 2004.
 - Carson, D.A., The Gagging of God. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1996.
2. Reviews. Each student will submit reviews of the two required books. They must be typed (12 point, Times New Roman) in MLA style, double-spaced, and 8-10 pages in length. There must be a full bibliography page with each paper. Include a general summary of the contents, select emphases of the books, critique of major errors, and general appraisal of contributions to the students' learning in understanding postmodernism, particularly in reference to churches of Christ. Please indicate full reading of both books. Reviews are due at the end of class study **OR** may be mailed to William Woodson, 229 Caperton Ave., Lawrenceburg, TN, 38464, **no later than** two weeks after the close of the class sessions.

Grading:

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Review 1	1/3
Review 2	1/3
Final Test	1/3

The grading scale for this course is:

100-94 / A
 93-85 / B
 84-70 / C
 69-60 / D
 59-0 / F

* The test will be given the afternoon of the last day of class. It will include short-answer questions such as true/false, multiple choice, and explanation/definition of key terms. It will also include limited critique of a few major terms involved and possibly one essay question. The material for the test will be taken from class sessions, class discussion, and reading assignments.

The test will be graded, reviews will be graded, and all materials except questions on the test will be sent to the school for recording of grades and then returned to students.