

Course Description

Course Number: HT 264W1

Course Title: *Readings in Theology: A Critical, Meditative, and Contemplative Approach—JDDJ and texts of L-RC Dialogue, rounds XI and VIII*

Semester and Year: Fall 2021

Requirement fulfilled: Elective open to M.A., MDiv., Discovery and other students

Number of hours, grading option: 1 credit hour; credit/no-credit

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will involve a critical, contemplative, and meditative reading of the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (Lutheran World Federation and The Roman Catholic Church (31 October 1999), *The Hope of Eternal Life* (L-RC Dialogue XI) and select pages of *The One Mediator, The Saints, and Mary* (L-RC Dialogue VIII).

COURSE OBJECTIVES. In their reading of the texts, the students will be expected to keep four primary questions in mind:

- How do the *JDDJ* and the L-RC Dialogue USA texts speak about the Christian hope of eternal life: from the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit?
- How do the texts define the Gospel?
- What role do Luther's theology and Lutheran Confessions play in the texts?
- How is the decisive role of the doctrine of justification *sola gratia*, *sola fide*, and *solus Christus* described in each text?

In addition to the four questions, Wartburg Seminary's Mission Statement and the Twelve Pastoral Practices are to be kept in mind.

The students will be challenged to read the text in a way that allows it to be 'sovereign' and 'subject'. In short, the hermeneutical and pedagogical premise of this course is that there are three subjects: the students/ professor as participants, the subject (doctrine/theological theme and topic) being considered, and the written texts, which were multi-authored through years of long and sustained dialogue.

PROCEDURE: Regular weekly discussion in plenary sessions of materials read. Weekly posting on Castle Commons of theological reflection (150-200 words) on the reading for the week which will normally be 12-14 pages. In addition, where it is necessary for participation asynchronously, the student will be expected to view the recording of the plenary discussion and post a written reflection (150-200 words) on Castle Commons.

EVALUATION will be based on attendance, and oral and written contributions of participants.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Bible; *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*; *The Hope of Eternal Life* (L-RC Dialogue, XI); *The One Mediator, the Saints, and Mary* (selected pages; L-RC Dialogue, VIII); Kolb/Wengert, Eds. *The Book of Concord*.