

## Course Description

**HT 396W**

**Course Title:** *The Contemporary Crisis of Defining and Confessing the Gospel*

**Name of Instructor:** Winston D. Persaud

**Semester and Year:** Fall 2021

Requirement fulfilled: Final-year MDiv *Capstone*

Number of hours, grading option: 3 credit hours; letter grade or credit/no-credit

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The underlying assumption is that there is only one gospel of Jesus the Christ which is always expressed and concretized in a cultural matrix. The gospel is the good news of forgiveness, reconciliation, liberation and salvation, and communion with God, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To examine the biblical witness (both Testaments) to the gospel;
2. To explore the Lutheran principle of law/gospel;
3. To discern some of the primary and enticing, distorted formulations of the gospel;
4. To consider the meaning of the gospel in the encounter with the religions of the world;
5. To consider the contemporary meaning of the article on justification as the article by which the Church stands or falls (AC, Art. VII);
6. To explore the interrelatedness of gospel, culture, and mission.

### **PROCEDURE:**

This will be a combination of discussion of required and other readings, and lecture. Each week, two students will be expected to prepare a three-to-four-page summary of the class discussion/lecture.

### **EVALUATION:**

1. Regular and systematic preparation for and participation in the weekly seminar will count up to 50% of the grade.
2. **Term paper: due on Friday, 17 December 2021.** Maximum length: 8-10 pages. The **topic must be based on the objectives of the course** and must include an annotated bibliography of everything the student read for the course (minimum: 1,000 pages). This paper or examination (see #4 below), together with the annotated bibliography, will count up to 50% of the grade. Students must receive a C (on the paper or examination) in order to receive a minimum overall grade of C for the course.
3. The first draft of the final paper, in which the student defines the proposed area of research, states why it is important, identifies and elaborates on the issues involved and proposes a bibliography, will be due on **Monday, 1 November 2021.**
4. Instead of the term paper, students may elect to do a final, five-hour written examination in a classroom setting. The examination question will be made available before the day of the examination. Students who choose this option are required also to hand in an annotated bibliography.
5. During the **weeks of 19/21 and 26/28 October 2021**, each student will submit a 2000-word (double-spaced), critical book review, which will be discussed in class. A list of books for review will be presented. The evaluation of the written review and the oral response to questions and comments raised in class will be included in #1 above.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Required: Bible; Kolb/Wengert, Eds. *The Book of Concord; Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*

Recommended: to be given later.