

**HT 264W2**

**READINGS IN THEOLOGY I: A CRITICAL, MEDITATIVE AND CONTEMPLATIVE APPROACH**

Instructor: Winston D. Persaud

Elective

Open to: M.A., M. Div., and Special Students

1 Credit; credit/no credit

This course will involve a critical, contemplative, and meditative reading of the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* between Lutherans and Roman Catholics (31 October 1999) *The Church as Koinonia of Salvation: Its Structures and Ministries*. Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue — X, IP 1-242, and, occasionally, select texts of the Common Statements from the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue USA, volumes I-IX. The focus will be on a way of reading theological texts—critical, meditative and contemplative—and the doctrine of justification.

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 religions?
- 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 Brightspace of reflections on readings.

**EVALUATION:**

Evaluation will be based on completion of the reading and demonstration of engagement with the text.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

*Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* between Lutherans and Roman Catholics

*The Church as Koinonia of Salvation: Its Structures and Ministries*. Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue — X, IP 1-242

*The Book of Concord*

**The normal weekly reading requirement will be about 10-12 pages.**