

**ST503: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 3: ECCLESIOLOGY AND ESCHATOLOGY (4 units).**

**Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Professor of Systematic Theology;**

**Online facilitation by Eve Tibbs, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology.**

**DESCRIPTION:** This course discusses Christian beliefs about ecclesiology and eschatology. The topics include the church, its nature as expressed in various ecclesial traditions, ministry and mission, sacraments/ordinances, as well as various approaches to the last things: parousia, death, resurrection, new creation, judgment, millennium, heaven and hell. A contemporary Evangelical theology will be construed in dialogue with ecumenical and contextual/intercultural perspectives.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students completing this course will have demonstrated:

- A basic understanding of issues in their traditional and contemporary expressions
- An ability to reflect theologically upon the course topics
- Skills towards developing one's own theology in critical dialogue with various views
- An acquaintance with a range of cultural and contextual matters that shape our understanding of theological issues
- An appreciation of ecumenical and cultural diversity.

**RELEVANCE FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY:** An essential part of preparation for Christian ministry is to learn to think theologically through issues of faith and ministry.

**COURSE FORMAT:**

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will interact with the course material through journaling, threaded discussions.

**REQUIRED READING:** 1,200 pages of required reading from the following;

- Grenz, S.J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Eerdmans, 2000, pp. 1-25, 461-659
- Kärkkäinen, V.-M. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology*. InterVarsity Press, 2002
- Placher, W.C., ed. *Essentials of Christian Theology*. Westminster John Knox, 2003, pp. 1-10, 221-365
- Schwartz, H. *Eschatology*. Eerdmans, 2000

A text on a special topic: **choose one:**

- Braaten, C.E. & Jenson, R.W. *The Ecumenical Future*. Eerdmans, 2004
- Fudge, E.W. & R.A. Peterson. *Two Views of Hell*. InterVarsity Press, 2000
- Gelder, C. van. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Baker, 2000
- Gelder C. van, ed. *Confident Witness*. (Gospel and Culture Series.) Eerdmans, 1999
- Grenz, S.J. *The Millennial Maze*. InterVarsity Press, 1994
- Guder, D.L. & L. Barrett, eds. *Missional Church*. Eerdmans, 1998
- George, T. *Pilgrims on the Sawdust Trail: Evangelical Ecumenism*. Baker, 2004
- Hauerwas, S. & Willimon, W.H. *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony*. Abingdon, 1989
- Husbands, M., et al., eds. *The Community of the Word*. InterVarsity Press, 2005
- Gibbs, E. & Bolger, R.K. *Emerging Churches*. Baker 2006
- Kärkkäinen, V.-M. *Toward a Pneumatological Theology*. Ed. Amos Yong. UPA, 2002
- Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Church in the Power of the Spirit*. SCM Press, 1977
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Coming of God: Christian Eschatology*. SCM Press, 1994
- Newbigin, L. *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*. Eerdmans, 1989
- Stackhouse, J.G. ed. *Evangelical Ecclesiology: Reality or Illusion?* Baker 2003
- Volf, M. *After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of God*. Eerdmans, 1998

A contextual and/or intercultural text (sections relevant for the course): **choose one:**

- Barr, W.R. *Constructive Christian Theology in the Worldwide Church*. Eerdmans, 1997
- Boff, L. *Ecclesiogenesis: The Base Communities Reinvent the Church*. Orbis, 1986
- Evans, J. *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology*. Fortress, 1992
- González, J. *Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective*. Abingdon, 1990
- Parratt, J. *Reinventing Christianity: African Theology Today*. Eerdmans, 1995
- Parsons, S.F., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2002
- Russell, L.M. *Church in the Round: Feminist Interpretation of the Church*. WJKP, 1993

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Weekly threaded discussions (25%) and journaling, (10%)
2. 1,200 pages of required reading and reading responses, 10 pages (25%)
3. A research paper of 10 pages (40%)

**PREREQUISITES:** None. Yet, at least one course in biblical studies and in historical theology/church history as well as philosophical theology, are **strongly** recommended.

**RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM:** Meets MDiv core requirement in Systematic Theology "C" (STC). Ministry Focus Elective in MAGL program

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** No.