

ST 717 – Karl Barth

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Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando
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Course Description

A survey of the theology of Karl Barth, drawing primarily from the *Church Dogmatics*. Special attention will be given to the Swiss theologian's relationship to the Reformed theological tradition. This course will follow a seminar format and meets Wednesdays, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, August 25 - December 06. (2 hours.)

Required Reading

R. Michael Allen, *Karl Barth's Church Dogmatics: An Introduction and Reader* (T & T Clark, forthcoming). Note: This book is available in electronic format from the professor.

Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God* (Westminster John Knox, 1996). ISBN 13: 9780804206129

John Webster, *Barth*, *Outstanding Christian Thinkers*, 2d edition (Continuum, 2004). ISBN 13: 9780826474636

Weekly Seminar (40 % of final grade)

This course is structured as a seminar. Accordingly, lectures will be minimal, whereas class discussion will be maximal. In order to facilitate meaningful discussion, students will be expected: (1) to have read the assigned readings for a given week *before* they come to class that week; (2) to engage actively in class discussion of the assigned readings for that week; (3) to lead class discussion of the assigned readings from time to time (2 or 3 times during the semester). Failure with respect to any of the three aforementioned requirements will result in a deduction of points from the student's final grade.

Please note: Given the seminar format of this course, I have kept the weekly reading assignments to a very manageable length in order to facilitate intelligent discussion of the authors' arguments.

Reading Report (30 % of final grade)

Students will turn in a reading report stating the percentage of the assigned readings that they have read over the course of the semester. *The reading report is due on the last day of class.*

Reflection Paper (30 % of final grade)

Students will write a short reflection paper (8-10 pages, double spaced) that interacts with one of the passages from the *Church Dogmatics* that they have read over the course of the semester. The paper should: (1) state a definite thesis in the first paragraph that will be argued throughout the course of the paper; (2) display a fair and accurate understanding of the selected passage from the *Church Dogmatics*; (3) exhibit a critical (= charitable and discerning) engagement with Barth's theology from a Reformed theological perspective (You might ask, for example: How does Barth's thought in the passage you have selected compare with that of confessional Reformed dogmatics as summarized in Heinrich Heppe, *Reformed Dogmatics?*); and (4) be written in clear, readable English (please use a proofreader). An "A" paper will accomplish all four objectives with excellence. *The reflection paper is due to Ceci Helm by December 8, 2010 at 11:00 am.*

Course Schedule

I will provide a schedule of assignments on the first day of class.

Office Hours

My office hours are Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. If this time is not convenient for you, please email me (sswain@rts.edu) and I will be happy to schedule a meeting with you at a different time.