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


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.