

SENIOR SEMINAR—THE GOSPEL
BIBL 7190 Spring Semester 2012
Instructor: Klyne Snodgrass
Thursdays 10:45-12:00
One or Two Credit Hours

I. OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a context for reflection and integration of previous theological studies.
2. Allow for creation of a personal theology of the gospel with regard to an understanding of the substance of the gospel, why anyone needs the gospel, how the gospel is appropriated, and how the gospel should be articulated.

II. PROCEDURE

This class is limited to those in their last semester of seminary work for a degree or those who have special permission from the instructor. This class will meet on six Thursdays (March 8, 22, 29, April 5, 12, and 26), but this course is unlike most other courses in that it will have a minimum of work outside class. The concern is not on reading, research, and writing papers but on thinking and forming a personal theology of the gospel. The concern is to enable assimilation and integration of previous seminary work with focus on *the* essential topic for ministry, the gospel. The course will enlist several North Park faculty from various disciplines for their understanding of the gospel, the reason it is needed, and how it is appropriated and communicated. Significant time will be spent in discussion to enable each student's own framing of a theology of the gospel. Additionally the class will collectively create a document addressing the four primary questions of the course mentioned in the second objective above.

III. ASSIGNMENTS

1. Attendance at all sessions. Plan accordingly.
2. Read one significant contribution on the gospel from the items below (or a combination from the list totaling approximately 200 pages). Please make your selection in consultation with the instructor. Other options may be added.

Tom Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

James K.A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom*

Gerhard Forde's section, Eleventh Locus on Justification by Faith in Braaten/Jenson *Christian Dogmatics*

Luther's "Preface to Romans"

Luther's "Freedom of a Christian"

Augustine's "On the Spirit and the Letter"

Michael J. Gorman, *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross*

Relevant Essays from Jon C. Laansma, Grant Osborne, and Ray Van Neste (eds.), *New Testament Theology in Light of the Church's Mission*.

James F. Kay, *Preaching and Theology*

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*

D. A. Carson and Timothy Keller, eds. *The Gospel as Center* (A collection of essays).

3. Examine the presentation of the gospel in one short NT book or in the speeches of Acts
4. Think and theologize and contribute to the joint effort on Google Docs.

5. Write a short paper (six to eight pages) showing how the four questions of the course should be answered.
6. If the course is being taken for two credit hours, further research and a paper will be required. See the instructor.

IV. Grading: This course will be offered as pass-fail, and determination will be based on attendance, involvement in class and in the joint effort on Google Docs, reading, and the short paper.