Contemporary Theology II: From Theology of Hope to Postmodernism

Course Lecturer: John S. Feinberg, PhD
Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Course Description

Postmodernism is having a profound influence on the Church, from within and without. Changing ideas about the source and nature of truth are affecting Christians' lives and ministry. In this course, learners examine current trends in contemporary theology, and how these trends arose. The course focuses on the theologies that were prevalent in the 1960's, including Theology of Hope, Liberation Theology, Feminist Theology, Process Theology, New Age Theology, and four forms of Postmodern Theology. Students are encouraged to draw from the course content so as to relate and communicate better to their postmodern world.
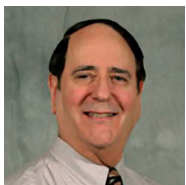
Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Be familiar with the major trends in contemporary, non-evangelical thought of the late 20th century.
- Understand the presuppositions (philosophical and otherwise) which generate such modern theologies.
- Better understand and defend evangelical theology.

Course Lecturer

John S. Feinberg, PhD
Education:
- University of Iowa, postgraduate work
- University of Chicago, MA and PhD
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, ThM
- Talbot Theological Seminary, MDiv
- University of California, BA

Teaching Career:
- Department Chair and Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Professor at Liberty Baptist Seminary and College (1981-1983)
- Professor at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary (1976-1981)
- Visiting professor at Bethel Theological Seminary
- Guest lecturer at numerous schools across the United States
- Visiting professor in Germany and Italy
- Adjunct Professor, Tyndale Theological Seminary in the Netherlands
- Instructor in Doctrine, Los Angeles Bible Training School (1969-1971)

Other Career Highlights:
- Ordained minister
- Preacher at local churches and holder of various pulpit supply roles in California, Idaho, Illinois, Oregon, and Wisconsin
- Pastor of Elmwood Park Bible Church in Illinois (1974-1976)
- Missionary work in Los Angeles (1970-1971)
- Staff member for the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc. (1970-1974)
- Member of the Evangelical Theological Society (with a term on the National Membership Committee during the mid-1980s)
- Regular presenter at ETS regional and national conferences, the American Academy of Religion, and the Society of Biblical Literature
- Roles as President and Vice President of the Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Theological consultant for the academic division of Crossway Books

Publications:
- Articles in various journals in both Europe and North America, including submissions to the *Evangelical Theological Journal, Trinity Journal*, and *Westminster Theological Journal*
- Author and editor of several books, including *Ethics for a Brave New World, Deceived by God? A Journey Through Suffering, The Many Faces of Evil*, and *Where Is God?: A Personal Story of Finding God in Grief and Suffering*
- General editor of Crossway's "Foundations of Evangelical Theology" series

Course Texts

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Cobb, John and David Griffin. *Process Theology: An Introductory Exposition*.

Griffin, David, William Beardsley, and Joe Hall. *Varieties of Postmodern Theology*.

Groothuis, Douglas. *Unmasking the New Age*.

_____. *Revealing the New Age Jesus*.

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*.

Johnson, Elizabeth. *She Who Is*.

Moltmann, Jurgen. *Theology of Hope*.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.