

Faith Program

COURSE SYLLABUS

DGM 101 – SOTERIOLOGY
WINTER 2010 FRIDAY, 6 – 7:15 PM
INSTRUCTOR: FR. PISHOY WASFY
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Soteriology is one of two courses offered as part of the Dogmatic Theology requirement of the faith program. This 5-week course will help you with understanding what is sin, atonement and salvation from the orthodox perspective. It is the intent of this course that you –as a student- develop awareness and appreciation of the Biblical and Church Fathers' teachings on salvation as well as become aware of heresies and controversies pertaining to the same subject.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Appreciate the significance of having an orthodox understanding of salvation and realize the importance of having sound theological understanding of your most holy faith based on the teachings of the Church fathers and not one's own personal opinion.
- Critically examine the different views on original sin and comprehend as well be able to explain the orthodox perspective to others.
- Discuss the different scopes of salvation and realize the Biblical and Patristic (Church fathers' teachings) on the matter.
- Develop an understanding of God's and human's roles in salvation.
- Biblically understand the concept of predestination, Human will and God's foreknowledge as well as personally reflect on the significance of the orthodox perspective on your life as an individual youth.
- Demonstrate competence in applying your understanding of course material in answering specific questions that your peers or teachers may ask you.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. SOTERIOLOGY Booklet – Servants' Preparation Program. Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States (provided with this syllabus)

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Reflection Paper:** Due on December 4, 2009; 30% of final grade.

2. **Final Exam:** November 27, 2009; 60% of final grade. A comprehensive final will be given covering materials from the lectures primarily.
3. **Reading report:** Due on December 4, 2009; 10% of final grade. Indicating how much of the reading you were able to accomplish. Indicate this reading report on the last page of your reflection paper.

C. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Title Page and Documentation: The title page should include the name of the course, name of the instructor, title of the paper/assignment, student's name, and the date due. Students are expected to honestly reflect use of materials other than their own. The Church does not tolerate plagiarism in any form. Any sources used in the paper should be properly documented as a reference or bibliography at the end of the paper.

Papers must be typed and double-spaced. Students are required to retain a copy of all assignments in hard copy or electronic form. Proper spelling, grammar and style are expected.

Class policy on late assignment: For each day late, the grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade. Extensions will be considered if the circumstances are extreme. No final assignments or examinations will be accepted later than Friday December 25th, 2009. Requests for an extension of the due date must be submitted to the course instructor prior to the due date for the assignment.

Assignments may be handed in at the course session. Only hardcopies are accepted, no email copies will be graded.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

1. Reflection Paper:
 - a. In this paper you are expected to incorporate the course material (lectures and readings) and reflect on the impact of the orthodox meaning of salvation on your life.
 - b. In this paper, use specific concepts and biblical references to show how your life would change now that you have understood concepts such as original sin, atonement, grace, faith, works, predestination, free will, merit of salvation...etc. from the orthodox perspective. Be specific and clear!
2. Reading Report:
 - a. You are asked to read some material in preparation for the lectures. On the last page of your reflection paper (due Dec. 4, 2009) indicate whether you have 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% read the material.
3. Final Examination:
 - a. This will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. The test will cover all material from the lectures primarily but may also test a general understanding of the concepts in the readings.
4. In order to pass this course, you need to earn an overall grade of not less

than 75%.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND REQUIRED READINGS

SESSION I October 30

- Overview of course and assignments
- Original Sin & Atonement

SESSION 2 November 6

(Reading prior to class: Article # 1 – The Pelagian Controversy – Booklet pages 22-25)

- The Scope of Salvation
- The Pelagian Controversy

SESSION 3 November 13

(Reading prior to class: Article # 2 – Would a Believer Perish? – Booklet pages 34-37

Article # 3 – Confidence in Salvation? – Booklet

pages 38-40)

- Grace in the Orthodox Perspective
- Predestination, Human will and God's foreknowledge

SESSION 4 November 20

(Reading prior to class: Article # 4 – The Salvation of The Thief – Booklet pages 59-64)

- Salvation in the Orthodox Perspective
- Role of faith & Works

SESSION 5 November 27

(Final Examination)