Course Description

In the same body in which he was crucified, Jesus rose from the dead, and in that renewed flesh, ascended to his position of authority over all things. So where is he, what is he doing now, and how do our lives intersect with his present life and mission? This class will consider what it means to be God’s people, joined to the present life of Jesus by the Spirit, aligned in praxis to his mission, witness, and Kingdom. Engaging Biblical and theological texts and contexts, we will take as our starting point Jesus’ Incarnate life in his Kingdom on earth and “in heaven.”

Mission Statement Alignment

CT 340 is an elective class in the Northern Seminary. Its purpose is to understand how the life of the Ascended Lord Jesus is the center of the Biblical witness, of Christian theology, and the very life of the Church. This class will both examine and worship the Lord Jesus Christ in a manner that is:

1. consistent with Scripture
2. conversant with history and tradition (with attention paid to diverse intercultural and multiracial voices, where available)
3. connected to students’ lives by the Spirit, to grow in wholeness and maturity in conformity to Christ, to bear witness to the Triune God (confession and praxis),
4. and engaging with particular socio-cultural contexts of the Christian community’s life and mission in ways that are pastoral, evangelistic and prophetic.

Learning Outcomes

In light of the Seminary’s mission highlighted above, the student who successfully completes this course will meet the following objectives:

1. Examine the doctrine of the ascended Jesus Christ emerging from the Biblical narrative and early church,
2. Consider how the resurrected, ascended, still Incarnate Lord, intersects with and informs our understanding of the Triune reality of God, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and the life of the Church; and
3. Effectively articulate the theological, practical content, and ecclesial implications of what it means for the Church to participate in the Triune ministry of Jesus, as prophet, priest and king, individually and corporately;

Course Requirements & Evaluation

Percentage of Grade by Assignment (See Grading Policy):

Contact:
Dr. Cherith Fee Nordling
Phone: 630-620-2151  E-mail: cnordling@faculty.seminary.edu
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TA: Corey Ashley
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1) Weekly Reading, Reflection Journal, and Scripture Analyses 35%
2) Worship Leadership 5%
3) Final Assignment 60%

100%

Requirements:
Students are expected to prepare (on average) two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class.

1) Reading, Reflection Journal, Reading Summary & Scripture Analyses: (35 pts total)
Each student is expected to complete all weekly assigned readings, reflections, and Scripture analyses, and bring them to class for discussion.

a) Reading reflection journal: Students will complete a weekly reading reflection journal and bring it to class. Journals will be handed in mid-quarter and end-quarter (see Course Schedule).

   (i) Each week choose 1 or 2 quotes from both the Capon and the non-Capon reading, and write an accompanying one-page reflection for each.

   (ii) Your reflections may include prayers, images, etc. Reflections are not reading critiques or summaries. Instead, they are your personal reflections, questions, and responses upon engaging the text. THREE of these weekly reflections may be solely non-prose.

b) Reading Summary: Once per quarter each student will present a summary of the readings assigned for the week, and lead class discussion, drawing from students’ selected quotes.

c) Scripture Analyses: Bring hard copies to class on the specified date to use and hand in, having completed the following:

   Copy pages from The Books of the Bible, or printout the Scripture text (cut and paste from online source, HAVING ELIMINATED ALL NUMBERS – CHAPTER AND VERSE – AND ALL HEADINGS), so that you have a clean version of the assigned Scripture texts.

   FIRST, read them in advance of when they are due at least two times. (I strongly suggest you read aloud one of those times.) THEN, mark up the text (margin notes, with colored pens, etc.) to show repeating symbols, events, themes, numbers, patterns, etc.

   How these are intentional and purposeful?

   How is each author dramatically unveiling, both in content and structure, God’s Self-Revealing, ascended Word, Jesus Christ?


2) Worship Leading: (5 pts total)

Description: Each student will lead the class in a (NO LONGER THAN) 15-minute worship experience, which will include three parts which emphasize an aspect of Jesus’ ascension. The service should include:

a) an evening prayer (see Book of Common Prayer)

b) lectio divina (meditation on a passage of Scripture with reflective art piece - any medium)
3) **Final Assignment: Service for the Feast of the Ascension, Sermon, and Theological essay** (60 pts total)

**Due:** FRIDAY 12/09 at MIDNIGHT – a version downloaded on Moodle and an emailed Word version to Dr. Nordling. Plan for 11:30pm so that you have time to work the technology. They are late if they come to my email at 12:01. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Length:** Approx. 20 Pages

**Description:** Service for the Feast of the Ascension with theological explication of the ascension. This assignment has 3 parts:

**A)** Write a full script for a service for the Eucharistic Feast of the Ascension, with headings for each part of the service, from the opening invocation to the benediction. This script will include attachments (or direct inserts) of every spoken or sung word in this service. Four Scripture readings will be included: a Psalm, OLD TESTAMENT, (non-gospel) NEW TESTAMENT and Gospel reading. Your worship service will:

(i) include at least **two hymns** along with any other music of your choosing,

(ii) incorporate at least one visual piece of art to speak symbolically in the worship space,

(iii) include written out spoken bridges, transitions (i.e., no improvising), and

(iv) include a written out Eucharistic invitation to the table.

**B)** Write a 15-minute homily/sermon THAT integrates texts of exaltation/coronation/ascension and also one of the parables. **A FULL MANUSCRIPT OF THE SERMON SHOULD BE ATTACHED.**

**C)** Write and attach a theological summary of the doctrine of the ascension. **ADDRESS** the Church’s participation in the kingdom of the ascended Lord. This document should:

i. BE theologically robust,

ii. BE accessible to a theologically savvy adult reading group or college class.

iii. Include footnotes and a bibliography.

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**Course Schedule:**

| Week 1: 9/27 | - Syllabus  
- Jesus’ Ascension in Trinitarian Cosmology  
  *(protos/eschatos)*  
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<td><strong>Come to Class having reviewed the Syllabus</strong></td>
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| Week 2: 10/04 | Jesus Ascended:  
  Christological & Pneumatological Foundations  
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|               | *(Optional) Fee: *Pauline Christology*, 482-495,  
  500-543, 589-593 (64pp) *(M)*  
|               | Dawson, *Jesus Ascended*, Ch 2-3 (41 pp)  
|               | **PHILIPPIANS or COLOSSIANS** *(hand in marked HARD copy)*  |

| Week 3: 10/11 | Jesus Ascended:  
  Christological & Pneumatological Foundations  
  *(cont.)*  
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                | *(Optional) Fee: *Pauline Christology*, 544-554,  
  558-585 (38pp) *(M)*  
|                | Fee: *God’s Empowering Presence*, 803-813, 822- 
  845 (36pp) *(M)*  |
| Week 4: 10/18 | KING - “Ruler of the Kings of the Earth” | • Dawson, *Jesus Ascended*, Ch 4 (19pp) |
| Week 5: 10/25 | KING - “Ruler of the Kings of the Earth” | • Capon: *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment*, pp 1-53 (54pp)  
• LUKE-ACTS (hand in marked HARD copy) |
| Week 6: 11/01 | HIGH PRIEST - “the firstborn from among the dead” | • Farrow: *Ascension Theology*, Ch 3-4 (28pp)  
• Capon: *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment*, 54-137 (85pp)  
• *Hand in reading journals* |
| Week 7: 11/08 | HIGH PRIEST - “the firstborn from among the dead” | • Jobes, *General Epistles/Hebrews*, (60pp) (M)  
• Capon: *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment*, 155-208 (53pp)  
• HEBREWS (hand in marked HARD copy) |
| Week 8: 11/15 | PROPHET – “the faithful witness” as Eucharistic Bridegroom | • Farrow: *Ascension Theology*, Ch 5-7 (88pp)  
• Capon: *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment*, 318-344 (27pp) |
| Holiday: 11/22 | *No Class* | • HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING |
| Week 9: 11/29 | PROPHET – “the faithful witness” as Resurrected, Slain Lamb | • Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, (191pp)  
• *The Revelation of St. John (The Books of the Bible)* (M) |
| Week 10: 12/06 | PROPHET – “the faithful witness” as Judged Judge | • Nordling, draft chapter (appr. 12 pp)  
• Capon: *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment*, 219-235, 355-411, 513-515 (75pp) |

**Required Books:**


Nordling draft chapter (approx. 12 pages single spaced)

**Required Articles/Book Chapters (NOT FOR PURCHASE. Available on Moodle or Library Reserve)**


**Additional (Non-Required) Bibliography:**


**Optional Videos:**

Gerrit Dawson interview about Jesus’ Ascension and continuing humanity, on “You’re Included”:

“You’re Included” (Grace Communion, Int’l) interviews particularly related to the Trinity and Incarnation
Course Policies

1. Grading Scale

The following grade standards are not “relative” to other Northern students, but are as “absolute” or “objective” as possible regarding standards of graduate-level work generally.

- **“A” for “distinctive” work** means that all the work submitted is of superior and some even of distinctive quality, demonstrating clear and deep understanding as well as interaction with class concepts, originality, and nuanced, mature judgment. Assignments reflect a great deal of effort and reflection, with clear and creative thinking throughout – outstanding in all respects, including written presentation.

- **“B” for “superior” work** means that the majority of the work demonstrates good comprehension of class concepts, and there is a fair amount of deep and creative thinking, reflecting personal (intellectual and spiritual) growth. Most assignments demonstrate considerable effort, and there is consistency to their level of achievement.

- **“C” for “acceptable” work** means that the student demonstrates adequate comprehension of class concepts and some deeper thinking on certain relevant issues. Quality is uneven, some work being average while other work demonstrates more minimal effort. Overall, the work is undistinguished but adequate to the basic achievement of course goals. Essays whose grade falls within the ‘C’ range lack essential material and show insufficient reading and effort to be acceptable, perhaps, even to the point of showing obvious misunderstanding.

- **“D” for “unsatisfactory”** means that the student demonstrates minimal effort and poor understanding. The majority of the work is apparently rushed, of substandard quality, and does not indicate basic achievement of course objectives.

The Grading Scale is as follows:

- **A** = 100 – 95 (Distinctive)
- **A-** = 94 - 90
- **B+** = 89 - 87
- **B** = 86 – 83 (Superior)
- **B-** = 82 - 80
- **C+** = 79 - 77
- **C** = 76 – 73 (Acceptable)
- **C-** = 72 - 70
- **D+** = 69 - 67
- **D** = 66 – 63 (Unsatisfactory)
- **D-** = 62 - 60
- **F** = 59 and below
This grading scale is based on content and form. Writing errors will lower your grade accordingly. It is expected that written products will be legible, professional in appearance and error free in regard to spelling, punctuation and grammar.

2. ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DUE DATE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS (If the assignment is to be submitted via Moodle, then it must be submitted before the Beginning of Class). Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing to the professor and will be granted without penalty only under extenuating circumstances (such as a grave illness or family death). Not having time, work crises, computer glitches, etc. don’t cut it. Non-emergency extensions, if granted, will be assessed a penalty for late submission. This will typically be an automatic grade reduction to a C after class ends until midnight on the due date. After midnight, the paper is reduced to a possible D for the next 24 hours. After that, forget about it.

POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact All Covered at (877) 224-8911 if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

Diploma/Certificate Student Course Requirements

The amount of work required of Diploma/Certificate students will be at the discretion of the professor. Students will be responsible for contacting the professor about what assignments are required.

Class Attendance Policy

It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

Class Tardiness Policy

The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

Late Work Policy

If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.
**Turabian Format**

All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Electronic Format**

Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**

Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**

Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.seminary.edu](http://moodle.seminary.edu). The evaluation will be open at the end of the course. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.