

Knowing God

Fall 2020

PT 241

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Room 100

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the doctrine of knowing God (epistemology). Special attention is given to the practice of knowing God so as to challenge and motivate the student to seek God. Special emphasis will be on what faith is and is not and how to use your faith. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the idea of knowing God from a theological perspective.
- Evaluate the validity and efficacy of biblical practices and processes with respect to knowing God.
- Describe the nature of faith and its connection to having a relationship with God.
- Practice methods of knowing God.
- Analyze how the study of knowing God impacts leadership.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to main concepts, ideas, and interpretations in the biblical study of epistemology.
- To encourage and enhance a student's ability to analyze, defend, and critique his or her own position regarding the doctrine of knowing God through reasoned arguments and supporting evidence.
- To assist students in their understanding of the nature of faith and how it applies to salvation and sanctification.

- To challenge and motivate students to apply the principles and practices of knowing God to their own lives.
- To make students aware of how the study and practice of knowing God effects leadership.
- To assist students in developing and improving their critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills in an academic and ministerial setting.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. J.I. Packer, Knowing God (Intervarsity Press, 1993).

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God (Aneko Press, 2015).
2. Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby and Claude King, Experiencing God (B&H Publishing Group, 2008).

CLASS FORMAT

Lectures, PowerPoint presentations, class discussions, exams, student presentations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/POLICIES

1. Summary of Assignments/Weight
 - Journal = 15%
 - Exams = (2 @ 15% each) = 30%
 - Reading/Research Paper = 40%
 - Research Paper Presentation = 15%
2. Journal (worth 15% of the final grade).
 - The content of the journal should reflect your own personal interaction with the course material; that is, interaction with course reading, research, class lectures and class discussions). The journal should be written in first person and thought of as a "diary." The journal includes 8 separate entries. Each entry should be ½-typed page; thus, the whole journal should be 4 typed pages (not including the Title Page). Each entry should have its own heading to include three components: a title (that describes the general idea of the entry), date when conceived of, and the area of study the entry is associated with.

- Entries can be:
 - Inspirational/Reflective = how you feel/think about something (concept, information, etc...).
 - Critical/Analytical = what you think about something/your analysis/your evaluation
 - Applicative/Practical = how something informs/changes/shapes/influences the way you live.
 - Although not preferred, Journals will be accepted late (up to one week); however, a late journal will incur a 10% late penalty (a paper is considered late if not submitted on the due date even if the student was absent from class on that date). Journals must be submitted in hard copy.
3. Two (2) in-class Exams (each worth 15% of the final grade; thus, representing a total of 30% of the final grade).
- There will be a mid-term exam that will be given in the middle of the semester and will cover the material up to that point. There will be a final exam given in the final class session of the course and will cover material from the mid-term forward.
 - The format for the exams will include short answers and essays.
 - Exam questions will correspond closely to the “Possible Questions” listed in the course materials. These questions will, in effect, serve as study guides for the exams.
 - All exams are taken in class. Exams cannot be missed unless there is an emergency. Make-up exams will be given at the convenience of the instructor if a student submits documented evidence of an emergency. Otherwise, a student will receive a “0%” grade on an exam that is missed.
4. Reading/Research Paper (worth 40% of the final grade)
- The student will read the textbook and write a paper based on its content. The paper will be 5-6 pages in length and will include three sections:
 - Section 1 = a one-page book summary that describes the content of the book (what did the book say?)
 - Section 2 = a one-page book critique that evaluates the content of the book (what was good/agreeable/helpful and what was not good/not agreeable/not helpful about the book in your opinion?).
 - Section 3 = a 3-4 page expansion of an idea or topic found in the course textbook. Students will research the topic in order to develop a more specified treatment of that topic. This section of the paper should include the thinking of the student as it is informed by and supported by the student’s research.

- The paper must be written in the student's own words. The research dynamic of the paper should yield at least 8 in-text citations that come from at least 3 sources. The in-text citations and ensuing Works Cited page should be done in accordance with MLA style (see sample). The typed paper should also include a Title Page, one inch margins all around, full justification, page numbers starting on the second page, double spaced text, and a 12 point common font.
- Although not preferred, Research Papers will be accepted late (up to one week); however, a late paper will incur a 10% late penalty (a paper is considered late if not submitted on the due date even if the student was absent from class on that date). Research Papers must be submitted in hard copy.

5. Research Paper Presentation (worth 15% of the final grade)

- Each student will present the research portion of his/her paper in an 8-10 minute presentation. The goal of the presentation is to share with the class the content of your research that was used to formulate the "expansion of an idea or topic found in the textbook" section of your Reading/Research Paper; that is, the 3-4 page section of the paper).
- It is up to the student as to how to present the above contents; however, it is not acceptable to simply read from the paper (notes for prompting may be used). The presentation will be graded according to clarity, creativity, and content. Students may choose (though it is in no way mandatory) to use PowerPoint slides or other presentation tools to assist in their presentation. In any case, the student should think of the presentation as a short teaching and should prepare the presentation accordingly.
- Presentations cannot be missed (they will all be done in class on the same date) unless there is an emergency. Make-up presentation times will be assigned by the instructor if a student submits documented evidence of an emergency.

6. Course policy

- Students are encouraged to attend all class sessions for courses in which they are enrolled. In any case, a student must attend at least 60% of the classes to receive credit for the course. Students should not assume they will be dropped if they stop attending class. The student is responsible for withdrawing by the announced date (no later than the thirteenth week of the semester) to avoid receiving a "UW" (unofficial withdrawal) and a grade of "F." Students should report promptly to class. Instructors are authorized to refuse to admit students who are late to class.

- When a class session or any part of a class session is missed, it is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes from classmates if so desired.
- Any form of dishonesty in course work – plagiarism, cheating, fabrication – is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to dismissal from the College. See the Student Handbook for definitions, procedures and penalties.
- Help is available to support students through the entire writing process from brainstorming to research to writing skills to documentation styles. Students may go to the Learning Center in the Library to receive guidance with regard to their writing assignments.

7. Sample MLA Style Format (in-text citations and works cited)

- Sample of in-text citations

There are multiple ways to understand “the intricacies of anonymity and its impact on society especially as it pertains to the uneducated” (Doe 258).

Doe asserts, “anonymity is life” (142).

Anonymity is most easily avoided by those who have a propensity to shout (Doe 78).

- Sample of a Works Cited page

Works Cited

Doe, John. The Beauty of Anonymity. Anonymous Press International, 2019.

Smith, Jane. "The Advantage of Popularity: The Meaning Behind an Interconnected Society." New Vision Quarterly, vol. 25, no. 3, 2001, p. 48.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1	Course Introduction; Receive Course Syllabus and Course Materials
Week 7	Mid-term exam
Week 10	Reading/Research Paper due
Week 13	Research Paper Presentations
Week 15	Journal due
Week 16	Final exam