



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**Course: BT214 – Humanity, Sin, and Salvation**  
**Dr. Joel Houston**  
**Fall 2018**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**jhouston@nipawin.org**

### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

Sometimes regarded as one of the few dogmas of Christianity that may be appreciated as an empirical fact, the prevalence and horrific mundanity of sin is everywhere observed. The psalmist's complaint is shared by all who have, and who will, walk the earth this side of the kingdom: "hear me, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy." Many a forest has been felled seeking to understand why humans are the way they are, and why brokenness and pain constitute a part of reality for everyone.

BT214, the third course of Systematic Theology, seeks to understand the biblical teaching concerning the nature of humanity and the fall into sin by the fault of our first parents. In so far as Scripture speaks of the truth of the Fall, only an *explanation* is offered for our plight. Scripture, however, does not stop there; it speaks a better word—the Gospel of God—The Triune God's provision for our miserable plight through salvation in Christ.

Students will work through a systematic understanding of the nature and constitution of humanity, the effects of sin and death upon the world, and the comprehensive plan of salvation in Christ.

### ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

The Holy Bible (A translation of your choosing).

Forster, Greg. *The Joy of Calvinism: Knowing God's Personal, Unconditional, Irresistible, Unbreakable Love*. (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012). **208 Pages.**

Horton, Michael. *Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012). **185 Pages.**

Jacobs, Alan. *Original Sin: A Cultural History* (New York: HarperOne, 2008). **304 Pages.**

### ***THE BIG QUESTION***

*How is God, through Christ, making all things new (Rev.21:5)?*

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1) Students will understand the basic constitution of humanity, and why an appreciation of the reality of the soul is an important theological, and even political, notion.
- 2) Students will appreciate the diversity of thought around the nature of sin and wickedness in the world. Such diversity will be undergirded by an absolute certainty in the reality of the biblical teaching on sin and will strengthen the foundation of their biblical worldview.
- 3) Students will develop a robust Christology and be able to articulate the orthodox teaching on the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- 4) Students will be able to identify the components of Reformed Soteriology (justification, adoption, sanctification, etc.) and demonstrate the biblical basis and necessity of each.
- 5) Upon gaining a robust vision of the extremity of sin (total depravity) and the magnitude of Christ's redemption, students will gain a renewed appreciation of, and love for, God's redemption of all things through his Son.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

### Book Précis – 15%

#### Book completion – 5%

- Students are required to read **both** Forster *Joy of Calvinism* and Jacobs, *Original Sin*. Upon completing the works, students will write a **3-4** page summary, or précis of **one** of the books: either Forster **or** Jacobs. Instructions for writing a précis accompany this syllabus in Appendix **B**. It is important to note that you are not so much required to give your *opinion* of the work as you are to demonstrate your *comprehension* of it. Students will submit *only* their paper (the book is not required for evaluation), along with the **signed declaration** found in Appendix **A** that they have completed reading the alternate text, in its entirety, for this class. No partial marks will be awarded for incomplete reading of the text.

**Book Précis and Reading Due: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

### Integrated Knowledge Paper – 25%

- It is one thing to know “theological facts”—objective truths about what the Scriptures teach, and quite another to relate these facts to everyday life in a way that is meaningful and applicable.  
With the aim of specifically applying theological insights gleaned from the course, students will write a **12 page** “integrated knowledge” paper on a topic that pertains especially to the issues raised in BT214.

The first 8-10 pages will evaluate divergent perspectives on a particular topic (i.e. limited or unlimited atonement, conditional or absolute predestination, etc.) and argue for the perspective they feel is best supported by the scriptural data. This is the research component of the paper.

The remaining 2-4 pages will demonstrate the necessity of holding to the correct interpretation of a particular doctrine, with special attention paid to the practical life of the disciple. This may be viewed as integrating research with discipleship—answering the “so what?” question.

Papers will be evaluated for exegetical insight, proper representation of all positions involved (no strawmen!), and rigours, innovative applications.

**Integrative Knowledge Paper Due: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **Text Reading – 15%**

- Read and interact with select portions of Michael Horton's *Pilgrim Theology*. The relevant chapters for BT214 are: 5,6,8,10-14 (inclusive). Your interaction with the Horton will include underlining and/or highlighting the text along with written comments in the margins (or sticky notes if you so not like writing in books). Finally, students will write a **one-page** critique of the book, identifying both positive and negative aspects of Horton's work. **Your interaction with *Pilgrim Theology* is vital:** because the in-class lectures, discussions and exams are based on Horton's text, it is axiomatic that the better you understand the text content, the more successful you will be in class. Your book will be evaluated as evidence of your careful reading.

**Book Completion Date: December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **Exams:**

#### **Course Midterm Exam – 15%**

- **Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 8:30am.**

#### **Course Final Exam – 25%**

- **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 8:30am.**

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **no later than 5:00 pm** on the day that they are assigned.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

***LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:***

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

**Reading: 697pp**

**Writing: 17pp**

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY THEOLOGICAL WORKS

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\* There may be other relevant books and articles available to you that are not listed on the syllabus. This is a starting point.

## **Appendix A: Statement of Reading Completion**

### **Please Select One Box:**

**I have read:**

Greg Forster, *The Joy of Calvinism*

Alan Jacobs, *Original Sin*

**In its entirety and for this class** (BT214, "Humanity, Sin, and Salvation", Fall 2018).

### **Alternatively,**

I did not complete the required reading for this course (BT214, "Humanity, Sin, and Salvation", Fall 2018).

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_