THE CHRISTIAN MIND: A COVENANT PERSPECTIVE
Fall 2015
Course Syllabus

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce newly enrolled students to the general scope and distinctive emphases of a Covenant College education. The first portion of the course focuses on our calling in Christ and some of its implications for the task of being a student. The second portion introduces students to the Reformed tradition; and the third portion invites students to join with the faculty in addressing challenges that the tradition currently faces. Two units.

Faculty
Course Coordinator: Prof. Bill Davis
President Derek Halvorson
Prof. Dan MacDougall
Prof. Brian Fikkert
Prof. Kelly Kapic
Prof. Jay Green
Prof. Dan Zuidema
Prof. Steve Corbett
Prof. Nola Stephens

Required Readings:
BOOKS and ARTICLES:
- E-RESERVE material (electronic Course Reserve) through Kresge Library Website for Fall 2013 (at http://scots.covenant.edu/library/):
  2. Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, “Why Did Jesus Come to Earth,” from When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 2009), 30-49.
  8. Duane Elmer, “The Amazing Contours of Conflict” from Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building relationships for Effective Ministry (Downers Grove, Ill., IVP Academic,

On-Line Readings and exercises

I. Course Objectives: Students who successfully complete this course will have shown the ability to:
   A. Make the transition from previous learning environments to the academic culture and Christian community of Covenant College;
   B. Articulate a biblically-informed understanding of the nature and purposes of a Christian liberal arts college;
   C. Demonstrate an understanding of the Reformed tradition--both its strengths and its challenges--and the place of Covenant College within that tradition, and
   D. Verbalize a grasp of the creation-fall-redemption/consummation metanarrative and some of the practical implications of the place of their academic work in the unfolding of God's work in history;
   E. Continue the transition from being a covenant child to becoming a self-conscious and reflective covenant-keeper.

II. Instructional Method:
Pre-Campus (see separate assignment sheet): Reading In All Things Christ Preeminent and responding through an essay, due at 10:50 am on Saturday, August 22, the first discussion sections meeting.

On-campus
   A. Assigned readings
   B. Large group lecture/presentations
   C. Discussion groups
   D. Mid Course Essay/Project
   E. Plagiarism Tutorial & Quiz
   F. Center for Calling and Career Assessment
   G. Final Exam

III. Assessment Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Pre-campus written essay</td>
<td>A, B, &amp; E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Mid Course Essay/Project</td>
<td>A-E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Course Involvement w/ quizzes</td>
<td>A, B, &amp; E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Plagiarism Tutorial &amp; Quiz</td>
<td>A &amp; E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Calling &amp; Career Assessment</td>
<td>A-E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>A-E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christian Mind : Fall 2015 : Syllabus & Class Policies, p. 2
Professor Davis' Section Policies and Schedule

I. Instructor’s Information:

Office: Mills 364  
Office Hours: Just stop by anytime; schedule on the door  
Campus Phone: 1249  
Email: petcher@covenant.edu

II. Assignments and Assessment Details:

A. Pre-Campus Essay on *In All Things Christ Preeminent* (20%)

Students should have completed this by the start of the course, based on the assignment mailed to them during the summer. **Due at 10:50 am on Saturday, August 22**. After receiving their graded papers with comments, students may rewrite and resubmit for a revised grade. (Resubmissions will be due exactly two weeks after students received graded first draft). Students are not required to resubmit papers.

B. Mid Course Essay/Project (20%)

Due October 1 at the Discussion Section meeting. See Canvas for assignment details.

C. Course Involvement (20%)

Students are expected to attend all lectures and small group discussions, having carefully read all required reading due at the time of each meeting. Students are also expected to listen attentively to large group lectures without the distraction of electronic devices, and to participate actively in small group discussions. The attendance policy allows for a TOTAL of only two unexcused absences throughout the entire course. Students may expect quizzes and other exercises that will need to be completed prior to the beginning of small group discussions to evaluate their level of engagement with the class material. Attendance, level of engagement, and success in completing summary papers, online quizzes, and other in-class assignments will combine for the course involvement grade. 10% of the course grade will be determined by the average of online quiz grades after dropping the lowest grade.

D. Plagiarism Tutorial & Quiz Assignment (5%)

Academic integrity is vital for students and faculty members alike. Because the academic community is held to higher standards than the general public, and because part of our goal is to bring you into this community and to help you understand the reasons for its high standards, all students will be expected to work through materials regarding academic integrity. This assignment is to be done in conjunction with Prof. Green's lecture on "Tradition and Stewardship" (scheduled for September 1), and should be fully completed prior to the discussion session that follows Prof. Zuidema’s lecture on Sept 10.

This is a “pass/fail” requirement (meaning you get full credit for doing it, no credit if it is not done).
The assignment has several components to be completed in the order given.

1. **Read:** You should read the sections in the Covenant College Student Handbook dealing with Plagiarism and Cheating and Penalties for Plagiarism (pp. 20-22) The Handbook can be found at http://www.covenant.edu/pdf/student/studev_student_handbook.pdf.

2. **Read:** For a good introduction to various aspects of plagiarism, go to the following web address http://abacus.bates.edu/cbb/quiz/intro/integrity.html The opening page has a list of the 5 topics covered in the Introduction (on the right side) and you should read it all and familiarize yourself especially with the “Academic Honesty” and the “Overview of Terms” sections.

3. **Take a quiz.** The quiz should be accessed at https://huss.covenant.edu/plagiarism. You will have to sign in with your Covenant username and password. After you have answered the last question on the quiz, you should see the following at the bottom of the page: "If you were required to complete this tutorial for a course or an assignment, please click here to conclude your visit and to record that you've worked through the tutorial." Clicking where indicated will record your quiz for course credit and should generate an email to your Covenant account confirming your completion of this task.

E. Center for Calling and Career Assessment (10%)

This assignment process is designed to increase your awareness of your personality, interests, skills, and values, while obtaining a better understanding of the Center for Calling and Career and the services provided throughout your time at Covenant.

The assignment has two basic components which must be completed by **October 17.** This assignment will account for 10% of your final Christian Mind grade (5%) for completing the assessment (5%) for attending one of seminars listed below. Attendance and participation are required and will be communicated to your Christian Mind professor.

You will need to:

1) **Attend a 45 minute seminar** on Center for Calling and Career and Focus2. Contact the Center for Calling and Career at centercc@covenant.edu or 706-419-1160 to reserve your seat at one of the eight seminars listed below.

- Tuesday, September 1, 1:00-1:50 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 1, 7:30-8:20 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 2, 12:00-12:50 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 2, 1:00-1:50 p.m.
- Thursday, September 3, 4:00-4:50 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 8, 8:30-9:20 p.m.
- Friday, September 11, 12:00-12:50 p.m.
- Friday, September 11, 1:00-1:50 p.m.
2) **Complete the required assessments in Focus2, by Friday, October 17:**  
You will receive the Focus2 login link and instructions to Focus2 at the 45 minute seminar listed above. Estimated time commitment to complete the assessments is 45 minutes.

**F. Final Exam (25%)**  
Short answer and essays questions. Completed in class on Oct. 15.

**III. Other Class Policies**  
A. Students are permitted up to two unexcused absences without penalty to their grades. If you need to miss class, let the professor know as soon as possible.  
B. All written work (except for reading responses) must be typed (in 12 pt. standard font) and double-spaced. Major errors in grammar, spelling, and basic English usage will be penalized (e.g., misuse of it’s and its; there and their; affect and effect; sentence fragments and run-ons; incoherent paragraph organization, etc.). All students are encouraged to make use of The Writing Center to refine their drafts.  
C. All readings must be completed by class time on the day those readings are listed.  
D. Late work (beyond an announced grace period) will be penalized 10% per day late from the due date.  
E. Plagiarism is the act of representing someone else’s words or ideas as your own. It is stealing, plain and simple. And in an academic setting, there is really no place for tolerance. Instances of plagiarism will likely result in the failure for the assignment, with a good probability of failing the course and expulsion from the college. Please review the college policy on plagiarism. If you’re not sure what counts as plagiarism, ask.

**IV. SPECIAL ADDENDUM: Using CANVAS**  
1. Go to the library website. [http://scots.covenant.edu/library/](http://scots.covenant.edu/library/)  
2. Click on COURSE RESERVES  
3. On right hand side of the page click on New to Course Reserves? Create Account.  
4. Fill in prompts.  
   You may have to click out and log back in, once you’ve done this, look on the left hand side of the page under STUDENT TOOLS and click: Search Classes – Search by Department – Christian Mind. Then hit GO. You will then see a page that says:  
   + Add Class, click on this.  
   Each class will have a different password that will allow only students in that class to view the readings. It will ask you the password here. The password for Christian Mind is: **mind**. Type this in the space.
You will then see a list of readings. Choose the one you want and then click on View this item. A reading will pop up in pdf format for you to read. Feel free to print it if you prefer a hard copy.
Fall 2015 CM SCHEDULE FOR LECTURES & DISCUSSIONS

This schedule is set with the best of intentions, but is subject to change if unforeseen events force an alteration. Please follow this schedule unless you receive an announcement of a change from the course coordinator. **Students should complete the assigned readings and the online quiz BEFORE the meeting time on the date indicated.**

August 21 (Friday)
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (in the Chapel) : Lecture #1 – Calling & Covenant
   Speaker: President Halvorson
   Reading Assignment: none

August 22 (Saturday)
10:50 am – 11:40 am (in assigned rooms): Small Group Discussion #1
   Reading Assignment: *In All Things Christ Preeminent*
   Writing Assignment: **Pre-campus Essay**

August 24 (Monday)
9:00 am – 9:45 am (in the Chapel): Library Orientation
9:45 am – 10:40 am (in the Chapel): Lecture #2 – Special Revelation
   Speaker: Prof. MacDougall
   Reading Assignment (required, but not to be read on Sunday): Greidanus, “The Use of the Bible in Christian Scholarship”

10:50 am – 11:40 am (in assigned rooms): Small Group Discussion #2
   Writing Assignment: none

12:30 pm – 4:00 pm (in Mills 270/280) – Advising/Schedule Verification

August 25 (Tuesday)
9:00 am – 10:20 am (in the Chapel) : Lecture #3 – Creation-Fall-Redemption and the Kingdom of God
   Speaker: Prof. Fikkert
   Reading Assignment:
   • Corbett & Fikkert, “Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?” 30-49 on e-Reserves
   • Entry from Kapic & VanderLugt:
     o Kingdom of God
     o Piety
     o Social Action
   Writing Assignment: none

   **Note:** Bring an internet device (laptop, phone) to use during the 10:30 Discussion
10:30 am – 11:20 am (in assigned rooms): Discussion #3
Quiz via Canvas due by 11:30 am

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm (in vans all over): The Mark 10:45 Project

August 26 (Wednesday)

9:00 am – 9:50 am (in the Chapel) : Lecture #4 – The Reformed Tradition
Speaker: Prof. Kapic
Reading Assignment:
  • Stewart, Ten Myths About Calvinism, 11-18, 75-96 on e-Reserves
  • Entries from Kapic and Vander Lugt:
    o Reformed Theology
    o Arminianism
    o Calvin, John
    o Calvinism
    o Doctrines of Grace
    o Sovereignty of God
    o TULIP
    o Predestination
    o Sola fide
    o Sola gratia
    o Soli deo Gloria
    o Solus Christus
Writing Assignment: none

START of Regular Class Schedule : All Class times 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm

August 27 (Thursday): Discussion #4 (following Convocation, so probably short)
Reading Assignment: none
Writing Assignment: none
Quiz via Canvas over Lecture #4 Readings: due by 10:45 am

September 1 (Tuesday): Lecture #5 – Tradition and Stewardship
Speaker: Prof. Green
Reading Assignment:
  • Explanation of the Chapel Windows at huss.covenant.edu/academics/physics/CMResources
  • Entries from Kapic & Vander Lugt:
    o Tradition
    o Protestant Reformation
    o Luther, Martin
Writing Assignment: none
Quiz via Canvas over Readings due by 11:45 am

Christian Mind : Fall 2015 : Syllabus & Class Policies, p. 8
September 3 (Thursday): Discussion #5
Reading Assignment: none
Writing Assignment: none

September 8 (Tuesday): Lecture #6 – Antithesis, Common Grace, Structure & Direction in the Natural Sciences
Speaker: Prof. Zuidema
Reading Assignment:
- Wolters, “Creation” and “Fall” from Creation Regained, pp. 41-52
- Entries from Kapic & Vander Lugt:
  - Antithesis
  - Common Grace
  - Christ & Culture
  - Kuyper, Abraham
  - Newbigin, Lesslie
  - Original Sin
  - Sphere Sovereignty
Quiz via Canvas over Readings due by 11:45 am

September 10 (Thursday): Discussion #6
Reading Assignment: none
Writing Assignment:
- Plagiarism Tutorial & Quiz Assignment due: See instructions in the syllabus above of CANVAS assignment notification

September 15 (Tuesday): Lecture #7 – Structure & Direction in Language
Speaker: Prof. Stephens
Reading Assignment:
- Giles & Niedzlielski, “Italian is Beautiful, German is Ugly” from Language Myths, pp. 85-93 on e-Reserve
- Entries from Kapic & Vander Lugt:
  - Ecclesiology
  - Ecumenism
  - Humanism, northern Renaissance
  - Image of God
  - Sin
  - Translation, biblical
Writing Assignment: none
Quiz via Canvas over Readings due by 11:45 am

September 17 (Thursday): Discussion #7
Reading Assignment: none
Writing Assignment: none

September 22 (Tuesday): Lecture #8 Structure & Direction in Human Cultures
Speaker: Prof. Corbett
Reading Assignment:
• Elmer, “The Amazing Contours of Conflict,”11-22 on e-Reserves
• Livermore, “Common Ground,” 67-76 on e-Reserves
• Entries from Kapic & Vander Lugt:
  o Chalmers, Thomas
  o Church, Visible and Invisible
  o Mission
Writing Assignment: none
Quiz via Canvas over Readings due by 11:45 am

September 24 (Thursday): Discussion #8
Reading Assignment:
• Nathan (Cathy Small), "As Others See Us," in My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student, 67-89 on e-Reserves
Writing Assignment: none

September 29 (Tuesday): Lecture #9 – Structure & Direction in the Fine Arts
Speaker: Prof. Finch
Reading Assignment:
• Phillips, Robin, “More Than Schooling” Touchstone (Sept/Oct 2013) on e-Reserve
• Musical Performances on YouTube:
  o Worship, routine, and formation (2 minutes): http://youtu.be/NDpgytHaeYk
  o Music and the Brain (9 minutes): http://youtu.be/XyweM3CH-u0
  o Fiddling around with the Brain (4 minutes): http://youtu.be/vgn1J44x0T4
  o The Role of Music in Culture (3 minutes): http://youtu.be/H- gyzFUf0uk?list=PLnBS3K1v-M5FOxjw_PsXu5iJHe0Om30rH
  o Wedding Horah Dance (2 minutes): http://youtu.be/t9SSao-RCqA
• Entries from Kapic & Vander Lugt:
  o Regulative Principle
  o Fundamentalism
  o General Revelation
  o Liturgy
  o Music
October 1 (Thursday): Discussion #9
Reading Assignment: none
Writing Assignment: Mid Course Essay/Project

October 5 (Monday): 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Showing of Chariots of Fire

October 6 (Tuesday): Lecture #10 – Calling, Success, and the End Times
Speaker: Prof. Davis
Reading Assignment:
• (Re-read) Chapter 7 Redemption in In All Things Christ Preeminent
• View Chariots of Fire (a few copies on reserve in the Library, and Oct. 6 evening showing)
• Entries from Kapic & Vander Lugt:
  o Biblical Theology
  o Dispensationalism
  o Eschatology
  o Millenialism
  o Redemptive History
  o Vocational calling
Writing Assignment: none
Quiz via Canvas over Readings due by 11:45 am

October 8 (Thursday): Discussion #10
Reading Assignment: none
Writing Assignment: none

October 13 (Tuesday): Discussion Section – Review for Final Exam

October 15 (Thursday): Discussion Section: FINAL EXAM

October 22 (Thursday): Discussion Section – Pre-Registration & Advising