

Contemporary Christian Life & Practice
CHR 333 - 3 Credit Hrs.

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I. THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

"Contemporary Christian Life and Practice" is intended to address key issues facing Christians at the beginning of the 21st century. The Course covers various aspects of a believer's life and relationship with the Lord, especially seeking to lay a foundation for understanding purpose in life, being a person of God's Word, being a person of prayer, and being a person in various contexts of community.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. That you grow in your understanding of "Basic Christianity," the theology, practices, and objectives of living for Christ in the world.
- B. That you understand the importance of holiness and growth in Christian character.
- C. That you strengthen the practices of prayer, intake of the Word of God, and other devotional activities in your life.
- D. That you think through your personal application of God's Word to practical areas of life and ministry.
- E. That you grow in your understanding of Christian community and your place in it.
- F. That you grow in your understanding of appropriate cultural analysis and engagement and in your commitment to Christian mission(s).
- G. That you enjoy all of the above!

III. TEXTBOOKS

In addition to an English translation of the Bible you are required to use the following texts:

Berding, Kenneth. *Walking in the Spirit*. Crossway, 2011.

Chester, Tim and Steve Timmis. *Total Church: A Radical Reshaping Around Gospel and Community*. Crossway, 2008.

Duvall, J. Scott. *Experiencing God's Story of Life and Hope: A Workbook for Spiritual Formation*. Kregel, 2008.

Morgan, Robert J. *100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know by Heart*. B&H, 2010.

Sitzer, Gerald. *Water from a Deep Well: Christian Spirituality from Early Martyrs to Modern Missionaries*. IVP Books, 2010.

Thomas, Gary. *Sacred Marriage: What If God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy*. Zondervan, 2000.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is mandatory for you to get as much as possible out of this course. Missing excessive class time will be penalized as follows:

<u>Misses</u>	<u>Deduction from Final Grade</u>
4-6 hours	1 half letter grade
7-8 hours	1 letter grade
9-10 hours	2 letter grades

Bring written excuses for absences due to sickness, emergencies, etc. It is your responsibility to notify Dr. Guthrie **in writing** in advance or immediately upon your return of the reason for your absence. The professor reserves the right to determine the validity of all non-college approved absences. Also, **three times late to class equals an absence**.

B. Devotional Practices

You are invited to meet daily with the living God, Creator of the universe, who loves you and desires time with you. You are encouraged to spend a block of

30-40 minutes, at least five times per week, in devotional reading from the Bible, Scripture memory, and prayer. You can use one of the devotional plans Dr. Guthrie has put on the website, or a plan of your own, approved by your professor. You also are to keep track of your devotional times, using the checklist near the end of this syllabus. You will turn in a “percentage completed” record of your devotional times at the end of the term. Finally, it can help greatly to journal key insights from your devotional time (but this is not a requirement).

We will memorize **1 passage of Scripture** per week. Throughout the term we will have unannounced quizzes **over all the required Scripture memory verses covered thus far in the semester**. You may memorize the translation of your choice. You will be responsible for a Scripture Memory passage on the day it is assigned. The best way to do your Scripture Memory is to set aside the same time every day, for 5-10 min., to work on it. Do it as a part of your devotional time, and pray your verses as you memorize. See the sheet at the end of this syllabus for a “review plan” for your Scripture memory.

Third, you are encouraged to join in a **prayer and encouragement relationship** with 1-3 others from the class and to meet with your partners one time every week. The format of the meeting should include: prayer together, sharing of needs, sharing of insights from the previous week's classes, and sharing of Scripture memory verses from the previous week. The accountability time can be as short as 20 min. or as long as you like. Please keep a basic record of your times together, noting the date, who was in attendance, and the time spent.

C. Reading Assignments, Exercises, Book Reviews, & Notebooks

You are provided with reading, exercises, and listening assignments throughout the term. It is vital that you complete these assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned, since discussion and lecture will be based on them.

Readings:

As you complete each reading from an article or one of the books, and each listening assignment, highlight it in your schedule and date when you completed it. You will be asked for a percentage you have read at the end of the term. Reading materials on time facilitates class discussion and you will be graded on your ability to interact with the reading in class.

Exercises:

Exercises should be placed in your Course Notebook.

Course Notebook:

You are to develop an organized course notebook **throughout the term**. Use

dividers to separate treatment of the various topics covered in the course. You should include course notes, projects, any articles/chapters of books you wish to include on the topics, CDs, etc. The goal is that you will be able to use this notebook in your life and ministry in the future. The notebooks will be given a final grade at the end of the term.

“The Twelve-to-Twenty Principles” Project:

Over the course of the term you are to develop a list of twelve to twenty principles that will guide your life in the future. The principles will be taken up at three points in the term, with the final project due on May 8th. With each principle you must provide a one-paragraph rationale for why this particular principle made the list.

D. Final Grade

Your final grade for the term will be determined as follows:

Twelve-to-Twenty Principles 10%
Scripture Memory Quizzes 15%
Devotional Time 15%
Reading Assignments 20%
Exercises 20%
Course Notebook 20%

Extra Credit: You may receive extra credit by attending the following chapels: Feb 10, March 7, March 9, March 28, March 30. Submit a 1 page summary of reflections on the address and turn it in to the professor.

E. Grading Scale

Letter grades will be given in accordance with Union's grading policy and as follows:

A = 95-100 B = 85-94 C = 75-84 D = 65-74 F = below 65

V. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

During class please keep cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices on “off” or “silent” and put them out of sight. Do not answer phone calls or send text messages during class. As an exception, you may use a laptop for taking notes in class, but not for surfing the web. None of these devices may be used during a quiz or an exam.

VI. APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PROFESSOR

I am available to meet with you for any reason and want to help you in any way I can! If you need to meet with me, please make an appointment and pay attention to my weekly schedule posted on my door. If you have an emergency or an immediate prayer need, feel free to come by my office or call me at home.

Home: (731) 783-1413

Cell: (731) 414-6706

Office: 661-5264

Email: gguthrie@uu.edu

Devotional Time Checklist

Check the box when you have spent at least 30 min. of devotional time for each day. Each box reflects a separate day (i.e. you cannot meet for an hour on one day and check two boxes—the goal is consistency).

Week 1 (beginning the week of Feb. 6th)

1 2 3 4 5

Week 2

1 2 3 4 5

Week 3

1 2 3 4 5

Week 4

1 2 3 4 5

Week 5

1 2 3 4 5

Week 6

1 2 3 4 5

Week 7

1 2 3 4 5

Week 8

1 2 3 4 5

Week 9

1 2 3 4 5

Week 10

1 2 3 4 5

Week 11

1 2 3 4 5

Week 12

1 2 3 4 5

Week 13

1 2 3 4 5

Final %: _____

On this sheet I have faithfully reflected the time I have spent during Spring 2009 in reading the Bible, Prayer, and Scripture Memory.

Signed: _____

Scripture Memory Review



Your Current
Memory Verse

Work on a new verse, for a few minutes each day, until you have it memorized. Then it goes on the top of the “recently memorized” stack.



Your Last 8-10
Verses

Recently memorized: Take a few minutes each day to review this group of verses quickly. When a new verse comes to this stack, on top, remove the verse on the bottom (i.e. the one that has been in this stack the longest) and put it in the “long-term review” stack.



All the Rest of
Your Verses

Long-term review: Take 8-10 of these verses per week and briefly review those verses for a few minutes each day.

Student Information

Name:

Home Address:

Union P.O. Box:

Phone #s while at School:

Mobile:

Dorm Room:

e-mail address:

Church Affiliation:

Home Town:

What is your greatest need in relation to this class?

Are you facing any difficult situation at this time which could hinder your effectiveness in the class? If so, please explain.

Other Comments: