

# The Seattle School

OF THEOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY

## COURSE SYLLABUS – SPRING 2016

The mission of The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology is to train people to be competent in the study of text, soul and culture in order to serve God and neighbor through transforming relationships.

### I. General

Course Number: **TCE 513B**

Course Name: **Karl Barth Engaging Culture (Advanced Seminar)**

Units: **2**

Professor(s): **Dr. Darren Sumner**

Professor(s) Contact Information: **dsumner@theseattleschool.edu**

Citation Style: **Chicago Manual of Style**

*Check the online Course Schedule or MyCampus for class dates and times.*

### II. Course Description

This course explores the theology of Karl Barth, with particular attention to the cultural context in which Barth developed his hugely influential theological project. Through directed readings and seminar discussions students will examine the major themes of Barth's theology and engage with his work in the doctrine of God, Christology, humanity and sin, revelation, "natural" theology, the church, and other major loci. Barth's formative social, political, and ecclesial context will also be considered in order to illustrate the deep connections between theology and praxis, challenging students to reflect upon their own cultural engagement in the ongoing task of theological formation.

### III. Mission Statement Alignment

This course will acquaint students with the life and thought of one of the twentieth century's most significant theological voices, challenging them to reflect upon the ways in which theology is both formed by cultural engagement and also necessarily stands in prophetic opposition to cultural forces.

### IV. Learning Outcomes

1. The student will acquire a basic knowledge of Karl Barth's life and his place in modern Christian theology, including the cultural forces by which he was shaped and the practical issues he sought to engage.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the contours of Barth's theology, including its major themes and priorities as well as the contents and structure of the *Church Dogmatics*.

3. The student will understand Barth's theological method and how this contrasts with other ways of approaching the task of theology.
4. The student will be able to articulate the continuing relevance that Barth's thought holds for Christian theology and ministry in the twenty-first century.
5. The student will gain experience in reading primary texts and leading discussion over the particulars of its content.

## V. Course Requirements

### Reading:

Barth's writings and the *Church Dogmatics* in particular demand careful and attentive reading, and every effort has been made to limit the number of required pages per week. As this is a text-based seminar it is crucial that students read the entirety of the assigned texts before class, and come prepared to discuss them in detail. These texts will be our primary focus during classroom hours.

Those looking for additional background reading during the trimester should look especially at Eberhard Busch's *Barth (Abingdon Pillars of Theology)* and Timothy J. Gorringer's *Karl Barth Against Hegemony*. (Additional recommended works are listed below.)

### Seminar Papers:

Length: 2-3 pages

Once or twice during the term you will write and deliver a short paper on one of the texts assigned for that day, and be responsible for leading our discussion over that text (for a total of approximately 45 minutes). Briefly introduce the text and then focus on two or three key theological points advanced by the author. Additional research is not necessary, though it is welcome should you discover something you find helpful in understanding the text. You may advance an original thesis if you wish, or simply guide the class through a set of provocative questions. This paper will provide the seminar with a jumping-off point for that day, after which you should submit a polished copy to the instructor.

### Research Paper(s):

Length: 10-15 pages OR: 5-7 pages (x2)

You have the option of writing either ONE long research paper or TWO shorter papers on Barth's theology and its relevance for the task of engaging culture in the twenty-first century. This is a formal research paper which will allow you to explore an aspect of Barth's thought in greater depth. It should be fully documented and with a clear structure, taking account of the secondary literature to argue a clearly-stated thesis. The paper should be written according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* and The Seattle School guidelines.

If you choose to write TWO short papers, one should focus on a specific *doctrine* in Barth's thought (e.g. creation, sin, resurrection, baptism, Scripture, the Trinity, etc.) and the other on a *cultural issue* (e.g. church and state, poverty, money, music, incarceration, etc.). One paper will

be due at mid-term, the other at the end of the trimester. If you choose to write ONE longer paper you may choose either of these, which will be due at the end of the term.

Regardless of which path you select, your research should include a number of sources appropriate to the length of the paper. (A good rule of thumb is one source for every two pages of the paper’s final length – *at least* three for a short paper, and *at least* five or six for a longer paper. A stronger paper will show evidence of broad engagement with both Barth and secondary scholarship.) Your bibliography should include academic, peer-reviewed sources, including a mix of books and journal articles.

**Please clear your topic(s) with the instructor** in writing before you begin your research! (An e-mail will suffice.) You must declare your topic(s) and whether you intend to write one long paper or two short papers before Reading Week – no later than Monday, February 15.

Exams:

None

**VI. Course Learning Outcomes Assessment Grid** (how each learning outcome will be assessed)

Learning Outcomes	Reading	Seminar Papers	Research Paper(s)
The student will acquire a basic knowledge of Karl Barth’s life and his place in modern Christian theology, including the cultural forces by which he was shaped and the practical issues he sought to engage.	X	X	X
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the major contours of Barth’s theology, including its major themes and priorities, as well as the contents and structure of the <i>Church Dogmatics</i> .	x	X	X
The student will understand Barth’s theological method and how this contrasts with other ways of approaching the task of theology.	X		
The student will be able to articulate the continuing relevance that Barth’s thought holds for Christian theology and ministry in the twenty-first century.	X		X
The student will gain experience in reading primary texts and leading discussion over the particulars of its content.	X	X	

## VII. Course Schedule & Assignments

Please bring the assigned texts with you to class. Page numbers from the *Church Dogmatics* given below are from the original T&T Clark edition (which appear in the margins in the new Study Edition).

DATE:	TOPICS:	READINGS:
Jan 4	Course Introduction Schleiermacher and Modernism Barth's Early Years	"Evangelical Theology in the Nineteenth Century"
Jan 11	Barth the Pastor Reading the <i>Church Dogmatics</i>	"The New World in the Bible" <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 481-520
Jan 18	NO CLASS – MLK, Jr. Holiday	
Jan 25	Culture Protestantism <i>Kriegstheologie</i>	"The Christian in Society" <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 520-554
Feb 1	The Dialectical Theologians	<i>The Epistle to the Romans</i> , pp. 2-15, 91-99 <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 554-592
Feb 8	Barth the Professor The Task of Theology	<i>The Göttingen Dogmatics</i> , pp. 45-68 <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 592-647
Feb 15	'Natural' Theology Revelation	Brunner and Barth, <i>Natural Theology</i>
Feb 22	NO CLASS – Reading Week	
Feb 29	Barth the Resister The Confessing Church DUE: <i>Short Research Paper #1</i>	<i>The Theological Declaration of Barmen</i> <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 647-680
Mar 7	Barth the Theologian The Triune God	"The Being of God in Act" ( <i>CD</i> II/1, pp. 257-272) <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 681-721
Mar 14	The Election of Grace	"The Election of Jesus Christ" ( <i>CD</i> II/2, pp. 94-106) <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 721-762
Mar 21	Creation and Humanity	"Creation and Covenant" ( <i>CD</i> III/1, pp. 94-99, 228-233) <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 762-795

Mar 28	Jesus Christ and Reconciliation	“The Grace of God in Jesus Christ” (CD IV/1, pp. 79-92) <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 795-830
Apr 4	The Christian Life	“The Lordless Powers” <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 830-864
Apr 11	Barth in America The Word of God  DUE: <i>Short Research Paper #2</i> - or - <i>Long Research Paper</i>	<i>Evangelical Theology</i> , pp. v-xiii, 3-25 <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV/3.2, pp. 864-901

### VIII. Course Readings

#### Required Books:

**Barth, Karl.** *Church Dogmatics*, Volume IV.3.2 – *The Doctrine of Reconciliation*. T&T Clark, 1961. ISBN: 978-0567051493. Pub. price: \$75.00

**Brunner, Emil and Karl Barth.** *Natural Theology*. Wipf & Stock, 2002. ISBN: 978-1592441129. Pub. price: \$17.00

#### Required Articles/Book Chapters (available on MyCampus):

Karl Barth, “Evangelical Theology in the Nineteenth Century,” in *The Humanity of God* (Westminster John Knox, 1960), pp. 11-33.

\_\_\_\_\_. “The New World in the Bible,” in *The Word of God and Theology*, trans. Amy Marga (T&T Clark, 2011), pp. 15-29.

\_\_\_\_\_. “The Christian in Society,” in *The Word of God and Theology*, trans. Amy Marga (T&T Clark, 2011), pp. 31-69.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Epistle to the Romans*, trans. Edwyn C. Hoskyns (Oxford, 1933), pp. 2-15, 91-99.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Göttingen Dogmatics*, Vol. 1, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Eerdmans, 1991), pp. 45-68.

\_\_\_\_\_. “The Theological Declaration of Barmen,” in *The Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)* (Office of the General Assembly, 2002), pp. 246-250.

\_\_\_\_\_. “The Being of God in Act,” in *Church Dogmatics* Vol. II/1 (T&T Clark, 1957), pp. 257-272.

\_\_\_\_\_. “The Election of Jesus Christ,” in *Church Dogmatics* II/2 (T&T Clark, 1957), pp. 94-106.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Creation and Covenant,” in *Church Dogmatics* III/1 (T&T Clark, 1958), pp. 94-99, 228-233.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Grace of God in Jesus Christ," in *Church Dogmatics IV/1* (T&T Clark, 1956), pp. 79-92.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Lordless Powers," in *The Christian Life* (Eerdmans, 1981), pp. 213-233.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*, trans. Grover Foley (Eerdmans, 1979 [reprint]), pp. v-xiii, 3-25.

### Recommended:

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*, 4 volumes in 13 parts (T&T Clark, 1956-1975).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Deliverance to the Captives: Sermons and Prayers* (SCM, 1961).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Dogmatics in Outline* (Harper & Row, 1959).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Epistle to the Romans* (Oxford, 1933).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction* (Eerdmans, 1979).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Humanity of God* (Westminster John Knox, 1960).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Theology and Church: Shorter Writings 1920-1928* (Harper & Row, 1962).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Word of God and Theology* (T&T Clark, 2011).

Bender, Kimlyn. *Karl Barth's Christological Ecclesiology*. Ashgate, 2005.

Biggar, Nigel. *The Hastening That Waits: Karl Barth's Ethics*. Clarendon, 1993.

Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Introduction to the Theology of Karl Barth*. Eerdmans, 1979.

Burnett, Richard E. *Karl Barth's Theological Exegesis*. Eerdmans, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. (ed.). *The Westminster Handbook to Karl Barth*. Westminster John Knox, 2013.

Busch, Eberhard. *Barth (Abingdon Pillars of Theology)*. Abingdon, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Great Passion: An Introduction to Karl Barth's Theology*. Eerdmans, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Karl Barth: His Life from Letters and Autobiographical Texts*. SCM, 1976.

Chung, Paul S. *Karl Barth: God's Word in Action*. Wipf & Stock, 2008.

Dorrien, Gary. *The Barthian Revolt in Modern Theology: Theology without Weapons*. Westminster John Knox, 1999.

Flett, John G. *The Witness of God: The Trinity, Missio Dei, Karl Barth, and the Nature of Christian Community*. Eerdmans, 2010.

Gorringer, Timothy J. *Karl Barth Against Hegemony*. Oxford, 1999.

Hunsinger, George. *How to Read Karl Barth: The Shape of His Theology*. Oxford University, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. (ed.). *Thy Word is Truth: Karl Barth on Scripture*. Eerdmans, 2012.

- Jones, Paul Dafydd. *The Humanity of Christ: Christology in Karl Barth's Church Dogmatics*. T&T Clark, 2008.
- Jüngel, Eberhard. *God's Being Is In Becoming: The Trinitarian Being of God in the Theology of Karl Barth*. T&T Clark, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Karl Barth: A Theological Legacy*. Westminster, 1986.
- Mangina, Joseph L. *Karl Barth: Theologian of Christian Witness*. Ashgate, 2004.
- McCormack, Bruce L. *Karl Barth's Critically Realistic Dialectical Theology: Its Genesis and Development 1909-1936*. Clarendon Press, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Orthodox and Modern: Studies in the Theology of Karl Barth*. Baker Academic, 2008.
- McCormack, Bruce L. and Clifford B. Anderson (eds.). *Karl Barth and American Evangelicalism*. Eerdmans, 2011.
- Nimmo, Paul. *Being in Action: The Theological Shape of Barth's Ethical Vision*. T&T Clark, 2007.
- Sumner, Darren O. *Karl Barth and the Incarnation: Christology and the Humility of God*. T&T Clark, 2014.
- Sykes, S. W. *Karl Barth: Studies of His Theological Method*. Clarendon, 1979.
- Torrance, Thomas F. *Karl Barth: Biblical and Evangelical Theologian*. T&T Clark, 1990.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Karl Barth: An Introduction to His Early Theology, 1910-1931*. T&T Clark, 1962.
- Webster, John. *Barth's Moral Theology*. T&T Clark, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Karl Barth*. Continuum, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Karl Barth*. Cambridge University, 2000.

## IX. Course Policies

### 1. Grading Policy:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Seminar Leadership #1	20%
Seminar Leadership #2	20%
Final Paper(s)	50%
(Short Papers ...	2 x 25%)

### 2. Grading Scale:

**A** - The grade "A" represents an unusually competent paper that clearly makes its argument, contains extraordinary style, cleverness of argumentation, and/or thoroughness of research.

**B** - The grade "B" represents a competent and thorough response to the assignment.

**C** - The grade “C” represents a paper that is less than competent by a clear failure to communicate or to support arguments.

The Grade Scale for all courses receiving letter grades is as follows:

A	95-100	4.0	Excellent-superior achievement of course objectives
A-	90-94	3.7	
B+	87-89	3.3	
B	83-86	3.0	Good – competent and commendable achievement of course objectives
B-	80-82	2.7	
C+	77-79	2.3	
C	73-76	2.0	Poor – less than competent achievement of course objectives
C-	70-72	1.7	
F	69 or below		Failing – unacceptable achievement of course objectives

This grading scale is posted in all course syllabi and is used in the submission of final grades for a course (reflected on a student’s transcript). All courses, unless noted otherwise, are required to give letter grades.

3. It is expected that written products will be legible, professional in appearance, and error free. Papers are to be typed and double-spaced, and the pages are to be numbered. Please use footnotes, not endnotes. For purposes of blind marking, do not include your name on the front of your paper. **If you have any additional questions about paper format, refer to the standards found on the Writing Resources website at <http://theseattleschool.edu/current-students/Student-Resources/writingresources/Paper-Formatting-Guidelines>.**

4. All written work must be turned in electronically by e-mail to the Instructor no later than 11:59 p.m. on the day they are due. (Do NOT submit material for this course to the Academics Office Mailbox at the Front Desk.) Microsoft Word .DOC or .DOCX format is preferred. Include your student number (but not your name) in the file name, e.g.: “50905494 Research Paper.doc”

5. Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing to the instructor and will be granted without penalty only under extenuating circumstances (such as a grave illness or family death). Other extensions granted will be assessed a penalty for late submission at the discretion of the instructor. *The standard penalty for this course is one half-letter grade for every 48 hours that the assignment is overdue, up to a maximum of 7 days – after which the assignment will not be accepted.*

6. By agreement of the faculty, instructors at The Seattle School determine their own attendance policy. To confirm registration for the purposes of the Registrar and Student Financial Services, the instructor or the AI will take attendance during the first class with the roster provided by the Academic Office. *Attendance at all sessions of this class (and for the full duration of each session) is expected.* Your presence in classroom discussions enriches the experience for everyone, and excessive absences will negatively impact your grade for the



course. Since this is an advanced seminar that only meets for 13 sessions, students who miss more than two sessions or who are habitually late may be asked to complete additional work.

7. Plagiarism, cheating and duplicating assignments are considered academic offenses and are expressly prohibited. See the *Academic Catalog* and *Student Handbook* for specific information on Academic Integrity and definitions of these offenses.

8. Courses must be officially added or dropped in person on **MyCampus**. Please refer to the Tuition Refund Policy in the *Academic Catalog* for more information.

9. Part of your responsibility in this class is to complete a course evaluation at the end of the term. Feedback from the evaluations is used to evaluate and improve our course offerings.

10. The Seattle School would like to assist students who have disabilities for which they are eligible to receive accommodations so that they get the most from their The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology experience. Students seeking support services should request assistance from the Registrar. All requests for such assistance are reviewed on the basis of a formal diagnosis of a disability (including [ADD] attention deficit disorder & [AD/HD] attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder). Students are required to submit documentation to verify eligibility.

11. This syllabus may be changed at any time with notification. Check the date in the footer of the page to ensure you have the most recent version.