Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information

Professor: Eric M. Vail, PhD
Email: ericmvail@hotmail.com
Church Office: (816) 364-4550
NTS Office Hours: Mondays by appointment

Catalog Description

(Recommended Prior Course Work: THE610 & THE620 or CHS660; and CHS670)
This seminar will explore the biblical, historical, and systematic theology of the Christian doctrine of Atonement. Special attention will be given to how Wesley’s theology engages Cross and Atonement in the missio Dei of the Church.

Course Narrative & Rationale

This course introduces students to many significant issues and conversations related to the doctrine of atonement. In the course, we will reflect upon important biblical, historical, and contemporary perspectives.

Degree Objectives

This course is primarily designed to aid MA(TS) students toward reaching their MA(TS) Objectives:
- Objective 1. Students will develop skill in academic research and writing.
  (Accomplished by assignments 1, 4, 5, 6)
• Objective 2. Students will develop knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships.
  (Accomplished by assignments 1-7)
• Objective 3 Students will demonstrate the ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as informed, thinking, Christian persons.
  (Accomplished by assignments 2-7)
• Objective 4 Students will demonstrate the ability to do theological research, critical theological reflection, and graduate-level academic writing.
  (Accomplished by assignments 2-7)

For students in other programs, this course will help toward these objectives:
• MDiv Objective 3, “The development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the intellectual challenge of the literature of the Christian faith, by the critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity, and of the literature and practices of Christian spirituality, ethics and ministry.”
• MACE Objective 1, “Appropriate and enhance the student's ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and the fellowship of believers, sufficient to enable him or her to deepen a personal commitment to God and His Church and to inform a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry.”
• MAICS Objective 4, “Graduates will articulate, communicate, and contextualize the essential affirmations of the Christian faith in a cross-cultural setting.”

Course Outcomes
This course addresses the following NTS Degree Program Outcomes. At the end of the course the student should:
1. become familiar with the biblical narrative of Incarnation, Cross, and Atonement through the Holy Scriptures’ rich diversity of metaphors.
   (Accomplished by assignments 1-7)
2. become better acquainted with former theories of Atonement in the Church’s renewing vision to proclaim God’s love for the world.
   (Accomplished by assignments 1-7)
3. begin to integrate the doctrine of Atonement with ‘all the rest’ of the Church’s dogma.
   (Accomplished by assignments 1-7)
4. begin to articulate an understanding of the Atonement that demonstrates knowledge of and sensitivity to many of the contemporary conversations concerning atonement.
   (Accomplished by assignments 2-7)

Required Texts & Course Materials
**ISBN-13:** 978-1602583108
Additional required readings on the Course Calendar can be accessed electronically through Moodle or online.

**Course Assignments & Requirements**

1. **Reading** (MA(TS) Objectives 1, 2; CO (Course Outcomes) 1-3)
   It is imperative that every course participant read ALL the assigned reading prior to class time. Every person will be expected to be prepared and eager to interact with the material in class. Students should track each week the number of pages from the reading they finish.
   - You get full credit for all pages read by class time. You can earn up to 50% credit for additional pages you complete before your final paper is due.

2. **Participation** (MA(TS) Objectives 2-4; CO 1-4)
   Students are expected to attend all classes and to take an active part in class discussions. In order to get your participation points, you must make regular contributions during class discussions in a way that demonstrates an understanding of, and a critical engagement with, the reading(s). I would strongly encourage you to take notes on your readings, outline them, and/or write a summary of each section in your reading to refer to during class discussions. Chronic absence or tardiness will adversely affect a student’s participation grade.
   - **Reading Synopsis and Class Discussion Leadership:** On class days when no students are scheduled to deliver a seminar paper, each student will prepare a short review/synopsis of any of the key points from the reading (around 750 words). Your synopsis will serve as a backdrop for you then to ask the class a question (or small series of questions) you would like to hear discussed by the group.
     - This will give you experience in formulating questions for group discussions. It will also enable you to take the class discussion into areas that will assist you in the formulation of your thoughts on certain issues.
     - It is not expected that each synopsis be as polished as your formal papers. Each one does, however, need to be accurate, comprehensible, and make a contribution to the learning environment.
3. Seminar Presentations (MA(TS) Objectives 2-4; CO 1-4)
Each student will be required to present their two seminar papers during the semester. The papers themselves will be a critical engagement of the course reading(s) for the class-day for which the student signs up. The presentation should be approximately 30 minutes in length, and will be followed by a response from 2 other students.

4. Seminar Papers (MA(TS) Objectives 1-4; CO 1-4)
Each student will write two seminar papers throughout the semester. By noon (CT) the Saturday before you are scheduled to present your seminar paper, your completed paper needs to be posted to Moodle. This will give your responders roughly 48 hours to develop their responses. The seminar paper should be typed and double-spaced, and somewhere in the range of 2500-3500 words.
   - Valid critical engagement with the readings can include features such as:
     - analysis of the key claims, methodologies, assumptions, development of the arguments, use of resources, etc.
     - summarization, comparison, and evaluation of positions
     - a suggested application of the author’s theological insights to key problems (practical and conceptual) in the Christian life.

5. Responses (MA(TS) Objectives 1-4; CO 1-4)
Each student will be required to respond to four seminar presentations. The response will be twofold. First, a written response of 750-1000 words must be distributed (hardcopies and/or electronically) to everyone in the class on the day the seminar presentation and responses are to take place. Second, the response will be presented in class following the seminar presentation.

6. Final Paper (MA(TS) Objectives 1-4; CO 1-4)
Each student will write a 5,000 word paper articulating her/his understanding of the atonement. The paper should incorporate a minimum of one helpful insight from each one of the required weekly readings throughout the semester, as well as show awareness/sensitivity in navigating the myriad issues raised in the course readings and discussions. In other words, you are attempting to articulate your position on atonement, based on the entirety of what you have learned in the course, in a tight, well-structured form.
   - Criteria for evaluation will include grasp of issues, appropriate incorporation and citation of all sources, nuanced sensitivity to issues treated in the course, clarity of structure and argument, and grammar. Submit your paper in electronic form via Moodle.

7. Final Paper Presentation (MA(TS) Objectives 2-4; CO 1-4)
Each student will present a summary of her/his view of atonement to the entire class. The exact length of the presentations will be determined based on the number of people enrolled in the course.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

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### Method for Submitting Assignments

Please submit all papers to Moodle (as well as a hardcopy to any participants at your physical location on presentation day).

### Form and Style Expectations

When referencing materials in this course, please use the form and style provided by either *The Chicago Manual of Style* ([http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)) or *Turabian* ([http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)).

### Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

### Policy Regarding Late Work

Seminar papers may be reduced by:
- 10% if posted after noon the Saturday before being presented,
- 30% if posted after noon on Sunday before being presented,
- 50% if posted after 6pm on Sunday before being presented,
- and may receive only token credit (TBD by professor) if posted after 8pm on Sunday, severely compromising the ability of your classmates to compose their responses.

If you need to switch seminar paper weeks with a classmate (due to life circumstances, illness, etc.), get it arranged with a classmate before due dates are compromised, and then notify the professor immediately of the change.

Responses must be done on the assigned day. If negotiated in advance with a fellow classmate, and communicated to the professor prior to class time, you may switch response weeks with a classmate. If a severe illness or catastrophe arises too late to make a switch, you must notify the professor immediately that you will be missing class. Depending on the circumstances, you may still be required to email your response to the professor before the start of class.
Grades on final papers will be reduced by 10% for each day they are late. After the fifth day of being late, they no longer will be accepted, and you will not receive credit for the course due to a failure to complete all the course requirements.

Final paper presentations must be completed on the assigned day. An alternative for the final paper presentation will only be worked out in extreme circumstances, based on prior negotiation with the professor.

**Course Grading**

Each assignment will be assigned a grade between 0 and 100 inclusive. The final class grade will be weighted as follows:

- **Reading** 10%
- **Participation** 20%
- **Seminar Papers and Presentations (15% each)** 30%
- **Seminar Responses (5% each)** 20%
- **Final Paper and Presentation** 20%

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

**Use of Students’ Work**

The instructor reserves the right to use students’ work for this course in subsequent semesters for the sake of instruction and/or assignment examples. For your privacy, that would be done without reference to the student whose work it is. If you would like to opt out of having your work in this course possibly used anonymously for the benefit of future students, please submit your request to the professor in writing.

**Class Attendance**

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

By NTS policy if a student is absent four or more weeks during the semester, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.
### Course Calendar*

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Reading Log</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| 1    | Sept 10 | - Pages read by class time _________
      |       | - Pages made up by 12/10 _________
      |       |             | • Pages 8-20 (PDF available in Moodle) |
      |       |             | • Pages 1-124 |
      |       | Seminar Presentation______________________________
      |       | • Responder_________________________________ |
      |       | • Responder_________________________________ |
| 2    | Sept 17 | - Pages read by class time _________
      |       | - Pages made up by 12/10 _________
      |       |             | • Pages 17-141 |
      |       | Seminar Presentation______________________________
      |       | • Responder_________________________________ |
      |       | • Responder_________________________________ |
      |       | Seminar Presentation______________________________
      |       | • Responder_________________________________ |
      |       | • Responder_________________________________ |
| 3    | Sept 24 | - Pages read by class time _________
      |       | - Pages made up by 12/10 _________
      |       |             | • Pages 142-264 |
      |       | Seminar Presentation______________________________
      |       | • Responder_________________________________ |
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|   |      | ________________            | ● Pages 1-193                                                                                                                     |
|   |      | - Pages made up by 12/10    | Seminar Presentation__________________________________________________________________________ |
|   |      | ________________            | • Responder__________________________________________________________________________ |
|   |      | - I attended class this day | Seminar Presentation__________________________________________________________________________ |
|   |      | ________________            | • Responder__________________________________________________________________________ |
|   |      |                            | Seminar Presentation__________________________________________________________________________ |
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|   |      | ________________            | ● Pages 194-365                                                                                                                    |
|   |      | - Pages made up by 12/10    | Seminar Presentation__________________________________________________________________________ |
|   |      | ________________            | • Responder__________________________________________________________________________ |
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|   |      |                            | • Responder__________________________________________________________________________ |
|    |      | ________________            | ● Pages 3-170                                                                                                                     |
|    |      | - Pages made up by 12/10    | Seminar Presentation__________________________________________________________________________ |
|    |      | ________________            | • Responder__________________________________________________________________________ |
|    |      | - I attended class this day | Seminar Presentation__________________________________________________________________________ |
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|    |      |                            | Seminar Presentation__________________________________________________________________________ |
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|    | Oct 22|                            | <strong>Reading and Research Week</strong>                                                                                                     |</p>
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|  8  | Oct 29  | - Pages read by class time  
- Pages made up by 12/10  
- Pages 171-330 |  |  |
|  9  | Nov 5   | - Pages read by class time  
- Pages made up by 12/10  
- Pages 331-504 |  |  |
| 10  | Nov 12  | - Pages read by class time  
- Pages made up by 12/10  
- Pages 505-642 |  |  |
| 11 | Nov 19 | - Pages read by class time ____________  
- Pages made up by 12/10 ____________  
- Pages 1-206  
- Seminar Presentation______________________________  
- Responder_________________________________  
- Responder_________________________________  |
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  - Read entire. PDF available in Moodle. |
  - Read entire. PDF available in Moodle. |
  - Read entire. PDF available in Moodle. |

- Read pages 3-26. PDF available in Moodle.  

13 Dec 3 - Pages read by class time __________
- Pages made up by 12/10 __________
- I attended class this day __________

- Read pages ix-203

Seminar Presentation______________________________
- Responder______________________________
- Responder______________________________

14 Dec 10 Final Paper Presentations

Assignment: Final Paper Due

*Additional readings may be supplemented throughout the semester with advanced notice from the professor.*

**Selected Bibliography**

Select Historic Perspectives

Pro Penal Substitution

Pro Non-violent Atonement


Select Constructive Approaches


See pages 13-53.


See pages 163-439, and 471-476.


Especially see pages 202-275, 297-317, and 397-464.