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**Pentecostal Theology**

**30 Hours**

**Geoff Butler, ThM, PhD (Cand.)**

**I. Course Description**

The very term “Pentecostal Theology” might seem like an oxymoron to some. As a movement that arose not within the halls of academia but among the people of God longing for revival, an emphasis on formal theology has never been its primary emphasis. Nevertheless, the Pentecostal passion for encountering the living God allows its adherents to approach the theological task in a rich, distinctive manner. This course introduces students to such an approach.

## II. Learning Outcomes

1. Primary Student Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will…

1. Be able to explain how Pentecostals throughout the movement’s history have understood what it means to “do” theology.
2. Become acquainted with how the movement’s approach to theological reflection has shaped its reading of Scripture, distinctive doctrines, and presentation of core beliefs.
3. Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will…

*Cognitive (Head) – After completing this course you will…*

1. Be able to offer a working definition of Pentecostalism, including its relationship to and differences with the broader Charismatic Movement and other branches of the Christian Tradition.
2. Understand the historical context and theological antecedents that gave rise to the Pentecostal movement and its core doctrinal distinctives.
3. Appreciate how the unique approach Pentecostals take toward theological reflection has influenced the content of the movement’s theology.

*Affective (Heart) – After completing this course you will…*

1. Acquire a greater awareness of why Pentecostals, both historic and contemporary, hold the theological and metaphysical perspectives that they do.
2. Appreciate the distinctive contributions that the Pentecostal movement has made to the wider Christian tradition.
3. Anticipate with excitement what the Spirit of God might accomplish in and through the movement as it continues to grow rapidly on a global scale.

*Conative (Hands) – After completing this course you will…*

1. Utilize the theological framework and categories discussed to better understand your own Christian experience.
2. Consider how your own personal testimony has contributed to the development of your theology and practice.
3. Reflect critically on how cherished Pentecostal distinctives might be defended, enhanced, or reimagined, while also considering new avenues for Pentecostal theological reflection that the movement has yet to grant sufficient attention to.

**III. Course Content**

**1. Pentecostal Theology – Defining Our Terms**

1.1 Welcome to Pentecostal Theology

1.2 What is Pentecostalism?

1.3 The Pentecostal Worldview

1.4 Historical Background: Part I

1.5 Historical Background: Part II

**2. Early Pentecostalism – Theological Method and Practice**

2.1 The Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Precursor to Pentecostal Theology

2.2 How Do Pentecostals “Do Theology”?: An Oral Tradition

2.3 How Do Pentecostals Share Their Theology?: The Power of Testimony

2.4 How Do Pentecostals Present Their Theology?: An Outsider’s Perspective

2.5 How Was Pentecostal Theology Shaped?: A History of Hermeneutics

**3. The Development of Pentecostal Theology**

3.1 The Reformed-Wesleyan Divide

3.2 The Oneness-Trinitarian Split

3.3 The Development of Denominations

3.4 The Evangelical Impact

3.5 The Charismatic Movement

**4. Pentecostal Distinctives – Historical Commitments**

4.1 The Doctrine of Salvation

4.2 The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

4.3 Initial Evidence: Corollary of Spirit Baptism

4.4 Divine Healing: Afforded in the Atonement

4.5 The Imminent Coming of Christ

**5. The Future of Pentecostal Theology**

5.1 The Academy and Ecumenism

5.2 The Sacraments of the Church

5.3 Medicine and the Sciences

5.4 Engaging Religion and Culture

5.5 The Global Future of Pentecostalism

**V. Course Evaluation**

1. To complete this course for credit with ACOP’s credentialling, or for the sake of Eston College’s future accreditation, complete the following assignments:
2. Assignments
   1. Complete all course video content (4-5 hours) in addition to all assigned readings

AND

* 1. Write a 1000-word book review on Paul Alexander’s *Signs & Wonders.* Critically engage the author’s work by briefly summarizing the goal of the book, noting how it has shaped your understanding of Pentecostal theology, and identifying at least one major point of agreement and disagreement (or two points of either agreement or disagreement where the aforementioned is not possible)

OR

* 1. Submit a 750-word reflection on a topic of interest covered in class, such as a historic Pentecostal distinctive, key Pentecostal figure/leader, or topic for future Pentecostal theological reflection. Explain why you chose the topic, and why you believe a solid grasp of it is important for the health of the Pentecostal movement. At least 3 good academic sources must be cited (not including the course texts, if you choose to use them as well).

B. Time Investment:

Online Instruction: 4-5 hours of video and 6-7 hours of supplementary reading

Assignment : 18-20 hours

**Total: 30 Hours**

**Please build a chart that displays the above information at a glance:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment Name** | **Hours** | **Percentage** |
| Complete Online Curriculum | 10-12 | 50% |
| Book Review or Research Assignment | 18-20 | 50% |

**IX. Bibliography**

Required Textbooks:

Alexander, Paul. *Signs & Wonders: Why Pentecostalism Is the World’s Fastest-Growing Faith*.   
 San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009. **(If the Book Review Option is Chosen).**

Menzies, William W. and Robert P Menzies. *Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal   
 Experience*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Recommended Sources:

Ambrose, Linda and Michael Wilkinson. *After the Revival: Pentecostalism and the Making of a   
 Canadian Church*. Montreal: McGill, 2020.

Courtney, Caleb and Martin Mittelstadt. *Canadian Pentecostal Reader: The First Generation of   
 Pentecostal Voices in Canada, 1907-1925*. Cleveland: CPT Press, 2021.

Dayton, Donald W. *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism*. Studies in Evangelicalism. Metuchen:   
 Scarecrow Press, 1987.

Hollenweger, Walter J. *The Pentecostals*. London: SCM Press, 1972.

Jacobsen, Douglas G. *Thinking in the Spirit: Theologies of the Early Pentecostal Movement*.   
 Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

Land, Steven J. *Pentecostal Spirituality: A Passion for the Kingdom*. Cleveland: CPT Press,   
 2010.

Menzies, Robert P. *Christ-Centered: The Evangelical Nature of Pentecostal Theology*. Eugene:   
 Cascade Books, 2020.

Reed, David A. *“In Jesus' Name” – The History and Beliefs of Oneness Pentecostals*. Dorset:   
 Deo Publishing, 2008.

Robeck, Cecil M. *The Azusa Street Mission and Revival: The Birth of the Global Pentecostal   
 Movement.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006.

Smith, Gordon T. *Evangelical, Sacramental, and Pentecostal: Why the Church Should Be All   
 Three*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2017.

Smith, James K. A. *Thinking in Tongues: Pentecostal Contributions to Christian Philosophy*.   
 Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

Stronstad, Roger J. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984.