

Lancaster Bible College  
Division of Biblical Education  
TH324 The Church and the Future  
Matt Blackmon ([mblackmon@lbc.edu](mailto:mblackmon@lbc.edu))  
Section A, Spring 2007

**I. Course Description**

Considered in this course are the nature, purposes, origin, and activities of the Universal and Local Church (Ecclesiology); and the nature and sequence of end-time events (Eschatology). Required course. 3 credits.

**II. Course Objectives**

- A. Develop a synthetic overview of the doctrines including central biblical passages,
- B. Appreciate their historical development including contemporary expression,
- C. Learn to better articulate your beliefs in a reasoned and balanced fashion, and
- D. More fully integrate your beliefs into your walk with God and ministry.

**III. Course Requirements**

- A. Reading (30 points)  
Your reading will be reported periodically throughout the semester as noted below.  
*Christian Theology* by McGrath, 4th ed. [pp. 65-98, 391-485]  
*The Master's Plan for the Church* by MacArthur [entire book]  
*Things to Come* by Pentecost [chapters 1-4, 10-13, 22, 33]  
*Three Views on the Millennium* ed. Bock [entire book]  
Online Reading as assigned on the course web site
- B. Ideal/Real Project (60 points)  
Each student will prepare a project measuring his or her own local church against what he or she articulates to be biblical ideals. Each project should be 20 to 30 pages long (double spaced, 12 point font) and **follow the format distributed as an appendix to this syllabus**. Students are encouraged to work together, provided they are addressing a single church. Each component has due dates through the semester.
- C. Eschatology Unit Exam (10 points)  
This exam will be during Finals Week and will cover only eschatology.

**IV. Course Procedures.** I reserve the right to adjust this syllabus as I deem necessary.

- A. Attendance will be according to the LBC policy in the student handbook.
- B. The Grading Scale will be according to the LBC policy in the student handbook.
- C. Quiet Period. During the 24 hours before an assignment I will not answer most questions regarding the nature and implementation of that assignment assuming these questions should have been addressed in advance.
- D. Email. Make sure that [matt@mattblackmon.com](mailto:matt@mattblackmon.com) and [mblackmon@lbc.edu](mailto:mblackmon@lbc.edu) are on your "white hat" or non-spam lists. You should check your email frequently for course updates.
- E. The ideal/real project components will **not** be accepted late.
- G. Recording (either audio or videotaping) of the course is not permitted without my written permission in advance. This includes capturing by computer or MP3 devices.

H. Please set all cell phone, pagers, etc. to silent mode. If you must receive a call during class, please step outside to answer it. If you must leave early, please be seated in an area where your leaving will cause minimal disturbance.

I. Disabilities: Any student who has a disability which falls within ADA guidelines or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who desires to use accommodations to accomplish the requirements of this course must first submit documentation to the Director of Disabilities Services in the Reaching Academic Potential (RAP) Center.

If you have not already met with the Director, or have questions about the documentation needed to qualify for accommodations, please contact the Director to schedule an appointment. The Disability Services Office is located in the front left quadrant of the library in the hallway next to the elevator and the phone number is 560-8200, ext. 5383.

It is to your advantage to arrange a meeting as soon as possible, so that accommodations can be determined without undue delay. After meeting with you and reviewing the documentation, the Director will determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for this course and will inform me of this in writing. After I receive the information, I will ask you to make an appointment with me, if needed, to discuss how the accommodations can best be delivered.

J. Contact Information: I want to get to know you. My office hours are MWF mornings, but I am available many other times as well—just come by. You can also almost always reach me quickest by email. Any of the addresses work equally well in terms of speed of response.

Office: 717-560-8200 x5354                      [mblackmon@lbc.edu](mailto:mblackmon@lbc.edu)  
Home: 717-431-9318 (I am usually available between 8:30 and 11:00 pm)

## VI. Course Schedule and Significant Dates (Subject to change as deemed necessary)

### Unit 1: The Church (1/22 - 4/4)

Deadline for Church and Team Selection for Ideal/Real Project (1/31)  
Reading Deadline for McGrath (pp. 65-98), MacArthur, and Online Reading (3/2)  
First submission of Ideal Section (3/9)  
First submission of Real Section (4/4)

### Unit 2: The Future (4/11 - 5/4)

Final completed Ideal/Real Project Submission (4/30)  
Unit Exam on the Future (Eschatology) (Finals Week)  
Reading Deadline for McGrath (pp. 391-485), Pentecost, and Bock (Finals Week)

## VI. Course Bibliography

A selected bibliography is available on the course website: [www.mattblackmon.com/th324.htm](http://www.mattblackmon.com/th324.htm)