

# **THST 647: Human Nature and Destiny**

MAPM Intensive September 25-28, 2023

Instructor: Ante Jeroncic

Last update: July 24, 2023 [The most recent version of the syllabus is accessible through the course LearningHub page. Make sure to check that version before completing any assignments.]

# SYNOPSIS OF THE COURSE

# CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class Location: Apopka SDA Church, Apopka, FL

Meeting Times: September 25-28, M-R 08:30-17:30

Course Website: <u>LearningHub</u>

Instructor Contact: <a href="mailto:jeroncic@andrews.edu">jeroncic@andrews.edu</a>

**Appointments:** Calendly (click to schedule appointments)

# **BULLETIN DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

Origin of humanity, the fall, and sin—its nature and effect. The nature of man, the doctrine of immortality. Man and woman as the image of God.

#### More About the Course

"There can be no theology of the incarnation which does not become a theology of the cross. As soon as you say incarnation, you say cross. God did not become man according to the measure of

our conceptions of being a man. He became the kind of man we do not want to be: an outcast, accursed, crucified. Ecce homo! Behold the man! is... a confession of faith which recognizes God's humanity in the dehumanized Christ on the cross."—Jürgen Moltmann

The task of understanding human beings is one of bewildering complexity. Not only do various religions and philosophies present different visions of what it means to be human, but there are also numerous vantage points from which the question can be approached. Thus, we have biological, neuroscientific, psychological, sociological, and other perspectives, each with its own slants and methodologies. It is within this broader context that theological anthropology seeks to articulate a biblically faithful account of personhood in the light of creation, redemption, and consummation.



That such a task should be of significance for ministry goes without saying. There is always a particular anthropology at work in everything we do, often implicitly so. Questions such as, "What drives human beings?" or "What wholeness does God's word promise?" or perhaps "What is the meaning of human life?" are essential to pastoral concerns.

In this class, we will explore these and other issues by focusing on the existential dimensions of theological anthropology. That is, we will primarily be concerned with the lived experience of what it means to be human in light of the Scriptures. To that end, we will propose a christocentric approach, signified in Pilates's words, "Behold the man!"

# **PROGRAM & COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Your degree program seeks to help you achieve the **Program Learning Outcomes** basic to your chosen profession. Your Program Learning Outcome primarily addressed in this course is:

#### **MAM Program Outcomes**

- 1. Delivers effective biblically based sermons.
- 2. Demonstrates proper biblical interpretation skills.
- 3. Understands the historical—theological development of the Adventist Church.

(The full set of program learning outcomes for your degree program is listed in Appendix #1)

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Gain foundational knowledge pertaining to the doctrine of humanity,

- 2. Appreciate the significance of theological and biblical anthropology for ministry,
- 3. Differentiate the range of Christian approaches to the doctrine of humanity,
- 4. Develop critical reading skills of theological concepts,
- 5. Evaluate the theological ideas and concepts of documents pertaining to the doctrine of humanity.

# **COURSE MATERIALS**

#### **Required Course Materials**

Cortez, Marc. <u>ReSourcing Theological Anthropology</u>: A Constructive Account of Humanity in the Light of Christ. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. [RTA]

Smith, James K. A. On the Road with St. Augustine. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2019. [ORA]

For ISBN and price information, please see the listing at the AU Bookstore www.andrews.edu/bookstore.

# **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs).

# **PRE-INTENSIVE COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Note:** Students should complete all assignments and submit them in the pertinent LearningHub dropbox. Please take note of the deadlines for the respective sections.

#### 1. READING REFLECTIONS

The purpose of these assignments is to help the participants acquire a good knowledge of some of the issues *before* we begin our study in class. The more students know before we meet, the more fulfilling our class discussions and learning experience will be.

With that in mind, you are asked to complete the assigned readings and then turn in reading reflections as indicated below. The reflection should be between 200 and 250 words in length and should include a critical evaluation and at least one point of personal appropriation (implication for ministry, spiritual significance, sermon idea, etc.).

- **Reading Reflection 1**: RTA, ch. 1 & 2. *Read both chapters but respond to one.*
- **Reading Reflection 2**: RTA, ch. 3 & 4. *Read both chapters but respond to one.*
- Reading Reflection 3: RTA, ch. 5 & 8. Read both chapters but respond to one.

- **Reading Reflection 4**: ORA, Intro, ch. 1 & 2. Read all chapters but respond to one.
- **Reading Reflection 5:** ORA, ch. 3 & 4. *Read both chapters but respond to one.*
- **Reading Reflection 6**: ORA, ch.5 & 7. *Read both chapters but respond to one.*
- **Reading Reflection 7**: ORA, ch. 8 & 10. Read both chapters but respond to one.
- Reading Reflection 8: ORA, ch. 12 & 13. Read both chapters but respond to one.

Type your reflections in the appropriate LearningHub dropbox. There will be a multiple-choice question for each submission asking you to give a report on how much you have read of the respective material. The report will be graded.

**Note**: There will be a 20% deduction for submissions after the <u>due date of Friday, September 22</u>. No assignments will be accepted <u>after October 24</u>.

#### 2. VIEW LECTURES

You are asked to view <u>three lectures</u> *before* our intensive. The links are provided in the LearningHub. You are asked to give a report in the appropriate LearningHub form on what you have covered. The lectures will be debriefed and discussed during the intensive.

Note: Viewing reports will be accepted only until September 24.

# REQUIREMENTS DURING THE INTENSIVE (SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023)

#### 1. MAPM INTENSIVE SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:30	Introduction	Review & Elaboration	Review & Elaboration	Review & Elaboration
9:30	L1: Secular Age	L4: The Image of God	L7: Embodiment	L10: Pride & Desire
10:30	CD: Smith on Taylor	CD: Image of God	CD: Embodiment	CD: Girard & Desire
11:30	L2: Postmodern Self	L5: What is a Person?	L8: Habits	L11: Violence & Peace
	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
14:00	L3: Contours of TA	L6: Sacredness of HL	L9: Liturgical Formation	L12: Exile & Hospitality
15:00	Review & Elaboration	Review & Elaboration	Review & Elaboration	Review & Elaboration
16:00	CD: Self & Ministry	CD: Sacredness of HL	CD: Liturgical Formation	L13: The Cruciform Self
17:00	AMA/Debrief	AMA/Debrief	AMA/Debrief	AMA/Debrief

**Note:** The schedule is subject to revision based on class dynamics.

#### 2. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Throughout the intensive you will be asked to give oral responses to questions posed in class. The questions may pertain to the reading material assigned for the given class period or to wider issues raised in the course.

While there is obviously a subjective component to that, I ask myself the following sort of questions when assigning the grade:

- Did the student have the pertinent reading material at hand needed for class discussions?
- Was he or she able to give responses to questions without consulting the text first?
- How did the student connect his or her answer with other class material?
- Was the student alert and ready to contribute?
- Did the student respect the opinions of others?
- Did the student use electronic devices in a way that honors the class contract? (See Appendix #4). Note: the usage of electronic devices implies automatic consent to the stipulated class policy.

Let me illustrate how I will grade this section:

- "For most of the intensive, the student used his/her electronic devices in a way that breaches class policy" [approx. 40% of category grade deducted]
- "The student took almost no notes and failed to bring class material to class." [approx. 30% of category grade deducted]
- "The student regularly failed to answer even simple follow-up questions." [approx. 30% of category grade deducted]

*Pedagogical function*: Foster the students' ability to think quickly on their feet and connect class material under pressure. It also allows me to probe areas of unclarity and assess what needs to be additionally reviewed or explained.

# **POST-INTENSIVE COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Note:** All post-intensive assignments (PP presentation and need to be completed **by December 1**, except the final exam, which is due **December 10**.

## 1. CLASS PROJECT: PP Presentation

This assignment asks you to prepare a PP presentation on a preselected audience of your choice, e.g., a youth group, congregation, evangelistic audience, a seminar for your leaders, etc. Here are the directions:

- 1. This should be a <u>new presentation</u>, rather than recycling old material. As with everything else in the class, this should be your independent work. Please do not breach the classes academic integrity policy by utilizing someone else's material.
- 2. Please specify your target audience and the outcome you envision for your talk.
- 3. The presentation you are preparing for is 60 min. in length.
- 4. In addition to the course material, you should utilize a minimum of <u>two additional</u> books on the topic. Specify those sources on the last slide of the presentation
- 5. The text font in the slides should be a minimum of 32 pts.
- 6. See **Appendix 2** for the grading rubric.

There are innumerable topics you could choose from. Here are but just some examples:

- "Jesus: The True Human"
- "The Quest for Meaning"
- "What is Conscience?"
- "Sin and Human Will"
- "The Great Controversy and Human Desiring"
- etc.

I encourage you to prepare a presentation that you can legitimately anticipate utilizing in your ministry.

**Note**: Late assignments, whether you choose the sermon or essay, will be accepted up to one week after the due date with a 20% deduction.

#### 2. VIEW PRE-RECORDED PRESENTATIONS

You are asked to view <u>3 presentations</u> *after* our intensive. The links are provided in the LearningHub. You will need to give a report on what you have covered.

**Note**: Late reports will be accepted up to one week after the due date with a 20% deduction.

#### 3. FINAL EXAM

The final exam is a take-home exam to be submitted **by 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 10** in the LearningHub.

Note: No late submissions will be accepted. Treat the deadline as you would an ordinary exam day.

Please adhere to the following stipulations in crafting your exam responses:

1. Specify the word count at the bottom of each of the responses. Failure to do so will lead to a 5% grade deduction on the exam. The required word count per question is specified in the exam handout (see LearningHub).

- 2. Please do not use any extended quotations; in fact, keep the quotations to a minimum. Quotes do not count toward the required word count.
- 3. Reference the readings parenthetically, e.g., (Smtih, 34).
- 4. Reference class slides simply as PP, i.e., (PP).
- 5. Please submit your exam in the appropriate LearningHub dropbox (Word format).
- 6. You will need to sign the class Honor Code as a part of your exam submission. The code is posted in the LearningHub and will also be provided in class. Please do not attach it to your file submission in the LH LearningHub.

Note: Plagiarized exams will receive an automatic F grade of 0%.

See **Appendix 4** for the final exam grading rubric.

*Pedagogical function*: Enables students to critically reflect, in a synthetic matter, on the course material by exploring fundamental themes.

# TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

## **US Credit-Hour Regulations**

For every semester credit, the Andrews University credit hour definition requires that:

- Courses for professional masters' degrees (e.g., MDiv) include 15 instructor contact hours and 30 hours of independent learning activities.
- Courses for academic masters' (e.g., MA [Religion]) and all doctoral degrees include 15 instructor contact hours, and 45 hours of independent learning activities.

The calculation of hours is based on the study skills of the average well-prepared graduate student. Students weak in these skills: 1) may require more time and should consider taking fewer classes each semester; and 2) can find skill development assistance through the Seminary Study and Research Skills Colloquia, the AU Writing Center, and AU Student Success office.

In order to achieve the outcomes of this course, learning time will be distributed as follows:

Professional Masters' Programs					
3 Credits					
Instructor Contact Hours	Face to Face Instructional Time	36 hrs			
	Pre- and Post-Intensive Recorded Lectures	9 hrs			
	Pre-Intensive Reading and Reflections	70 hrs			

Independent Learning Activities	Post-Intensive Project	20 hrs
Total Hours:		135 hrs

# **GUIDELINES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

Based on the course overview, here are important deadlines to keep in mind:

Pre-intensive reading reflection: September 22
Pre-intensive recorded lectures: September 24
Post-intensive recorded lectures: December 3
Project: December 3
Final Exam: December 10

# **Letter Grades and Percentages**

Grades are based on the independent learning activities below which provide practice toward, and assessment of, the learning outcomes of this course. The grade weighting for each assignment is provided in the right-hand column. Specific due dates and assignment descriptions are given in the Course Overview above.

The breakdown for determining the final grade is as follows:

Total	100%
Final exam	30%
Participation	10%
Project	30%
Listening to recorded lectures	10%
Pre-intensive reading reflections	20%
Attending class lectures	Required for final grade

Grading system (in percentages)						
A: 94-100	B+: 87-90.99	B-: 80-82.99	C: 74-76.99	D: 65-69.99		
A-: 91-93.99	B: 83-86.99	C+: 77-79.99	C-: 70-73.99	F: 0-64.99		

**No Deferred Grade (DG)** will be issued for MAPM students.

#### THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

#### THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

#### THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

#### THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

#### THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed.

# Incomplete (I)

In the event that you cannot complete the course, please contact the professor and inform him that you are unable to complete your course and state your reasons. For more details, please read the bulletin information below.

**I—Incomplete.** An Incomplete (I) indicates that the student's work is incomplete because of illness or unavoidable circumstances and not because of negligence or inferior performance. Students will be charged an incomplete fee for each incomplete grade issued.

An Incomplete may be given when the instructor and the student agree to terms stated in an Incomplete Contract. The Incomplete is given to a student when the major portion of the work

for the course has been completed. The contract states (1) the remaining work to be completed, (2) a plan with timelines for completion of the work, (3) the time limit, and (4) the grade the student will receive if the work is not completed by the agreed-upon time.

Ordinarily, an Incomplete shall be removed during the following semester. However, an Incomplete contracted in the spring semester may be extended to the autumn semester. Any request for an extension of time beyond the contracted time shall be made in writing before the end of the contracted date and approved by the dean of the college/school in which the course is offered. The number of I's on a student's record affects the student's class and workload.

# No extra work will be given to improve one's final grade.

Grades are based on the independent learning activities below which provide practice toward, and assessment of, the learning outcomes of this course. The grade weighting for each assignment is provided in the right-hand column. Specific due dates are given in the Course Overview above.

In order to make grading fair for everyone, grades will be assigned on the basis of the above requirements alone. No individual arrangements will be made for those requesting last minute accommodations.

# Language and Grammar

There is an expectation that a student enrolled in a graduate program possesses advanced written language skills, particularly in the language in which the degree is acquired. Thus, no special consideration will be given to English as a second language learners or native-English speakers who have yet to obtain mastery in written English. Such students are advised to seek the assistance of the campus writing lab or procure the services of an editor prior to the submission of their assignments. *Tips for success* include reading your assignments aloud and having someone else do likewise prior to submission. This practice will provide you with immediate feedback on your written assignments.

# **OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES**

#### **Academic Integrity**

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by

the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

# Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas
  or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is
  to be given by use of:
  - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
  - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic\_integrity.html

#### **Academic Accommodations**

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (<u>disabilities@andrews.edu</u> or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

#### **Communications and Updates**

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

#### LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

# **Emergency Protocol**

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at <a href="https://www.learninghub.andrews.edu">www.learninghub.andrews.edu</a>.

# ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Ante Jeroncic's scholarship and teaching focus on the intersection of constructive Adventist theology and culture, especially as it relates to contemporary issues in theological and philosophical anthropology. Most basically, he is interested in questions of how humans as moral agents understand and relate to the world, and how that in turn informs (or ought to inform) our understanding of ethics, discipleship, ministry, and life in general.



Professor Jerončić strongly believes that the depth and relevance of the Adventist faith needs to be communicated in fresh and creative ways both within the Church and the culture at large. To that end, he frequently gives lectures and seminars focusing on themes such as Adventist identity, discipleship in the modern world, the character of God and human suffering, and the Sermon on the Mount. He is married to Debbie to whom he feels indebted beyond what words can express.

# **APPENDIX 1: PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

#### **MA IN PASTORAL MINISTRY**

- 1. Deliver effective biblically-based sermons
- 2. Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills
- 3. Understand the historical-theological development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 4. Exhibit capability for training church members for evangelism
- 5. Demonstrate an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership
- 6. Exhibit capability for reaching specific social groups

# **APPENDIX 2: PP PROJECT RUBRIC**

Overall Assessment	Excellent 96-100%   "Splendid!" 5 points	Very Good 90-95%  "Good job!" <i>4 points</i>	Good 80-89%   "Meets the requirement." 3 points	Satisfactory 70- 79%   "Not quite on par with the requirement." 2 points	Unsatisfactory 65-69%   "Misses the point of the assignment."  1 points	No Submission O points
Content	Excellent, well-documented content either in the slides themselves or the notes section.	Good content free from typos either in the slides or the notes section. 47 points	The slides are somewhat lacking in meaningful content.  45 points	The slides are either riddled with mistakes, or are significantly lacking in content or perhaps both.	Hard to see what the presentation is about. Filled with mistakes. 35 points	No submission. O points
Design	Slides have an exceedingly clear and creative design. Very attractive!	Slides have a nice look and are quite clear. Quite a good joy. 32 points	The topic of the presentation is evident, but slides like in clarity or visual appeal or perhaps both.  30 points	The topic is discernable, but the slides are bland in their visual appeal or lacking in content or perhaps both. 28 points	Visually and content-wise, it is hard to imagine an audience that would find the slides appealing.  25 points	No submission or contains plagiarized material. Points given for curving purposes. 22 points
Integration with Course Material	A number of good references that fit the presentation.  10 points		To few references or references not quite fitting the presentation. 7 points		Integration with course material missing. 2 points	
Length	Required slides count.  0 points		Missing a couple of slides -3 points		Not enough slides. Probably less than 2010 points	
Submission	Timely submission O points			Late submission -20 points		

# **APPENDIX 3: FINAL EXAM RUBRIC**

Criteria/Competency Grammar/Style	Outstanding   96- 100% 5 points Excellent prose	Very Good   90- 95% 4 points Good prose	Good   80 3 points A couple		Satisfactory   70- 79% 2 points A good number of	Unsatisfactory   < 65% 1 points Filled with	
Grammar/Style	without grammar or spelling mistakes. Integration with course vocabulary outstanding.  15 points	without grammar or spelling mistakes, with a few exceptions possibly.  13 points	grammati and/or sty mistakes. 11 points	cal /listic	mistakes.  9 points	numerous mistakes. 7 points	
Structure/Flow	Excellent organization of all the answers with strong paragraph transitions. The flow is impeccable.  20 points	Good structure with decent flow and transitions. It is easy to follow along. Some answers might be weaker than others.  18 points	A discernable flow, but some issues with organization, flow, and/or structure.  16 points		Major issues with flow and structure. Hard to follow the progression of thought.  14 points	Structure not discernable. Answers lack coherence.  12 points	
Comprehensiveness	The answers utilize all types of class material to an abundant degree, appropriately so, and well- referenced. 40 points	A solid amount of class material utilized, but perhaps missing some important references.  37 points	While references are present, they are either sparse or limited in scope.  34 points		Very few references on a narrow range of class material. 31 points	References are virtually non-existent.  25 points	
Creativity/Insightfulness	Highly creative and insightful, filled with insightful connections that go beyond what was presented in class.  20 points	A decent amount of insightful observations, with some creativity at display.  18 points	The exam is quite predictable in its structure where issues/authors are simply listed.  16 points		Lacks insightfulness and creativity and does not exhibit any deepening of the course material.  14 points	Not up to minimum standards expected from the exam.  12 points	
Length	Required word count.  O points	Incomplete word count in one answer, somewhere above 9005 points	Incomplete word count in two answers, or substantially less in one one of them10 points		Incomplete word count in all answers, or substantially missing in two, or one answer missing.  -25 points	The total requited word count for the whole exam is substantially less that is required.  -35 points	
Word Count	Provided 0 points				Not provided -2 points		

# **APPENDIX 4: ELECTRONIC DEVICES USAGE AGREEMENT**

The student is allowed to use a laptop, an iPad, or similar devices during class periods by agreeing to the following:

- 1. The electronic device should *only* be used for the purpose of note taking or accessing of class material.
- 2. The professor reserves the right to claim unplugged time pockets, i.e., parts of class periods when students will be asked to put their electronic devices aside.
- 3. If a student is repeatedly looking at the screen without taking notes, it will be assumed that laptop privileges are being misused and the participation grade stipulations go into effect.
- 4. The burden of proof that the device is not being misused lies on the student and not on the professor. I do not see your screens, only your eyes, and thus cannot be faulted for arriving at a wrong conclusion. From where I stand, it looks the same whether you are, let's say, using Wikipedia or watching a movie.

The usage of electronic devices implies consent to the stipulations above.