





G313 Pentecostalism and the Church of God: History, Thought, and Polity

3 credits. Prerequisites: G110 History of the Christian Era (*may be waived*)

 Directed Study with some  Online Video

Please note: This course includes six Zoom meetings with the instructor.

January 15 – April 19, 2024
Winter 2024

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Like a mighty army moves the Church of God!

NOTE: While there are no academic prerequisites, any student wishing to register for this course must ensure that they are otherwise qualified to receive credentialing in the Church of God. This includes being a member of the denomination in good standing and submitting to the process of being *set forth* by the local assembly. Further qualifications include:

- 1) Being baptized in the Spirit
- 2) Adherents to all teachings / doctrines set by the Church
- 3) Tithing
- 4) Actively engaged in ministry
- 5) Submitting a current Criminal Record Check to the State/Regional Overseer

Course Goals

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the history of Pentecostalism, including the historical antecedents of Pentecostalism and the early growth of the movement in North America. Emphasis is placed on the development of thought, practice, and polity within the context of the Church of God (Cleveland), from 1886 onward. The course will prepare students to complete the Exhorter's exam, an entry level requirement for licensure with the denomination of the Church of God.¹

Relationship to Horizon's Mission

This course will prepare students to competently serve as Exhorters within the Church of God by exposing them to the historical and current thought and polity embraced by the denomination,

¹ Note that in the context of this document, all references to the Church of God apply specifically to the Church of God – Cleveland, Tennessee.

and this within the context of the greater 20th century Pentecostal movement. This first level of licensure is offered to those that discern a call of God to vocational ministry and who have demonstrated budding leadership capabilities.

Core Competencies and Learning Outcomes



To demonstrate competency in Leadership and Administration, the student shall:

- 1) Explore and summarize the Church of God governmental structure at the international level, the state/regional level, and the local church level.
 - *Assessment:* Quizzes, Governmental Org Chart, Mock Interview, Exhorter's Exam
- 2) Articulate the doctrinal positions of the Church of God.
 - *Assessment:* Quizzes, Mock Interview, Exhorter's Exam
- 3) Analyze and understand Church of God polity, procedures, and practical commitments.
 - *Assessment:* Quizzes, Mock Interview, Exhorter's Exam
- 4) Compare and contrast their own understanding of denominational polity, practices, and theology with that of the Church of God.
 - *Assessment:* Ministerial Interview



To demonstrate Contextual Awareness, the student shall:

- 5) Summarize the contributions made by key individuals to the North American Pentecostal movement.
 - *Assessment:* Research Essay: Key Personalities and Events
- 6) Summarize the key moments that defined the inception and growth of the Church of God.
 - *Assessment:* Quizzes, Research Essay: Key Personalities, History of the Church of God Timeline, Exhorter's Exam

Course Work

Required Readings

Anderson, Allan Heaton. *An Introduction to Pentecostalism: Global Charismatic Christianity*. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. (ISBN: 978-1107660946)

- Selected readings cover 76 pages (Chapters 2, 3 and 10).
- Available on Populi.

Black, Daniel L, ed. *Minutes 2022 Church of God Book of Discipline, Church Order, and Governance*. Cleveland, TN: Pathway, 2022.

- Selected readings cover approximately 10 pages.
- Available from [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) (Kindle version) or <https://www.pathwaybookstore.com/item/minutes-22-general-assembly-hc/>. (To order, phone Pathway Order Department at 1-800-553-8506.)

Burgess, Stanley, ed., and Eduard M. van der Maas, ed. *The New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Revised and expanded edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. (ISBN: 9780310224815)

- Selected readings cover 20 pages.
- Available on Populi.

Church of God Exhorter Ministerial Licensure Study Guide. Cleveland, TN: Church of God Ministerial Development, 2023.

- Approximately 100 pages of text plus study questions.
- Available from <https://stores.mdsom.org/exhorter-printed-study-guide/>.

Conn, Charles W. *Like A Mighty Army: A History of the Church of God 1886-1996*. Cleveland, TN: Pathway, 2008. (ISBN: 978-1596843622)

- Selected readings cover approximately 60 pages.
- Available from <https://www.pathwaybookstore.com/item/like-a-mighty-army-tribute-editionpaperback/>. (To order, phone Pathway Order Department at 1-800-553-8506.)

**While students have the benefit of accessing many of their textbooks online through the [Digital Theological Library](#), they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library. For your convenience, Horizon has partnered with Kennedy's Parable to provide textbooks. Please note that some material will only be available from the sites listed above.

Course Assignments and Activities

1. Quizzes – 15%

Students shall take three online quizzes throughout the course to demonstrate mastery of the three key sections of the Church of God Exhorter's Exam: The Bible (and Calling), Church of God History, and Polity/Doctrine. Test material will be drawn from readings in the *2022 Minute Book*, *Like A Mighty Army*, and the *Exhorter Study Guide*.

- Related learning outcomes: #1, 2, 3, 6.
- **Assignment length:** One hour per quiz.
- **Due date:** January 29, February 15, March 28, 2024.

2. Research Essay: Key Personalities that Defined the Pentecostal Movement. – 15%

Students will research the following personalities, noting the contribution each made to the Pentecostal movement:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1) A. B. Simpson | 8) A. J. Tomlinson (Church of God and Church of God of Prophecy) |
| 2) B.H. Irwin | 9) Aimee Semple McPherson |
| 3) Agnes Ozman | 10) Kathryn Kuhlman |
| 4) Frank Bartleman | 11) William Branham |
| 5) Charles Parham | 12) Oral Roberts |
| 6) William Seymour | 13) Reinhard Bonnke |
| 7) T. B. Barrett | |

The essay length should be such that it includes an introduction, conclusion, and one paragraph on each personality. The research notes are available on Populi (*The New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*).

- To complete this assignment, students will follow these guidelines:
 - Follow the Horizon Format Guide.
 - Include an introduction, conclusion, and one paragraph on each personality for a total of 15 paragraphs.
 - Include a heading for each personality.
 - Include citations in footnotes when paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting from *The New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Include a bibliography.
- Related learning outcomes: #5, 6.
- **Assignment length:** 15 paragraphs.
- **Due date:** January 30, 2024.

3. *History of the Church of God Timeline* – 10%

Students shall identify and list the specific events associated with the inception and growth of the Church of God. Page one of this two-page timeline will include 20 of the key events occurring between 1886 and 1906. The second page will highlight 20 of the key events that occurred from 1906 to present. When choosing which events to include in each timeline, the student should select what they perceive to be the *most important* 20 moments in the movement during each time period. The research will be drawn from assigned readings in *Like a Mighty Army* and the *Church of God Exhorter Ministerial Licensure Study Guide*.

- To complete this assignment, students will follow these guidelines:
 - Submit a timeline that is clear and chronological.
 - Include 20 appropriate significant events for each time period.
- Related learning outcome: #6.
- **Assignment length:** Two pages.
- **Due date:** February 8, 2024.

4. *Governmental Org Chart* – 10%

Students will sketch out a complete denominational organizational chart, beginning with the General Overseer and ending at the local church level. This chart shall contain all of the major boards and committees associated with the denomination, including the international offices, the state/regional offices, the district level and the local church level. The org chart will indicate to whom each board and committee is accountable to. Research for this assignment will be drawn from the *Minutes 2022 Church of God Book of Discipline, Church Order, and Governance* and the *Church of God Exhorter Ministerial Licensure Study Guide*.

- To complete this assignment, students will follow these guidelines:
 - Submit an organizational chart that is clearly and logically structured.
- Related learning outcome: #1.
- **Assignment length:** One page.
- **Due date:** March 25, 2024.

5. *Mock Interview* – 10%

Students shall participate in a mock interview with the instructor, designed to mimic that which they will be exposed to during the credentialing process. The interview shall consist of a series

of questions designed to draw out the student's understanding of Church of God polity, doctrine, practical commitments, and calling. Several behavioral questions shall also be included. Immediately following the exam, a debrief session will be conducted to help students analyze their responses and glean valuable insight into the official denomination interview.

- Related learning outcomes: #1, 2, 3.
- **Assignment length:** Two hours.
- **Due date:** April 3, 2024.

6. Ministerial Interview – 15%

Throughout the duration of this course, students shall carefully critique the Church of God's theology, polity and practices noting areas in which they strongly agree and areas where their understanding may not be congruent with that of the denomination. Further, they will note any questions they may have regarding the practical working of a local church, including administration, theology and service design. This analysis should be distilled into a two-page point-form document. The student will select a Church of God ordained minister with pastoral experience and perform a one-hour interview in an attempt to glean insight and gain clarity into those areas that may trouble or baffle the student. The results of the interview will be presented to the instructor in an oral discussion.

- To complete this assignment, students will follow these guidelines:
 - Submit 2 pages of point-form notes.
 - Complete both the interview and oral discussion.
- Related learning outcome: #4.
- **Assignment length:** Two pages, three hours.
- **Due date:** Oral discussion to be scheduled during the week of April 1-5, 2024.

7. Church of God Exhorter's Exam – 25%

Each student will be required to write the Church of God Exhorter's Exam. The exam will need to be proctored. Contact the course instructor to make arrangements. The exam will cover a variety of denominational subjects including church history, polity, practical commitments, missions, declaration of faith and theology. Mastery of the material summarized in the *Exhorter Ministerial Licensure Study Guide* will be required to successfully complete the exam. Upon completion of the written exam, the student should contact the course instructor to make arrangements for an oral Zoom interview with the Regional Overseer, who will assess the student's aptness for credentialing by examining their general understanding of theology, polity and calling.

- Related learning outcomes: #1, 2, 3 and 6.
- **Assignment length:** Three hours.
- **Due date:** Exam due April 8, 2024.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

Readings	30 hrs		Assignment Weighting
Classroom time (6 Zoom meetings)	9 hrs		
Study for Exhorter's Exam	30 hrs		
1. Quizzes (prep and execution)	3 hrs	Jan 29, Feb 15, Mar 28	15%
2. Research Essay	6 hrs	January 30	15%
3. History of the Church of God Timeline	3 hrs	February 8	10%
4. Governmental Org Chart	3 hrs	March 25	10%

5. Mock Interview	3 hrs	April 3	10%
6. Ministerial Interview	2 hrs	April 1-5	15%
7. Church of God Exhorter's Exam	3 hrs	April 8	25%
Total =	92 hrs		

Assessment Rubrics

Assignment rubrics can be found on Populi. Click on the name of the assignment to access each rubric.

Course Outline & Reading Schedule

Class Date	Material
Monday, January 15, 2024 Zoom meeting	Course introduction, History of Pentecostalism Reading: New International Dictionary Pentecostal 1 Introduction to Global Pentecostalism: Early Church
Thursday, January 18, 2024	Pentecostal Antecedents (Previously recorded video lessons from G310 will be used in place of lecture time. See Lesson 2 in Populi.) Reading: New International Dictionary Pentecostal 2
Monday, January 22, 2024	Early Pentecostalism (Previously recorded video lessons from G310 will be used in place of lecture time. See Lesson 3 in Populi) Reading: New International Dictionary Pentecostal 3,4
Thursday, January 25, 2024	Reading: Introduction to Global Pentecostalism: N. America Introduction to Global Pentecostalism: Missions & Evangelism
Monday, January 29, 2024 Zoom meeting	History of the Church of God <i>Quiz 1</i>
Tuesday, January 30, 2024	<i>Research Essay: Key Personalities that Defined the Pentecostal Movement</i> is due.
Thursday, February 1, 2024	Global Pentecostal Perspective (Previously recorded video lessons from G310 will be used in place of lecture time. See Lesson 5 in Populi)
Monday, February 5, 2024	Reading: Like A Mighty Army (Pages 1-68, 1886-1906: Early history) Exhorters Study Manual (93-112: Summary of history to present)
Thursday, February 8, 2024 Zoom meeting	Doctrinal position of the Church of God <i>History of the Church of God Timeline</i> is due
Monday, February 12, 2024	Reading: Exhorters Study Manual (303-379: Church of God doctrine)
Thursday, February 15, 2024	<i>Quiz 2</i>
Monday, February 19, 2024	Family Day
Thursday, February 22, 2024 Zoom meeting	Church of God Distinctives (Practical Commitments)

Monday, March 11, 2024	Reading: Exhorters Study Manual (11-77, Practical Commitments) Church of God 2018 Minute Book (24-34, Practical Commitments)
Thursday, March 21, 2024 Zoom meeting	Church of God Leadership and Polity
Monday, March 25, 2024	<i>Governmental Org Chart</i> is due
Thursday, March 28, 2024 Zoom meeting	Church of God Leadership and Polity <i>Quiz 3</i>
Wednesday, April 3, 2024	<i>Mock Interview</i>
Friday, April 5, 2024	<i>Ministerial Interview</i> is due
Monday, April 8, 2024	Write the Church of God Exhorters Exam

Revisions:

- Since this is a DE course, revisions will be requested throughout the semester. Watch your rubrics for due dates for revisions.
- No resubmission of assignments will be accepted after April 18, 2024.

Academic Policies**General Assignment Guidelines**

Please see the Horizon [Format Guide](#) for assignment submission, grammar, and formatting guidelines.

Late Assignments and Extensions

Students are expected to submit work by the assigned due dates, as part of their development of the Leadership and Administration competency. To submit extension requests, students must submit the [Assignment Extension Request Form on Populi](#) and *before the due date*. Professors may grant extensions in the case of extenuating circumstances, such as significant illness or a family emergency. Furthermore, no extensions will be granted beyond the final day of a term or semester unless approval is granted by the Dean of the College.

Unexcused late submissions will be tracked across each student's program. If one assignment is submitted more than five days late or if a student incurs multiple instances of unexcused late submissions, it will result in academic discipline, such as required tutoring, academic probation, failure of the course, or failure to qualify for graduation. Similar to standard human resource employment practices, students will receive warnings and conditions with increasing severity of academic discipline.

Assignment Completion

Professors usually will not accept assignments that have not been completed according to the instructions given in the syllabus. If a professor informs a student that a submitted assignment is incomplete, the student will be given the opportunity to complete and resubmit the assignment quickly. If this is not possible, the assignment will be regarded as submitted late.

Assignment Revisions

Students can generally submit up to two revisions for each assignment, although a professor may accept more revisions if the professor determines the student is addressing all of the professor's instructions and making significant progress toward achieving competency.

Horizon College Assessment of Student Work

The goal of courses is to help students develop their competency, not earn letter grades. Assignments are the means by which instructors evaluate development of competency by assessing learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus and each assignment rubric. Once a student's assignment has met all competency requirements, the professor will assign a grade for that assignment. Likewise, a final course grade is not calculated until the end of the course. Students pass a course (with a B- or higher) only after they have demonstrated that they have *met or exceeded all competency requirements* for that course and, therefore, only after they have passed all assignments.

Horizon CBE Scale		Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point	U of S Equivalency
E	Exceeding expectations	Student demonstrated exceptional achievement of the learning outcomes.	A+	4.0	90-100
			A	4.0	85-89
			A-	3.7	80-84
M	Meeting expectations	Student demonstrated good achievement of the learning outcomes.	B+	3.3	77-79
			B	3.0	73-76
			B-	2.7	70-72

If the student does not meet all competency requirements in a course and, therefore, does not pass all the assignments in a course, the course will not be sufficient to fulfill their program requirements at Horizon. Nevertheless, for transferability purposes, the student will receive a letter grade of C+ or below according to the scale below.

BTM	Beginning to meet expectations	Student was beginning to meet learning outcomes.	C+	2.3	67-69
			C	2.0	63-66
			C-	1.7	60-62
NYM	Not yet meeting expectations	Student made insufficient progress toward meeting learning outcomes.	D+	1.3	57-59
			D	1.0	53-56
			D-	0.7	50-52
			F	0.0	0-49

Academic Integrity

Students learn best when practicing academic integrity. A lack of integrity is displayed in acts such as deception, abuse of confidentiality, cheating, inappropriate collaboration, or plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the words or ideas of another person or an artificial intelligence (AI) tool in such a way as to give others the impression that it is their own words or ideas. In academic writing, there should be no doubt which words or ideas are the student's and which are drawn from other sources or AI. Students are expected to submit their own original work and give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even

ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the [Student Handbook](#).

Accessible Learning Services Information

Horizon aims to provide an accessible learning environment for all our students. If you would benefit from learning accommodations due to temporary or ongoing physical or mental health conditions or learning disabilities, please contact us as soon as possible to schedule a conversation. In all cases we ask that you provide current [documentation](#) of the disability or condition you wish to disclose. Horizon takes appropriate care to ensure confidentiality about any such disclosures. For more information, contact Richelle Bekkattla, Horizon's Library Technician, at library@horizon.edu.

Use of Technology

Horizon encourages the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.
- In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media.

Bibliography

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- Palma, Anthony D. *The Holy Spirit: A Pentecostal Perspective*. Springfield, MO: Gospel, 2001.
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- Sheeks, Bill. *Winning Everyone: A Comprehensive Guide to Local Church Evangelism*. Cleveland, TN: Church of God Evangelism and Home Missions, 1993.
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- Tomberlin, Daniel. *Pentecostal Sacraments: Encountering God at the Altar*. Cleveland, TN: Centre for Pentecostal Leadership and Care, 2010.