

# Brethren Doctrine Course Schedule (2023) - Revised

Instructor: Dr. Brenda B. Colijn

Unit	Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments
1	May 9	Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – Introduction, chapters 1-2<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Brethren Doctrine: Course Schedule</li> <li>• <i>How Brethren Understand God's Word</i> (entire)</li> <li>• Colijn – “The Big Story that Theology Tells”<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Colijn – “Denomination Chart”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Theological Starting Points and Hermeneutical Preunderstandings”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Incarnational Hermeneutics”</li> <li>• “Being Brethren”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
2	May 16	Jesus and the Kingdom of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapters 3, 5-6</li> <li>• Colijn – “A Brief History of Theology”</li> <li>• <i>Centennial Statement</i> (entire)</li> <li>• Moore – “The Place of Jesus in Brethren Spirituality”</li> <li>• Colijn – “The Kingdom of God”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Jesus’ Mission”</li> <li>• Stoffer – “Brethren Groups”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
3	May 23	The Triune God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapters 7-8</li> <li>• Flora – “Why a Church Called Brethren?”</li> <li>• Stoffer – “Evangelical Anabaptist”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Word and Spirit”</li> <li>• Colijn – “What Brethren Believe”</li> <li>• “Summaries of Brethren Distinctives”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
4	May 30	Creation and Humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapter 9</li> <li>• Colijn – “Divine Sovereignty and Free Will”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Deification in the Anabaptist Tradition”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
5	June 6	Sin and Evil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapter 10</li> <li>• Colijn – “Views of Original Sin”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Approaches to Theodicy”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Chapters are listed from the first edition of the book; if you have the revised edition, adapt as appropriate.

<sup>2</sup> Most, but not all, of the readings listed under Colijn are handouts.

6	June 13	Atonement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapter 11</li> <li>• Colijn – “Why Did Jesus Come?”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Atonement”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Theories of Atonement”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Selected Biblical Passages”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Incalculable Grace”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
7	June 20	Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapter 12</li> <li>• Colijn – “Theological Perspectives on Salvation”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Three Tenses of Salvation”</li> <li>• Colijn – “New Birth into a Living Hope”</li> <li>• Colijn – “TULIP vs. FAITH”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Wright and Traditional View on Justification”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
8	June 27	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapters 13-14</li> <li>• Colijn – “Election and Predestination”</li> <li>• Dulles – “Models of the Church”</li> <li>• Niebuhr – “Christ and Culture”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
9	July 4	Ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapter 15</li> <li>• Yoder – “The Value of the Ordinances”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Brethren and the Hermeneutical Community”</li> <li>• Colijn – “Views of Baptism and Communion”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>
10	July 11	Eschatology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoffer – chapter 16, Conclusion</li> <li>• Colijn – “Evangelical Brethren Eschatology”</li> <li>• “Alexander Mack on Universal Restoration”</li> <li>• “Four Views of the Millennium”</li> <li>• <b>Bring two questions for discussion.</b></li> </ul>

### Assignment after the course (due August 11):

In a 5-7-page paper, respond to the following questions:

- What does it mean for the Brethren to be noncreedal?
- Brethren have distinctive views in the areas of salvation and the church. Describe the salvation process as Brethren understand it. Describe the Brethren understanding of the nature and practices of the church.
- To what extent are you in agreement with Brethren doctrine as it has been described in this course? Do you have any areas of concern? If you do, how will you address these concerns?