



Online Degrees.
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Introducing a New Course!

HOUSE OF STUDIES

How Oswald Bayer's Theology Influences Us Today

Starts on June 21st, 2022 • Monday–Friday at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In-Person at the ILT Campus in Brookings, SD or Online.

Sign up now by contacting Joel Williams at jwilliams@ilt.edu.

About the Course:

Oswald Bayer is one of the most important German Lutheran theologians within the last half century. In contrast to mediating or secularizing theologies, which reduces theology either to a comprehensive morality (Kant) or a philosophical “system” (Hegel) or religious motivation (Schleiermacher or Feuerbach) Bayer affirms theology as both experiential and sapiential, both informing and returning to worship life, as the “grammar of the language of the Holy Spirit.” He understands the gospel as being able to relieve modern humans of the overwhelming responsibilities that they place upon themselves in order to create an ideal world. His legacy results in a vibrant Lutheran response to various ecumenical engagements, worship life and preaching, and articulating Christian doctrine. Through a close reading of Bayer’s most important theological texts, we will seek to access where and how his theology should influence contemporary theology and ecclesial policies.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Articulate key concepts in Bayer’s theology and how it bears upon his approach to ecumenical relations, worship and pastoral ministry.
- Explore opportunities for applying insights gleaned from Bayer for one’s personal and professional circumstances.
- Specify the historical, cultural and theological contexts of Bayer’s work.
- Assess the arguments Bayer provides for his various stances.
- Scrutinize Bayer’s key emphases, themes and doctrines.

About the Professor:

Mark Mattes is a Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. He is the author of *Martin Luther’s Theology of Beauty*, *The Role of Justification in Contemporary Theology*, *Imaging the Journey* and *Law and Gospel in Action*.

