



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/333-6254

THE510 *Introduction to Christian Theology* Fall 2009

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information. Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

Professor: Rev. Philip R. Hamner, BA, MDiv
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Catalog Description

This course is a survey of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. Attention will be given to the mastery of a foundational theological construct and the development of a theologically-oriented glossary. The course is foundational to the student's ability to work theologically in the fields of Christian education and missiology.

Course Narrative & Rationale

This course intends to provide a basis for further study in Christian theology. Therefore, the course will include a basic theological grammar, a treatment of the fundamental issues confronting the Christian faith, treatment of the major theologians of the West, and a basic understanding of the relevance of theology for pastoral ministry. Underlying all of this will be a perspective on theology as a disciplined reflection on the forms of life engendered by Word and Spirit.

Course Outcomes

This course intends to:

- Treat the basic doctrines that comprise the Christian tradition;
- Treat the major voices in the Christian tradition;
- Make the student aware of the major theological works in Western Christianity; and
- Provide a basis for further theological education.

Required Texts & Course Materials

Alister McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Fourth Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2007.

Alister McGrath, *The Christian Theology Reader*. Third Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2007.

N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 2006.

Course Outline

- Unit 1 - Landmarks: Periods, Themes, and Personalities of Christian Theology
- Unit 2 - Sources and Methods
- Unit 3 - Christian Theology

Course Assignments & Requirements

Theological essays: Each student will do two theological essays. These essays should be around ten pages each. Each essay will be worth 100 points. Total possible points; 100. Criteria for evaluation: clarity of the description - 35 pts, strength of the critical analysis - 30 pts, reflection upon class lecture and assigned reading - 25 pts, and quality of writing - 10 pts.

Research paper: Each graduate student will write a research paper (minimum 4000 words/maximum 5000 words) on a topic approved by the professor. The topic must reflect a theme associated with Christian theology. Criteria for evaluation: grasp of issues - 70 pts, use of appropriate primary and secondary sources- 30pts, integration of material treated in class - 25 pts, clarity of argument, grammatical issue -15 pts. Total points - - 140 points. **Due Date: December 10th by 11:59 p.m.**

Participation: The quality of this class is dependent upon the active participation of each member of the class. A student can participate in class in three ways: a) comments/question made in class, b) Moodle forum and c) Roundtable discussion during last class day. This assignment will be 100 points. Criteria for evaluation: Degree of insight in questions/comments - 50 pts; Connection of comments/questions to assigned reading - 25 pts; and Spread of comments/questions over the semester - 25 points. You may participate in the class until Friday, December 11th.

Method for Submitting Assignments

Relevant Academic Policies

1. All work will be due no later than **Tuesday, December 15th @ 11:59pm.**
2. All work must be uploaded to Moodle Assignments section of the course.

3. All work submitted late will be reduced by 20%. Any exception to this must be approved by the instructor prior to the due date. Normally, the only requests that will be approved will be for illness, death in the family, etc.
4. All work must be submitted through the assignments function of Moodle set up for this class.
5. An Incomplete will be given for this class only in rare circumstances. If for some reason an incomplete is allowed, the final grade will be reduced by one letter grade.
6. All grades are open to reasonable and respectful review.
7. It is expected that all work turned in for this class reflect the labors of the person whose name appears on the paper. If there is any evidence to the contrary of this the student will receive a zero for the assignment. This includes any cheating on an examination.

Course Grading

Grade Scale

A 440-396
 B 395-352
 C 351-308
 D 307-264
 F 263-000

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Unit	Assignment
9/14	1	1-Landmarks: Periods, Themes, and Personalities of Christian Theology	McGrath: Chapters 1 and 2
9/21	2	1-Landmarks: Periods, Themes, and Personalities of Christian Theology	McGrath: Chapters 3 and 4 Reader: 1.1-1.6
9/28	3	2-Preliminaries/Sources of Theology	McGrath: Chapters 5 and 6 Reader: 2.1-2.15, 2.18-2.38, 2.43-2.47, 2.50
10/5	4	2-Knowledge of God/ Philosophy and Theology	McGrath: Chapters 7 and 8 Reader: 2.16, 2.17, 2.39, 2.48, 2.49
10/12	5	3-The Doctrine of God	McGrath: Chapter 9 Reader: 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.14, 3.21, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25, 3.26, 3.27, 3.29, 3.30, 3.32, 3.33, 3.34, 3.37, 3.38, 3.39, 3.42
10/19	6	Reading and Research Week	
10/26	7	3-The Doctrine of the Trinity	McGrath: Chapter 10 Reader: 3.3, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 3.20, 3.22, 3.28, 3.31, 3.35, 3.36, 3.40, 3.41, 3.43 Theological Essay 1 is due
11/2	8	3-The Doctrine of the Person of Christ; Faith and History: The Christological Agenda of Modernity	McGrath: Chapter 11 and 12 Reader: 4.1-4.42
11/9	9	3-The Doctrine of the Person of Christ	McGrath: Chapter 13 Reader: 5.1-5.35

11/16	10	3-The Doctrines of Human Nature, Sin, and Grace	McGrath: Chapter 14 Reader: 6.1-6.56
11/23	11	3-The Doctrine of the Church/Sacraments	McGrath: Chapter 15-16 Reader: 7.1-8.36
11/30	12	3-Christianity and the World Religions/The Last Things	McGrath: Chapter 17-18 Reader: 9.1-10.25 Theological Essay 2 is due
12/7	13	Bringing It All Together	Roundtable Discussion
12/10			Research Essay is due

Bibliography

- Hall, Douglas, *Thinking the Faith: Christian Theology in a North American Context*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Gilkey, Langdon, *Message and Existence: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1979.
- McGrath, Alister E., *I Believe: Understanding and Applying the Apostles' Creed*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1991.
- Micks, Marianne H., *Introduction to Theology*. New York: The Seabury Press, 1964.
- Placher, William, ed., *Essentials of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2003.
- Placher, William, *Unapologetic Theology: A Christian Voice in a Pluralistic Conversation*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1989.
- Rahner, Karl, *The Practice of Faith: A Handbook of Contemporary Spirituality*. Edited by Karl Lehmann and Albert Raffelt. New York: Crossroad, 1986.
- Richardson, Alan, *Creeks in the Making: A Short Introduction to the History of Christian Doctrine*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1969.
- Taylor, Richard, Grider, J. Kenneth, and Taylor, Willard H., ed., *Beacon Dictionary of Theology*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1983.
- Volf, Miroslav and Bass, Dorothy, *Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.