

THE 510 Introduction to Christian Theology

Summer 2008

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Course 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.

This course intends to: a) treat the basic doctrines that comprise the Christian tradition, b) treat the major voices in the Christian tradition, c) make the student aware of the major theological works in Western Christianity, and d) provide a basis for further theological education.

Texts

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.

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 (15 pages) 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.

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 two ways: a) comments/question made in class and b) blackboard discussion. 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 June 27.

Academic Policies

1. All work will be due no later than **August 1 @ 11:59pm.**
2. All work submitted late will be reduced by 20%.
3. All work must be submitted through the assignments function of Blackboard set up for this class.
4. 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.
5. All grades are open to reasonable and respectful review.
6. 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 an examination.

Grade Scale

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

May 19 (5:30-9:45)

Landmarks: Periods, Themes, and Personalities of Christian Theology
McGrath: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4

May 20 (5:30-9:45)

Preliminaries/Sources of Theology
McGrath: Chapters 5 and 6
Reader: 2.1 – 2. 15, 2.18 – 2.38, 2.43 – 2.47, 2.50

May 21 (5:30-9:45)

Knowledge of God/Philosophy and Theology
McGrath: Chapter 7 and 8
Reader: 2.16, 2.17, 2.39, 2.48, 2.49

May 22 (5:30-9:45)

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

May 23 (5:30-9:45)

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

May 26 (5:30-9:45)

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

May 27 (5:30-9:45)

The Doctrine of the Person of Christ
McGrath: Chapter 13
Reader: 5.1-5.35

May 28 (5:30-9:45)

The Doctrines of Human Nature, Sin, and Grace
McGrath: Chapter 14
Reader: 6.1-6.56

May 29 (5:30-9:45)

The Doctrine of the Church/Sacraments
McGrath: Chapter 15-16
Reader: 7.1-8.36

May 30 (5:30-9:45)

Christianity and the World Religions/The Last Things
McGrath: Chapter 17-18
Reader: 9.1-10.25

June 6

Theological essay 1 due

June 13

Theological essay 2 due

June 27

Research paper due

Selective Resources

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, *Creeds 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.