

Introduction to Theology
Th 6301 **Fall 2009**

I. Course: Th 6301

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II. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the nature and tasks of Christian theology in the life of the church. Attention will be given to select doctrines to illustrate the manner and methods of Christian theological reflection.

Course Goals. Students will learn to articulate the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith with reference to emphases of major theological traditions within the Christian movement. Students will also formulate a philosophy of ministry that relates foundational theological perspectives to the practice of ministry.

Course Objectives. This course has three primary objectives: 1) students will develop an appreciation of the necessity [and the risks] of theological reflection in the life of the church; 2) students will master basic terminology of Christian theology; 3) students will develop an appreciation of the importance of select doctrines in the work of Christian theology.

III. Required Texts

Guthrie, Jr., Shirley C. *Christian Doctrine*
Harvey, Van A. *A Handbook of Theological Terms*

IV. Requirements and Grading

- A. Regular class attendance is required. [Tardiness and excessive absences will lower student's grade. See F below.]
- B. Read text and other assigned readings as assigned.
- C. Demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of select articles from Harvey [note attached list] on three quizzes.
- D. Write a 12 page research paper (topic to be approved by instructor).
- E. Grades will be based upon students' performance on the following: 3 quizzes will count 25% each, the research paper will count 25%. Over one absence and excessive tardies may reduce final grade by as much as 10 %.

V. Select Bibliography

Cairns, Alan. *Dictionary of Theological Terms*

Ferguson, Sinclair B., David F. Wright, and J. I. Packer, *New Dictionary of Theology*

Leith, John. *Basic Christian Doctrine*.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*

McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*

Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith*

Rahner, Karl and Herbert Vorgrimler. *Dictionary of Theology*

VI. Software, Database, and Internet Resources. See librarian for aid and instructions in accessing these materials.

ATLA Database: The American Theological Library Association maintains a sizable bibliographic database of theological journals and books.

Online Periodicals: Through EBSCO, Austin Graduate School has access to over 200 full-text journals on the web.

VII. Theological Terms

Students should study the following in Harvey's *Handbook of Theological Terms* in preparation for quizzes.

First Quiz -----

Analogy, way of
Antinomianism
Apologetics
Arianism
Arminianism
Atonement
Catholic
Christology
Church
Conscience
Consubstantiation
Covenant
Creation
Creation
Deism
Demythologization
Determinism
Docetism
Dogma
Empiricism
Epistemology
Eschatology
Ethics
Ethics, Social
Eucharist

Second Quiz -----

Existentialism
Faith
Foreknowledge
Form Criticism
Gnosticism
God
Grace
Heilsgeschichte
Hermeneutics
Homoousion
Image of God
Inspiration of the Bible
Justification
Kerygma
Law and Gospel
Liberal
Protestantism

Logos
Metaphysics
Millennialism
Modernism
Natural Law
Natural Theology
Neo-Reformed Theology

Third Quiz-----

Ontological Proof
Pantheism
Parousia
Pelagianism
Perfection, Christian
Predestination
Process Theology
Proofs for the Existence of God
Providence
Religious a priori
Resurrection
Revelation
Sacrament
Sanctification
Sin, Original
Social Gospel
Soteriology
Spirit, Holy Spirit
Theodicy
Theology
Transubstantiation
Vocation

Aug. 30, Sept. 13 Introducing Theology

Defining Theology

Negative images

The context of theology

Tasks and qualifications

Resources for theology

Divisions of theology

Risks of theology

Ministers as theologians