The Faith of the Church: Introduction to Theology  
ST 502 DA-O-D  
United Theological Seminary  
Spring 2014

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Introduction to Theology is a survey of the major ideas, beliefs, and doctrines of the Church as they have shaped Christian thought in the world. This survey course introduces the student to the basic categories of systematic theology, such as revelation, God, image of God, sin, Christology, salvation, church, sacraments and eschatology. The course focuses on the interpretation of these concepts within the tradition and among contemporary theologians.

II. TEXTBOOKS:
Required Reading (RQ):

Recommended Reading (RC):
- Caroline Bohler, God the What (GTW)
- Bernard Lohse, A Short History of Christian Doctrine (SHCD)
- Andrew S. Park, The Wounded Heart of God (WHG)
- Rosemary Ruether Sexism and God-Talk (SGT)

III. GOALS
This course is a UTS introductory course. Thus, it is designed to introduce you to a general understanding of theology. This course speaks directly to two UTS core student learning competencies.

1. This Course is designed to provide a foundation for understanding and appreciating biblical, historical, and theological developments in the history of Christianity so that students might demonstrate an appropriation of the Christian heritage through an understanding of major theological topics (The SLO).

2. This course is further designed to help students critically reflect on and define major Christian doctrines and movements in light of contemporary intellectual, socio-political, and ethical issues.

**IV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

In order to demonstrate an appropriation of the Christian heritage through an understanding of major theological loci, students will be expected to express and explain the following:

1. A good grasp of the major theological traditions.
2. An in-depth understanding of the issues and controversies in their historical and theological contexts.
3. Theological meanings of church doctrines for the contemporary world.

**V. TEACHING STRATEGIES:**

The delivery methods of instruction will be lectures, discussions, web resources, lecture note projections, and email messages.

**VI. CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND READINGS:**

Feb. 3 Introduction  
The Growth and Threat of Orthodoxy  
RQ: Hordern *LGPT* Chs. 1 & 2

The Defense and Remaking of Orthodoxy  
RQ: Hordern *LGPT* Chs. 3 & 4

10 Neo-Orthodoxy & Karl Barth  
RQ: Hordern *LGPT* Chs. 5 & 6
Reinhold Neibuhr and Paul Tillich
RQ: Hordern LGPT Chs. 7 & 8

Bultmann, Bonhoeffer, & Theology Today
RQ: Hordern LGPT Chs. 9, 10, &11

17 The Content of Theology
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 1; Cone, BLT Ch. 1
RC: Thomas & Wondra, IT Ch. 1

The Sources and Norm of Theology
RQ: Cone, BLT Ch. 2

Revelation
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 3
RC: Thomas & Wondra, IT Ch. 2; Cone, BLT Ch. 3

Feb. 24-28 Reading Week

Mar. 3 Authority
RQ: Thomas & Wondra, IT Ch; Inbody FCC Ch 2
RC: Lohse, SHCD Ch. 1;

Trinity
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 4 (V); Thomas & Wondra, IT Ch. 4
RC: Lohse, SHCD Ch. 2

10 God
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 4 (I-II); Cone, BLT Ch. 4
Thomas & Wondra, IT Ch. 5

God
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 4 (III & IV)
RC: Ruether, SGT Ch. 2, Bohler: GTW Ch 1.

17 Creation & Providence
RQ: Thomas & Wondra IT Chs. 6 & 7
RC: Inbody FCC Ch 5 & 6

Humanity
RQ: Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 8; Cone BTL Ch. 5

Mar. 2-28 Gathering/Reading Week

Mar. 21 (Fri) *First paper due & the first open book exam
31  Sin  
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 7; Park WHG Intro and Ch. 4 (handouts)  
RC: Lohse SHCD Ch. 4; Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 9  

Christ  
RQ: McGrath, *Christian Theology: Introduction* Ch 11 (handout)  
RC: Ruether *SGT* Ch. 5

Apr. 7  
Christ  
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 8; Cone BLT Ch. 6  
RC: Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 10  

Salvation  
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 9: 216-234; Park WHG Ch. 6 (handout)  
RC: Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 11

Apr. 14-25  Holy Week & Reading Week

28  Justification  
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 9; Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 12  
RC: Park WHG Ch. 5; Lohse SHCD Ch. 6  

Holy Spirit & Sanctification  
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 9 and 10 (I)  
Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 14

May 5  Election & Predestination  
RQ: Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 13  

History & Eschatology  
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 12 (I-IV)  
Thomas & Wondra IT Chs. 15 & 16

12 (Mon)  *Second Paper Due*

12  Church  
RQ: Inbody FCC Ch 10 (II-V); Cone BTL Ch. 7  
Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 17  

Sacraments
VII: SEMINARY STANDARDS

A. Inclusive language
United Theological Seminary has an official policy regarding the use of Inclusive Language. The policy may be found in the Seminary Catalog and further explained in the Student Handbook. If you have specific questions, please see me.

B. Academic Integrity
Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the Seminary community. A detailed policy regarding what constitutes a violation of academic integrity can be found in the Student Handbook.

VIII: USING ONLINE RESOURCES

For information about how to access VirtualUnited and where to find help if you need it may be found on the seminary website at http://virtualunited.utsweb.net/login/index.php. Help guides are also available in the student computer lab and in the Student Handbook.

IX. METHOD OF DETERMINING FINAL GRADE:

A. Course Evaluations:

1. Class attendance, preparation of required reading, and substantive participation in class discussion are expected. The substantive participation means that you analyze, digest and question a subject matter presented through reading
assignments and handouts and others’ postings. You are encouraged to
constructively reflect on reading assignments and your classmates’ perspectives.

2. Please post three points you like most from each of your weekly reading
assignments by Thursday and respond to your dialogue partners’ postings by
Sunday.

3. Each student should turn in two research term papers (7-11 pages) or one big
paper (14-22 pgs). Their due dates are March 22 (the first paper: an email copy
only) and May 13rd (the second paper or the big paper: an email copy only). If
you like, you may request a pass/fail category for the first paper. You can select a
specific or ramified topic from any major doctrines. Present two or three other
major theologians’ views with critical reflection (positive or negative criticisms)
and then articulate your own idea. The criteria of grading are the depth of
research, originality, insight, accuracy, coherence, lucidity, and analytic and
synthetic ability. Late papers will be downgraded. They must be typewritten and
double-spaced. Adhere to the guidelines of the Turabian style in the 7th or 8th
edition (http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html and

4. On reading assignments and lecture contents, two open book exams will be given.
I will distribute exam sheets. You will turn in your answers within a week. These
exams are only for pass or fail.

B. Method of Determining Grade:

The grade will be calculated in the following way:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance, Preparation, answering questions, and interaction with group partners, &amp; class contributions</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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X. REFERENCES:

Introduction To Theology


