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):**

James Cone, *Black Theology of Liberation* (BTL)
Larry Hart, *Truth Aflame*
J. Rodman Williams, *Renewal Theology: Free Text*

**Recommended Reading (RC):**

Randy Clark, *There is More* (TIM)
Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*
Tyron Inbody, *The Faith of the Christian Church* (FCC)
Alister E. McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*  
Andrew S. Park, *The Wounded Heart of God* (WHG)
Rosemary Ruether *Sexism and God-Talk* (SGT)
Owen Thomas & Ellen Wondra, *Introduction to Theology* (IT)
J. Rodman Williams, [http://www.renewaltheology.net/](http://www.renewaltheology.net/)

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.

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. 23  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

Mar. 4  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
RC: Clark _TIM_ Intro & Ch 3

11 The Content of Theology
RQ: Hart, _Truth Aflame_ Ch. 1; Cone, _BLT_ Ch. 1
RC: Thomas & Wondra, _IT_ Ch. 1; Inbody _FCC_ Ch 1

The Sources and Norm of Theology
RQ: Cone, _BLT_ Ch. 2
RC: Ruether, _SGT_ Ch. 1

Revelation
RQ: Hart, _Truth Aflame_ 41-49
RC: Williams, _Renewal Theology_ Ch. 2. Thomas & Wondra, _IT_ Ch. 2; Cone, _BLT_ Ch. 3

18 Authority
RQ: Hart, _Truth Aflame_ 49-70; Williams, _Renewal Theology_ Ch. 1
RC: Thomas & Wondra, _IT_ Ch. 3; McGrath, _Christian Theology: Introduction_ Ch. 6

Trinity
RQ: Hart, _Truth Aflame_ 122-146, Williams, _Renewal Theology_ Ch. 4
RC: Thomas & Wondra, _IT_ Ch. 4; Johnson & Clark, _EGH_ Ch 6

25 God
RQ: Hart, _Truth Aflame_ 71-122
RC: Cone, _BLT_ Ch. 4; Thomas & Wondra, _IT_ Ch. 5

God
RQ: Williams, _Renewal Theology_ Ch. 3; Ruether, _SGT_ Ch. 2 (handout)
RC: Bohler, _GTW_ Ch 1; Inbody _FCC_ Ch 4 (III & IV)

Mar. 30-Apr. 3 Holy Week Break

Apr.  8 Creation & Providence
RQ: Hart, _Truth Aflame_ Ch.4; Williams, _Renewal Theology_ Ch. 5
RC: Clark _TIM_ Ch 9 & 10; Thomas & Wondra _IT_ Chs. 6 & 7

Humanity
RQ: Hart, _Truth Aflame_ Ch.5; Williams, _Renewal Theology_ Ch. 9
RC: Cone BTL Ch. 5; Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 8

*A midterm group oral exam

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**May 6**

**Election & Predestination**

RQ: Williams, Renewal Theology 2 Ch. 1; McGrath, Christian Theology: Introduction 365-371 (handout)
RC: Thomas & Wondra IT Ch. 13

History & Eschatology

RQ: Hart, Truth Aflame Ch. 9
RC: Thomas & Wondra IT Chs. 15 & 16; Inbody FCC Ch 12 (I-IV)

*The Final Research Paper due*
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
1. 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. Any plagiarism may cause “dismissal” from United.

VIII: USING ONLINE RESOURCES

For information about how to access United Online and where to find help if you need it may be found on the seminary website at http://www.online.united.edu. Help guides are also in the student computer lab and in the Student Handbook. For online help, please e-mail onlinehelp@united.edu.

IX. METHOD OF DETERMINING FINAL GRADE:
A. COURSE EVALUATIONS:

1. Class attendance, preparation of required reading, and substantive participation in class discussion are expected. Substantive participation means that you analyze, digest and question the subject matter presented by the instructor (through lectures, reading assignments and research) and your classmates. You are encouraged to constructively challenge your own and your classmates' perspectives.

2. On reading assignments and lecture contents, two (midterm and final) open book oral exams will be given. I will distribute questions at least one week before the group oral exams. You will turn in your answers after the exams (Midterm exam 4/8, Final exam 5/20). These exams are only for pass or fail. The exams will be like Family Feud.

3. Each student should place a research paper (12-22) in the drop box by May 8th (Fri). You should select a subdivided topic from any major doctrines. Avoid any social problems, ethical issues, major figures, or major theological movements. Present a theological problem, review two or three other major theologians’ solutions for the problem with critical reflection (positive or negative criticisms), and then provide your own resolution or solution in light of those theologians’ ideas. It is crucial and necessary for you to present your own position.

4. The criteria of grading are the depth of research, analytic and synthetic abilities, originality, insight, accuracy, coherence, & lucidity. A late paper will be downgraded. Papers 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 http://www.eturabian.com/turabian/index.html). Please use primary resources beyond the text books.

5. If anyone should miss a class session, please notify the instructor and submit a summary of that day’s reading assignments (3-5 pgs, single space). The negligence of such a submission will cause downgrading. If you miss one third of class sessions, you will automatically fail this course.

B. Method of Determining Grade:

The grade will be calculated in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance, Preparation &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Paper</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X. REFERENCES:
**Introduction To Theology**


Lohse, Bernard *A Short History of Christian Doctrine*


