



Course Syllabus

Course Number and Title:	Theological Thinking
Semester or term:	Fall 2021
Delivery:	Online Course
Instructor(s):	Rev. Eric Kraihanzel
Instructor contact:	610-462-5714 revejk@gmail.com

Course Description

The Christian faith is a design for living that revolves around the identity and activity of the triune God. As a design for living the Christian faith upholds particular habits of thinking and acting that are normative for those identifying themselves with this God, who seek to participate in God's work in the world, and who wish to stand as witnesses to that work. This course will introduce you to some of those habits of thought and action through an overview of some of the key ideas in Christian theology.

Christian theology in particular has been focused upon the definition, development and contextualization of certain key ideas and dynamics that are pivotal to the integrity of the Christian Gospel and the formation of a Christian identity. In this course we will consider some of these ideas in detail and how they cohere together around the identity and activity of God. Particular attention will be given to the nature and sources of theology, the identity of God as Father, Son and Spirit, the work of God in the creation, redemption and transformation of the world, the nature and vocation of the human person as a cultural being created in the image of God, the identity and mission of the Christian community and the final consummation of the world at the end of time. A consideration of the historical development of these ideas will be central to the content of this course, as it displays the fragility of humanity and the faithfulness of God in the formation of what we understand today to be the Christian faith, "once for all delivered to the saints."

Course Outcomes

The objectives of this course include the development of:

- An understanding of the key issues, categories, concepts and personalities in the development of Christian theology. *This is essential to:* (1) gaining an informed faith and (2) identifying historic and contemporary thought in the global Christian tradition.

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- An understanding of the significance of these issues and concepts for the development of a Christian identity that is theologically grounded and personally meaningful. *This is essential to:* (1) gaining an informed faith (2) understanding how Scripture, reason, tradition and experience inform theological thinking and (3) gaining an ability to respond positively to people with differing belief systems.
 - In practice...
 - a) The student will be able to organize his/her own thinking about Christian theology using a systematic and biblical approach.
 - c) The student will be able to give, and will have given serious thought and reflection to issues of Christian doctrine/theology.
 - d) The student will present a doctrinal paper that articulates his/her theology in a clear, confident manner, using theological language.

The Role of This Course:

The Christian Theology course satisfies the Academy of Christian Training and Service's course completion requirements. We desire to form not only life-long learners, but also individuals who are ever more fully being shaped in the image and likeness of Christ. We acknowledge that we are whole persons, whose minds, hearts and bodies are gifts from God. Such gifts demand excellent stewardship, rooted in an understanding of Scripture and cultivated through the practices of Christian discipleship.

Course Delivery Format:

This course consists of at least 24 hours of instructional time. This course will be delivered in the following format:

- On-ground: instruction occurs when the learner and the instructor are in the same physical location and meet in real time as scheduled.
- Online: instruction occurs when the learner and the instructor are not in the same physical location, and the instruction is delivered through asynchronous and/or synchronous modalities via the Internet. Synchronous modalities allow individuals to interact online at the same time versus asynchronous modalities that allow individuals to log on at different times.
- Blended: instruction includes a combination of online (asynchronous and/or synchronous) delivery and on-ground classes. Online synchronous classes and on-ground classes are offered in real time as scheduled.

Online Learning Platform: We will be using Google Classroom for this course. Please be sure to watch the "How to navigate Google Classroom Video"

Required Texts and Materials:

- Millard J. Erickson, Introduction Christian Doctrine, 3rd Edition, Baker Academic
- Wayne Grudem, Bible Doctrine, Zondervan Publishing
- J. I. Packer, Knowing God w/Study Guide, Hodder & Stoughton Publishing

Calculation of Final Grade:

	% Points	% of final grade
Weekly Position Paper(s) (10)	2%	20%
Video Response (7)	3%	21%
Quizzes (6)	4%	24%
Final Paper	23%	23%
Weekly Class Participation (12)	1%	12%
TOTAL	-----	100%

General parameters:

1. All assignments are due weekly on the day & date assigned by the instructor. The course begins on August 21, 2021 and will conclude on November 13, 2021 with the submission of the Final Paper.
2. Students in this course *are not* graded on their personal beliefs, commitments, or piety.

Graded Assignments:
1. Name of Graded Assignment: Weekly Position Paper

Course Outcomes Fulfilled: 1, 2
 Session(s) Due: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12
 Grading Value: 2% per, 20% total

WEEKLY REFLECTION ESSAY: Students will complete a weekly position paper using information from the weekly readings, weekly lectures and other assignments assigned for the week. Each weekly essay will be at least 2 pages in length. Assignment will include topics that will correspond with the final “Statement of Faith” Paper.

Evaluation Rubric for Weekly Reflection Essay:

Content:	Proficient	Functional	Marginal	Deficient
Reflection questions completed	0.5	0.35	0.2	0
Integration of instructional resources, textbook readings, or class discussions into responses	2	1.5	0.75	0
Minimum 2 pages	0.5	0.35	0.2	0
Punctuality:	On time	1 day late	2 days late	> 2 days
Assignment submitted	1	0.75	0.5	0
Writing Quality:	Proficient	Functional	Marginal	Deficient
Clear, concise sentences, free of spelling or grammatical errors	1	0.75	0.5	0

2. Name of Graded Assignment: Video Responses

Course Outcome Fulfilled: 2
Session(s) Due: 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11
Grading Value: 21%

Description and Parameters: Students will watch video assignments. The assignment will be posted in Google Classroom. There will be a total of 7 video response assignments. Video content may include weekly posted lectures or from other sources on the internet. Students will need to write a 1.5-page response giving three points of what they were able to glean from the video segment, how they may agree or disagree with the video segment and how what they learned might have implications for Christian living.

Evaluation Rubric for Video Response Exercise:

Content:	Complete	Incomplete		
Assignment completed by student	1	0		
Christian Living Connection	2.0	0		
Response	1.5	0		
Punctuality:	On time	1 day late	2 days late	> 2 days
Assignment submitted	0.5	0.35	0.2	0
Writing Quality:	Proficient	Functional	Marginal	Deficient
Clear, concise sentences, free of spelling or grammatical errors	0.5	0.35	0.2	0

3. Name of Graded Assignment: Quizzes

Course Outcomes Fulfilled: 1, 2
Session(s) Due: TBD -- See Course Schedule
Grading Value: 4% x 6 = 24%

1. Description: There will be a total of 3 quizzes given. The quizzes will be based upon material covered in the required readings and lectures, so take good notes, read carefully, and review frequently.

4. Name of Graded Assignment: Final Paper

Course Outcomes Fulfilled: 1, 2
Session(s) Due: 13
Grading Value: 23%

Description: Your final paper will be a comprehensive "Statement of Faith" paper for the course and will be due after the final class. It will consist of a rewrite /reconstruction of all of your individual weekly reflection papers. The paper should be around 18-20 pages in length, and it will be graded in part by your use (or misuse) of spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

The order of the final paper is to follow the established categories below that have been set up by the ABCOPAD Commission on Ministerial Leadership (COML). **PLEASE NOTE** that the order of subjects in the final paper will be DIFFERENT than the order of theology subjects we will cover in our class time.

General Comprehension of Christian Doctrine and Practice

- The Person of God
- The Person of Jesus Christ
- The Person of the Holy Spirit
- Humanity and Sin
- Salvation – The Nature of the Gospel
- View of Scripture
- The Christian Hope – The Meaning of Death and Eternal Life
- Christian Eschatology

The Doctrine of the Church

- The Theology of Mission
- Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper
- Ecumenical Aspects of the Church
- Place of the Church in History
- Purpose and Place of the Church in Today’s World
- The Role of the Certified Lay Minister
- The Ministry of the Laity

Relationships

- Ecumenical Witness to Community and World
- American Baptist Churches, USA; ABCOPAD; Association

Evaluation Rubric for Final Paper:

Content:	Proficient	Functional	Marginal	Deficient
Introduction to the Paper				
Introduction	2	1	.5	0
1 page long	1	0.75	0.5	0
Clarity of your position on the subjects.	10	8	5	0
18-20pages long	4	3	1	0
Conclusion				
1 page long	1	.5	0	0
1 page long	1	0.75	0.5	0
Punctuality:	On time	1 day late	2 days late	> 2 days
Assignment submitted	3	2	1	0
Writing Quality:	Proficient	Functional	Marginal	Deficient
Clear, concise sentences, free of spelling or grammatical errors	3	2	1	0

5. Name of Graded Assignment:

- Course Outcomes Fulfilled:
- Session(s) Due:
- Grading Value:

Class Participation

- 1,2
- weekly
- 1% per week; 12% total

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Class participation comprises active engagement in the course. This engagement occurs in both the blended learning format, which includes on-location and required online activity, and in courses that are offered entirely online. Asynchronous sessions using Zoom may be used for blended or online courses.

Grading Rubric for Class Participation
CRITERIA & GENERAL INDICATORS
Preparation: student has completed all assignments prior to class session as indicated by comprehensive references to key concepts and principles from the assigned readings and activities; evidence of basic comprehension and ability to apply concepts and principles
Critical Thinking: student demonstrates ability to dissect and analyze content; make informed judgments using established criteria; and generate new insights
Social Connectedness: student both solicits and provides input and insight from peers during the process of learning in class sessions
Frequent Engagement: student establishes and maintains a substantive presence during class sessions

Penalties and Procedures for Late Submissions

1. All items are due during the session listed in the syllabus and on the specific date and time assigned by your instructor.
 2. Class participation and online discussion forums occur weekly. No late submissions are accepted. Weekly original posts in discussion forums are due by midnight on Wednesdays and all interactions with fellow students are to be completed by midnight on Sundays.
 3. All weekly assignments (discussion boards) must be completed by midnight Sunday of the week assigned. No assignments will be accepted after this deadline without permission from the instructor.
 4. In cases of student absences or chronic lateness, students will be unable to earn the maximum number of points for class participation as it is difficult to re-capture the full measure of social interaction that occurred during a given class session when students are attempting to “make up” a missed class session.
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Grading Scale

A+	97 – 100	“A” grades represent: (1) Superior understanding of course material and evidence of ability to analyze critically and synthesize creatively. (2) Sound techniques of scholarship in all projects. (3) Creativity, imagination, sound judgment, and intellectual curiosity in relating the course material to other areas of intellectual investigation.
A	93 – 96	
B+	89 - 92	“B” grades represent: (1) Understanding of course material; evidence of ability to produce viable generalizations and insightful implications. (2) Understanding of techniques of scholarship in all projects. (3) Sustained interest and the ability to communicate the ideas and concepts, which are part of the subject matter of the course.
B	85 – 88	
C+	81 – 84	“C” grades represent: (1) Understanding of course material demonstrated by few errors in fact and judgment when discussing the materials. (2) Competence in the techniques of scholarship. (3) Satisfaction of the minimum stated requirements for the course in preparation, outside reading, and class participation.
C	77 – 80	
D+	73 - 76	“D” grades represent: (1) A minimal understanding of the course material demonstrated by some errors in fact and judgment when discussing the material. (2) Very little competence in the techniques of scholarship. (3) Satisfaction of somewhat less than the minimum standard of requirements for the course in preparation, outside reading, and class participation.
D	69 - 72	
Not Passing		68 and below

Course Schedule Fall 2021

Week 1: The Basics of Theology

Dates: 8/21-8/27

Readings:

1. Packer, Knowing God, Pgs. 15-46
2. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 1
3. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 1

This Week's Tasks:

1. Introduction Paper – Due Saturday, August 21st – Post to Google Classroom
2. Video Response – JI Packer “In His Own Words” – Due Wednesday, August 25th – Post to Google Classroom – See google classroom for link to the video.
3. Watch Instructor Introduction Video

Week 2: The Basics of Theology & The Person of God

Dates: 8/28 – 9/3

Readings:

1. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 4 & 5
2. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 8-10

This Week's Tasks:

1. Weekly Position Paper #1 - Post to Google Classroom

Week 3: Special Session – Video Lecture - General and Special Revelation

Dates: 9/4 – 9/10

Readings:

1. Bible Doctrine, Chap 3
2. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 3-5

This Week's Tasks:

1. Weekly Position Paper #2 - Post to Google Classroom
2. Video Response – Watch Special Video Lecture and write a 1.5 page synopsis.

Week 4: View of Scripture

Dates: 9/11 - 9/17

Readings:

1. Christian Doctrine, Chap 6-7
2. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 2-3

This Week's Tasks:

1. Weekly Position Paper #3 - Post to Google Classroom

Week 5: Person of Christ - QUIZ #1 9/24

Dates: 9/18-9/24

Readings:

1. Christian Doctrine, Chap 23-25
2. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 14

This Week's Tasks:

1. Weekly Position Paper #4 – Post to Google Classroom

Quiz:

1. QUIZ #1 will be available starting on 9/23 and will need to be completed by 9/24 at 11:59PM. EST.

Week 6: Person of the Holy Spirit

Dates: 9/25-10/1

Readings:

1. Christian Doctrine, Chap 11, 28 ,29
2. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 6

This Week's Tasks:

1. Weekly Position Paper #5 - Post to Google Classroom
2. Video Response – Watch Bible project video – “Holy Spirit”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNZO9i1Gjc>

Write a 1.5 page response to what you found to help you understand the person of the Holy Spirit more and what practical gleanings did you get that you could teach to others?

Week 7: Creation and the Fall

Dates: 10/2-10/8

Readings:

1. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 7
2. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 13

This Week's Tasks:

1. Weekly Position Paper #6 - Post to Google Classroom
2. Video Response - Keller, Moore, and Duncan on the Non Negotiable Beliefs About Creation - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfKBCXAOarY>

Write a 1.5pg response to what you found to be intriguing about the pastors' thoughts on creation.

Week 8: Humanity and Sin

Dates: 10/9-10/15

Readings:

1. Christian Doctrine, 17-22
2. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 13

This Week's Tasks:

1. Weekly Position Paper #7 - Post to Google Classroom

Week 9: Salvation and the Christian Hope

Dates: 10/16-10/22

Readings:

1. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 11
2. Burrows, Chap. 8

This Week's Tasks:

1. Video Response - Watch "What is Salvation" Write a 1.5 page reflection on what you agree with or disagree with or how you were inspired, etc...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlytsfLePE&t=240s>
2. Weekly Position Paper #8 - Post to Google Classroom

Week 10: The Doctrine of Incarnation, Atonement, Resurrection, Justification, Sanctification, and Adoption.

Dates: 10/23-10/29

Readings:

1. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 27, 331-384
2. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 15, 20-24

This Week's Tasks:

1. Video Response – Watch "Sacrifice and Atonement"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_OIRWGLdnw
Write a 1.5 pg response highlighting three ideas that helped you better understand atonement.
2. Weekly Position Paper #9 - Post to Google Classroom

Week 11: Christian Eschatology

Dates: 10/30-11/5

Readings:

1. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 31-34

This Week's Tasks:

1. Video Response – Watch video from R.C. Sproul "A Question of Time: The Last Days According to Jesus" -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8PCrvPLqMo>

Quiz:

1. QUIZ #2 will be available starting on 11/2 and will need to be completed by 11/5 at 11:59PM. EST.

Week 12: Theology of Mission , Ordinances Baptists Celebrate and the Nature of the Church

Dates: 11/6-11/13

Readings:

1. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 36-38
2. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 26-30

This Week's Tasks:

1. Last Weekly Position Paper #10 – Post to Google Classroom

Week 13: Special Video Lecture... Doctrine of the Providence and the Problem with Evil

Dates: 11/13 --- BONUS!

Readings:

1. Bible Doctrine, Chap. 14-2
2. Christian Doctrine, Chap. 14-15

Final Response Paper is Due – November 17th Submit to Google Classroom

Academic Policies

Copies of Course Assignments: Students are responsible for retaining a copy(ies) of all materials submitted for grading. If a paper or project is misplaced or lost in transition, the student must provide a substitute copy upon request.

Statement on Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is a serious infraction of the law of God and a violation of A.C.T.S. academic integrity as plagiarism is a violation of the eighth and ninth commandments (Exodus 20:15-16), which commands us “to not steal and give false testimony against your neighbor.” A.C.T.S. defines Plagiarism as Using someone’s ideas, words, or data, without proper acknowledgement, as one’s own original work. If you claim someone’s words, as your own, you are committing plagiarism – you are stealing. Information from the Internet is the same as information from a physical book, the source must be cited. Paying someone, an Internet service for a paper, or cut and paste text from the Internet to your paper without citing the source is also considered plagiarism. To avoid plagiarism: 1. You must cite the original author every time you use an author’s exact written or spoken word. You identify the words by enclosing them with quotation marks or indenting the quote on both sides of the margin. 2. Paraphrase someone’s written or spoken words recognizing the author/source For clarity on plagiarism, discuss your research with your instructor if not sure how to cite the work, before you hand in your paper. There are tools that instructors use to detect acts of plagiarism. Remember, Plagiarism is an act of dishonesty and violation of academic integrity (ACTS handbook p 18)