THEO 303 Online: Theology and the Christian Life

Azusa Pacific University, Haggard School of Theology
Undergraduate Division of Religion and Philosophy
Fall 2009

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DESCRIPTION (from the catalogue)
This course provides an introduction to the doctrines of the Christian Church, focusing on the
Christian life and its relationship to theology. The course approaches theology from an inductive
method in the Wesleyan tradition, helping students to learn to think theologically from the
Scriptures, orthodox ecumenical tradition, experience and reason. Meets General Studies core
document requirement for God’s word and the Christian Response. Prerequisites: 3 Units of

OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Students (undergraduate) will demonstrate an ability to give thoughtful consideration to
current and historical issues in the light of the church's Scriptures and traditions.
2. Students will demonstrate growth in the ability to think critically about the historical,
doctrinal, biblical and practical aspects of the Christian faith, including appreciation,
understanding, and valuing the Church.
3. Students will grow into a greater awareness of the personal and social relevance and
spiritual richness that informed, disciplined theological reflection can bring to their
Christian existence and their own impact upon the world in which they live.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to understand and state the main distinguishing belief
   s of Christianity and to discern the difference between core Christian doctrines and
   practices and the varying ways in which people in different cultural and historical settings
   have formulated those doctrines and practices.
5. Students will demonstrate an ability to identify false doctrinal beliefs and faulty doctrinal
   arguments.
6. Students will grow in awareness of the global dimensions of Christian theology and
   church life, including gaining knowledge of the contributions of several non-Western
   theologians.
7. Students will have the opportunity to strengthen critical thinking and writing skills, and,
   more generally, to grow in the ability to effectively communicate in both written and oral
   forms.

REQUIRED TEXTS
   2007. [Note: If you happen to have a 2nd edition of this book, you can also use it for this
course; I have listed the reading assignments in the course schedule below for both editions.]  
3. **Online materials**: websites or electronic documents available either through the Department of Theology and Philosophy website (http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm) or other websites. In the schedule of assignments below, such items will be marked by the term “E-Doc” followed by the author’s name. The links for these items will be provided in the list of Electronic readings at the end of this syllabus.  
4. The Bible (NIV, NRSV or NASB are recommended)  

**RECOMMENDED/OPTIONAL TEXTS**  
*Note*: Portions of some of these texts are including in the required or recommended readings listed below.  

**REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS**  
The dates for all assignments will be given below on the course schedule:  
1. **Two Written Reading Assignments** [also called RAs] (16%; 8% each): These will be due on the dates given on the course schedule. See pages 8-10 below for details.  
2. **Three Threaded Discussions** (15%; 5% each). These are online discussion in which you post comments in the online unit called “Threads” (the last tab listed on the left hand column on the course website). The first discussion is an introduction of yourself to the class. The remaining two discussions involve debates of significant theological issues drawn from the Boyd and Eddy's *Across the Spectrum*. Note that your posting for these discussion are always due on Thursdays due on the dates given below on the course schedule. See page 12 below for more details (plus the additional online directions on the course website under the last unit called “Threads”).  
3. **One Research Project** (30%): This project involves researching the way one theologian deals with one theological question. As, such the research project involves three separate assignments (each due on the dates given below on the course schedule), each of which represent steps in the research process:  
   a. **The paper topic** (1%): Survey the topics and questions covered in the required books to get an idea of what topic you might want to pursue, keeping in mind that your topic can be changed later if necessary. If possible, tell me not only the
topic or question you would like to pursue, but also a theologian you would like to investigate who deals with that topic or question (you will eventually need to choose one theologian anyway, telling me early will give you quicker feedback).

b. **A one-page preview of the paper (2%)**: This assignment will require (a) a statement of the question to be asked in the paper (see below under the paper itself), (b) your reasons for choosing the topic and the theologian, (c) an outline and (d) a list of *at least 5 sources*, including *at least one primary source* (i.e. a source written by the theologian you are writing on). You can use the Bible and required course texts in your paper, but these do not count in your list of 5 or more sources. Further, no more than half of your sources can be websites (unless it is a republication of a book or article). You must provide *full* bibliographic information for all of the sources (using a standard style, like Turabian, MLA, etc.). The instructor will return these previews with feedback that should help you to write your paper.

c. **The paper itself (27%)**: This is an 8-10 page research paper on a selected theologian on a selected topic. The paper should ask a specific question and give it a specific answer (the answer is the paper’s “thesis”). For example, your question could be “What is John Wesley’s view of Christian perfection?” Your answer (the thesis) could be: “According to Wesley, a Christian may reach a state of perfection in which he or she is entirely sanctified or free from conscious sin.” The paper should include the following elements: an introduction, a body, conclusion, citations (either footnotes or parenthetical citations for all non-original material), and a list of sources (can be different than what was given in the preview). In your citations, you should always include the page numbers from the source you are citing, even when you are only paraphrasing someone (note that this is different than APA style). The body of the paper should involve both a clear presentation of what the theologian says about the topic and the student’s own view of the topic. The students “view” should include his/her critical evaluation of what the theologian says, a presentation of his/her personal view on the topic, and an explanation of the significance of the topic. More specifically, the research paper will be graded based on the following criteria (a rubric):

**Format and Style (30%)**
___ (5%) Appropriate length & format (8-10 pp., 12 pt. New Times Roman font)
___ (10%) Consistent, clear citations (a rule of thumb: use at least one citation including specific page numbers per paragraph in the paper; no plagiarism!)
___ (10%) Good organization/structure, with intro., body & conclusion
___ (5%) Paper free of spelling, punctuation, grammatical errors

**Presentation of the Theologian’s Viewpoint (50%)**
___ (20%) Demonstrates accurate understanding of the person’s views (comprehension)
___ (10%) Demonstrates clarity in thinking and writing (clarity)
___ (10%) Demonstrates adequate use of primary and secondary sources (comprehensiveness)
___ (10%) Covers the main elements of the question at hand

**The Student’s Viewpoint (20%)**
___ (10%) Effective critical evaluation of the theologian’s viewpoint (critical thinking)
___ (5%) The student’s own view
___ (5%) Explanation of the significance of the topic and/or viewpoint
Three Notes: (1) Students are strongly encouraged to present a rough draft of the paper to the Writing Center before turning it in. If the paper is not free of errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar, the instructor will downgrade the student. (2) The Department of Theology and Philosophy is involved in assessing student learning, and your paper may be chosen for this. If your paper is one of those randomly selected for evaluation, your name will be removed so that the process is completely anonymous and does not affect your grade. (3) If this is the Fall semester and the instructor considers your paper to be outstanding, he may recommend that it be considered by the Theology faculty for a special forum in the Spring Semester. This is a mini-Academic Conference in which four students will present (read portions of) their papers publicly. One paper will be chosen from the Theology department and the remaining papers will be from the departments of Philosophy, Practical Theology and Biblical Studies respectively.

4. Two Exams (39%)
   a. Cumulative Midterm Exam (15%): an exam over all the readings and class sessions prior to the midterm must be taken and submitted through the course website sometimes between the dates listed in the course schedule below. The exam is open book and open note and will be made up of a combination of objective questions and essay questions.
   b. Cumulative Final Exam (24%): an exam over all the readings and class sessions of the course must be taken online anytime during finals week. Like the midterm, the exam is open book and open note and will be a combination of objective questions and subjective (essay) questions. About 1/3 of the questions will be based on material covered on the midterm and about 2/3 will be on material from the second half of the term.
   c. Study resources for both exams: Study guides for both exams are available online in the Exams unit (they may be revised slightly later, as we approach the dates of the exams). In addition, I will publish a short list of possible essay questions to the class shortly before each exam. (In general, the questions and debates covered in the threaded discussions and reading assignments will not be covered again in the exam—although they do indicate the kind of questions that would make good essay questions.)

COURSE POLICIES
1. The grade for late assignments or papers will be reduced 5% for each calendar day after the due date.
2. I do not intend to given any extra credit opportunities.
3. All papers must be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced. They must be submitted as one of the following kinds of documents: Microsoft Word [.doc], Adobe [.pdf], or Rich Text Format [.rtf]. Note: Word Perfect or Mac Documents are not acceptable!
4. Although I will grade papers primarily on the basis of their content, I will take into consideration how well the papers are written.
5. Make-up exams will not be offered, except in the case of university sponsored events (e.g., a soccer game for a soccer player, a concert tour for a musician) or documented medical conditions (a doctor’s note is required). Students who will miss class for any reason should inform me prior to the class or classes that will be missed.
6. See the Student Handbook for the policy on academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.). You must give complete citations of the sources used for every non-original quote.
or idea. You may not in any case try to pass off someone else’s work as your own. (Hint: I am very good at detecting when you are doing this.) Basically, be honest or fail!

7. Student responsibility: If you find yourself falling behind or failing in this course for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact me for assistance. If you wait to the end of the course, it will probably be too late for me to help. Again, I do not plan on giving opportunities for extra-credit work.

8. Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (LEC) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements. In addition, such students ought to speak with me during the first week of class and make me aware of any special needs you have.

SOME HELPFUL WEBSITES

- All the websites listed in McGrath, 689-691 and especially http://www.Blackwellpublishers.co.uk/RELIGION/ (many links can be found here)
- Christian Classics Ethereal Library: http://www.ccel.org
- Religion Online: http://www.religion-online.org
- Catholic Encyclopedia: http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/
- Online MLA Style Manual: http://webster.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml (this is a helpful resource to follow in your papers; based upon the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Key to the Course Schedule (Memorizing these abbreviations will make your life easier!):

1. CTR = McGrath’s Christian Theology Reader (see more about CTR under 7 below).
2. ATS = Boyd and Eddy’s Across the Spectrum
3. E-DOC = Reading from the list of Electronic Documents at the end of the syllabus. The author’s name (and a brief title where necessary) after the word “E-DOC” will specify which website I am referring to given unit.
4. The abbreviation ch.= chapter and chs. = chapters.
5. RA stands for a Reading Assignment (based on selections from McGrath’s Christian Theology Reader (CTR), as explained in the section of this syllabus immediately following the course schedule below (8-10 when printed).
6. TD stands for Threaded Discussion (otherwise known simply as a “Thread”), which are also explained later in the syllabus (page 11 when printed)
7. The Christian Theology Reader (CTR) is a collection of readings listed by two-digit decimals (1.1, 1.2, etc.). In the course schedule, I list the decimals for all the readings that you are required to read. Where you see decimals listed in brackets (e.g., [1.2]), you can skip those readings if you are using the 2007 Third Edition of CTR. These decimals that are in brackets refer to readings in the older Second Edition of the CTR, where the same reading selection sometimes has a different number than it does in the Third Edition. So if you have the Second Edition, in addition to doing all the readings that do not give you a bracketed option, use the decimals in brackets instead of the decimals immediately preceding the bracketed numbers. For example, for the chapter 1 readings in CTR (in Unit 1), Third Edition users would read readings 1.5, 1.6, 1.24, and 1.31, while Second Edition users would read readings 1.5, 1.6, 1.22, and 1.28.
Notes on the following Schedule: Threaded discussion postings are due on selected Thursdays and all other assignments are due on selected Fridays (unless otherwise noted). The “key” above tells you the meaning of the abbreviations used below. The unit typically begins on a Monday and ends on a Saturday (letting you rest on Sunday!)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit/Date/Topic</th>
<th>Assignments/Exams</th>
<th>Required Reading [CTR decimals in bold type are options for RA1 or RA2 (see page 8); Decimals in brackets are for CTR, 2nd Edition.]</th>
<th>Optional Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 (9/9-9/12): Introduction to the Class and to Theology</td>
<td>- Submit Student Info Sheet through online DROPOX by 9/11 (Friday) (See online)</td>
<td>-Bible: Matt. 22:34-40; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Heb. 11:1-6</td>
<td>-E-DOC: Jenkins_Next_Christendom</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 1: 1.5, 1.6, 1.24 [1.22], 1.31 [1.28]</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Hart</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: McGraw_Preliminaries (Ch. 5)</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Packer</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Sanneh, “Global Christianity”</td>
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<td>Unit 2 (9/14-9/19): Revelation, Faith, the Bible and Other Sources and Norms of Theology</td>
<td>Threaded Discussion 1 (Introductions) Due on Thurs., 9/18</td>
<td>-Bible: Rom. 1:18-23; 1 Cor. 2:1-16 (esp. 12-13); 2 Tim 3:14-17</td>
<td>-Barth_Church Dogmatics</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 2: 2.9, 2.16, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.23 [2.22], 2.35 [2.32], 2.48 [2.43], 2.50 [2.45]</td>
<td>-E-DOC: Packer</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: McGraw_Sources (Ch. 6)</td>
<td>-E-DOC: Stackhouse</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Olson</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Pokrifka (handout)</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Wright</td>
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<td>Unit 3 (9/21-9/26): God and God’s Kingdom</td>
<td>-Bible: Exodus 33:12-34:9, Matt 6:9-33</td>
<td>-Bible: Gen. 1, Psalm 104</td>
<td>-E-Doc: Berkof (2 online chapters)</td>
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<td>-ATS, ch. 3</td>
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<td>-E-Doc: Keathley</td>
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<td>-E-Doc: Wright</td>
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<td>Unit 4 (9/28-10/3): Creation and Providence</td>
<td>Research Paper Topic Due on Friday, 10/2</td>
<td>-Bible: Gen. 1, Psalm 104</td>
<td>-Barth_Church Dogmatics</td>
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<td>-ATS, chs. 2 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 5 (10/5-10/10): Anthropology, Sin, and Covenant</td>
<td>-Bible: Gen 1:26-31; Gen 2-3, Rom 5</td>
<td>-ATS, chs. 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>-ATS, chs. 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>-E-Doc: Fackre_Covenant</td>
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<td>-E-Doc: Plantinga</td>
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<td>Unit 6 (10/12-10/17): Christology</td>
<td>Reading Assignment 1 due on 10/16</td>
<td>-Bible: John 1:1-18, 14:1-14, 20:28; 1 Cor. 15:3-20, Col. 1:13-23, Heb. 1</td>
<td>-E-DOC: Runyan</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 4: 4.7 [4.6], 4.8 [4.7], 4.9 [4.8], 4.10 [4.9], 4.12 [4.10], 4.16 [4.14], 4.17 [4.15], 4.24 [4.21], 4.25 [4.22], 4.29 [4.26], 4.25 [4.32], 4.36 [4.33], 4.41 [4.36]</td>
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<td>-ATS, ch. 7</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Berkof (2 online chapters)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 7 (10/19-10/24): Salvation, part 1: The Work of Christ</th>
<th>Research Preview due on 10/23</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Bible: Rom. 3:21-26 and Rom. 5:6-10</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 5: 5.1, 5.3, 5.13 [5.12], 5.14 [5.13], 5.17 [5.15], 5.27 [5.25], 5.29 [5.27], 5.33 [5.30 (full source available in optional E-Doc)]</td>
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<td>-ATS, ch. 8</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit 8 (10/26-10/31): Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)</th>
<th>Midterm Exam</th>
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<tr>
<td>Take online between 10/29 to 11 pm on 10/31 [The midterm covers unit 8 readings]</td>
<td>-Bible: Acts 2, John 14:16-18, 15:26-27, 16:7-15; 1 Cor. 12-14</td>
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<td>-ATS, ch. 15</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Fee</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Chevreau_CatchtheFire</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit 9 (11/2-11/7): Salvation (Soteriology), part 2: Work of the Spirit &amp; Election vs. Free Will</th>
<th>Threaded Discussion 2 (TD2) due on 11/5</th>
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<tr>
<td>[Note: 11/13 is the last day to withdraw from the class.]</td>
<td>-Bible: Eph. 1:1-2:10, Rom. 8:28, Rom. 9</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 6 (again): 6.11, 6.12, 6.43 [6.39], 6.51 [6.45], 6.52 [6.46]</td>
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<td>-ATS, chs. 9 and 11</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Johnson &amp; Webber</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Witherington</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit 10 (11/9-11/14): Salvation (Soteriology), part 3: Justification, Sanctification, Spirituality, and Social Action</th>
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<td>[Note: 11/13 is the last day to withdraw from the class.]</td>
<td>-Bible: Job 29, Amos 8, Luke 4:16-21</td>
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<td>-ATS, ch. 10</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Foster</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Scandrett</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Sider (on Liberation Theology)</td>
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<td>-Bible: John 14:4-11; Acts 17:22-34; Rom. 10:6-15</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 9: 9.1, 9.6 [9.5], 9.9 [9.8], 9.10 [9.9]</td>
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<td>-ATS, ch. 12</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: D’Costa</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Mbiti</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Sanneh_Christian Missions</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit 12 (11/23-11/25 [Wed.]): The Church (Ecclesiology)</th>
<th>Have a great Thanksgiving!</th>
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<tr>
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<td>-Bible: Matt 16:13-20, Eph. 2:11-22 and 4:1-16; 1 Peter 2:4-10</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 7: 7.4, 7.6, 7.9, 7.14, 7.15, 7.17, 7.29 [7.28]</td>
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<td>-ATS, ch. 16</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit 13 (11/30-12/5): The Sacraments</th>
<th>Threaded Discussion 3 due on 12/3</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Matt 26:26-30, 28:19-20, John 3 and 6, 1 Cor. 11:23-34, Col. 2:8-15</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 8: 8.5, 8.7, 8.10, 8.11, 8.16, 8.18, 8.23, 8.26, 8.28</td>
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<td>-ATS, chs. 13-14</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit 14 (12/7-12/12): Last Things (Eschatology)</th>
<th>Reading Assignment 2 due on 12/11</th>
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<tr>
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<td>-Bible: Isa. 11, 60-61, 65-66; Mark 13, 1 Cor. 15:20-58, 1 Thess 4:13-18, 2 Peter 2, Rev. 12-13, 19-22,</td>
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<td>-CTR, ch. 10: 10.2, 10.4, 10.11, 10.14 [10.13], 10.17 [10.16], 10.18 [10.17], 10.23 [10.22], 10.24 [10.23]</td>
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<td>-ATS, chs 17-18</td>
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<td>-E-DOC: Dart</td>
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| Finals Week (12/14-12/18): Submit Final Exam online anytime during Monday to Friday of finals week [before 11pm on 12/18] | |

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Reading Assignments Based on Readings in the *Christian Theology Reader*

**I. General Explanation**

- As noted above, you must do two reading assignments (RAs) for a total of 16% of your course grade (160 points). RA1 covers selected *Christian Theology Reader* (*CTR*) readings from the first half of the semester, and RA2 covers selected *CTR* readings from the second half of the semester.
- For each RA (RA1 and RA2), you will answer questions on reading selections related to one theological question. In each you will choose one theological question from a list of six options, which are listed below (page 9).
- The two RAs are due on the dates given in the course schedule above (even if you choose to do the RA on a question related to reading from long before the due date).
- The purpose of this assignment is to challenge you to understand and thoughtfully interact with important theological primary sources, that is, sources that are written by major theologians from various periods of church history (not summaries written by contemporary writers). I will grade your assignment depending on how well you follow the directions below and on the quality of the work done.
- **Note:** You must do all the required readings listed for the CTR above in the course schedule. This means you need to do all the readings, even if they are not ones that related to your chosen RA assignments.

**II. Directions (Please follow carefully!):**

1. Choose one theological question out of the questions listed below for RA1 (and later choose one question for RA2).
2. Do all the required readings from McGrath’s *CTR* listed next to your chosen question below (the readings are identified by decimals, like 1.3, 5.5, etc.); readings for RA assignments also appear in bold type in the course schedule above. (Note: You can use either the 2nd or the 3rd edition of the *CTR*. Where the numbers for the readings vary for the two editions, the decimals for the older 2nd Ed are placed in brackets in the course schedule above.). Your assignment paper will be composed primarily of your answers to the questions listed by McGrath at the end of each reading (he typically lists 2 to 4 questions for each reading).
3. Your paper must take the following format:
   - Type the number of the RA at the top of the paper (RA1 or RA2), along with the question you chose for that RA (see 1 above).
   - Answer all the questions in the McGrath book at the end of the readings identified below (an exception is that you do not need to answer questions that ask you do compare the selected reading with some other reading selection in McGrath that is not a part of the required reading). Type out both the questions from McGrath and your answers to them.
4. After you have written all the relevant questions and answers from McGrath, write one or two paragraphs expressing your own views about the general theological question that all the readings relate to, namely, the question that you chose and placed at the top of your paper. State what you think about it and why, interacting with the readings as you do this. (For example, “I agree with what Augustine said about predestination in the reading selection, because . . .” “I disagree with Calvin’s view of justification, because . . .”)
5. The paper should normally be 3 to 5 pages long (roughly one page for each reading in McGrath) and should follow the regulations given for all papers above under the “course policies” (12 pt font, etc.). If you wish to make this paper single-spaced, you may, but then it should be no more than 3 pages long.
6. Submit the paper by attaching it in the online “Dropbox” for RA1 or RA2 (The dropbox tab is on the top of the screen), which will both be due on the two Fridays noted in the course schedule.
III. Theological Questions from CTR for Reading Assignments:

NOTE: As with the course schedule above, all the decimals listed in brackets are the alternate numbers for the same readings in the Second Edition of CTR (but most of you probably have the Third edition, which means you can ignore these).

(1) For Reading Assignment 1: RA1 (choose 1)
1. What is the main content and significance of the ancient Christian creeds? 1.5, 1.6
2. What is the proper relationship between Scripture and tradition (with tradition including the work of theologians)? 2.19, 2.23 [2.22], 2.50 [2.45]
3. Does God suffer (or change or have compassion)? 3.7, 3.8, 3.21 [3.19], 3.23 [3.21], 3.30, 3.33 [3.30]
5. What is the nature of human freedom (and human responsibility)? 6.14, 6.16, 6.17
6. What is the proper role of history in understanding Jesus Christ? That is, what is the relationship between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith? 4.29 [4.26], 4.35 [4.32], 4.36 [4.33], 4.41 [4.36]

(2) For Reading Assignment 2: RA2 (choose 1)
1. What are different views of the nature of election or predestination? 6.11, 6.12, 6.36 [6.33], 6.43 [6.39], 6.51 [6.45], 6.52 [6.46]
3. What is the proper Christian perspective on non-Christian (or pre-Christian) religions? 9.1, 9.6 [9.5], 9.9 [9.8], 9.10 [9.9]
4. What does “catholicity” mean in the context of the doctrine of the church? 7.4, 7.9, 7.14, 7.29 [7.28]
5. How is Christ present in communion and what is the meaning of the doctrine of the “real presence” of Christ in communion? 8.5, 8.10, 8.11, 8.23
6. What are some different views of final punishment (hell and/or conditional immortality/everlasting death)? 10.2, 10.17 [10.16], 10.24 [10.23]

IV. Some Other Theological Questions Covered in the Required CTR Readings
[Note: These are not for RAs, but are potentially similar to essay questions on the exams.]
- What are some views of the nature of Theology? 1.24 [1.22], 1.31 [1.28]
- What is the role and nature of Scripture for Christianity? 2.9, 2.18, 2.35 [2.32]
- What is the role of revelation for Christianity and what are some different forms of revelation? 2.16, 2.17, 2.48 [2.43]
- What is the meaning and significance of the doctrine of the Trinity? 1.5 (review) 3.20 [3.18], 3.28 [3.25], 3.35 [3.32]
- What is the nature of God’s power and how does God use his sovereign power in creation? 3.24 [3.22], 3.26 [3.24], 3.29 [3.26]
- What is sin, including “original sin”? 6.6, 6.13, 6.18, 6.47 [6.42], 6.53 [6.47]
- What does it mean to speak of humanity being created in the image of God? 6.5, 6.50 [6.44], 6.56 [6.49]
- What is the relationship of the two natures (divine and human) in Christ? What is the “Chalcedonian view” as opposed to some heretical views (like Arianism, Nestorianism and Apollinarianism)? 4.7 [4.6], 4.8 [4.7], 4.16 [4.14], 4.17 [4.15], 4.24 [4.21] (see also the optional readings 4.10, 4.11, and 4.13 on the varying views of Cyril and Nestorius).
• What is the threefold office (or the three offices) of Christ and how do they relate to the Old Testament? 4.25 [4.22]

• What are three different models/theories of Christ’s work of atonement? 5.1, 5.13 [5.12], 5.14 [5.13], 5.17 [5.15], 5.29 [5.27], and 5.33 [5.30] [Note: These readings represent examples of varying theories or models of atonement. Although some are similar to the three views presented in Across the Spectrum, ch. 9, be aware they are not exactly the same as them. See the PowerPoint slideshow on this subject.]

• Describe the “moral example” theory of Christ’s atonement, based on three representatives of it. 5.3, 5.14 [5.13], 5.27 [5.25]

• What are the identifying marks of the church and is the church pure or mixed? 7.6, 7.15, 7.17

• What is the meaning and significance of the doctrine of the transubstantiation for Roman Catholics? 8.16, 8.18, 8.28

• What are sacraments and/or how many sacraments are there? 8.6, 8.7, 8.15, 8.17, 8.24, 8.26

• What is the meaning and significance of the doctrine of purgatory for those who believe in it? 10.11, 10.14 [10.13]

• How will creation and history come to an end and what are some features of these “last days”? 10.4, 10.18 [10.17], 10.23 [10.22]
Topics for Threaded Discussions (Threads)

General Explanation

- As noted above, you have three required threaded discussions (TDs or threads), for a total of 15% of the course grade (or 150 points).
- In the first thread, you will introduce yourself to your instructor and classmates, by means of answering a specific set of questions (see online instructions).
- The next two threads (TD2 and TD3) require that you choose one debate to answer among the options given below (and online).

**Thread 2—Choose one of the following debates to comment on:**
- The Charismatic Gifts Debate (2 views):
- The Eternal Security Debate (2 views):

**Thread 3—Choose one of the following debates to comment on:**
- The Destiny of the Unevangelized Debate (4 views):
- The Women in Ministry Debate (2 views):

- The purposes of thread 2 and thread 3 are to get you to think through, state clearly, and wisely defend your own view concerning a number of controversial issues within evangelical theology, as presented by Boyd and Eddy’s *Across the Spectrum* (ATS). These TDs also gives you an opportunity to dialogue with your classmates about these theological issues.

- Your participation in the threads takes the form of posting comments online (in the final unit marked “Threads”) either in response to the debate itself or in response to your classmate’s comments. Your participation (postings) is due by the dates given on the course schedule above (the usual 5% lateness deduction will apply for comments made after these dates).

Directions

- Choose one of the two debates to comment on in each thread.
- After you have read the relevant chapter in ATS, post at least one comment by the date in the course schedule, which is always on a Thursday.
- To get full credit, your comment must include the following:
  1. An informed, logical defence of one viewpoint on your chosen debate (not a casual comment!). If you are not sure which view you prefer, then explain why.
  2. Critiques of or interaction with viewpoints other than your own, as represented either by the book or by your classmates (you may need to post more than once).
  3. Points or observations that go beyond repeating what is already said in the ATS book. This could include comment on the relevance of ideas or readings that you have encountered on your own.

NOTE: Please be as brief as possible in your posting, covering only the essential points (for the sake of both your classmates and your instructor!)
A List of Required and Recommended Electronic Readings for THEO 303

**Note:** All links to electronic readings are listed by unit, with readings listed by alphabetical order (by author) within each unit. Any optional/recommended readings are listed with the term **OPT** before them in, with the rest being required ones. For easier reading and review, required readings should probably be printed out. If you find the PDF files below hard to read, photocopies of them are available to photocopy at the Theology Department (visit secretary Laura Smith Webb).

**Unit 1**
Hart, Trevor. *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology*. (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1995), 1-8: [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

**OPT** Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom* 2nd Ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 1-17 [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)


Packer, J.I. *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 11-32: [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)


**Unit 2**

Olson, Roger. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002), 11-27, 71-88. [PDF: Olson] [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Pokrifka, Todd. Handout on “Evangelicalism and its Future” (based partly on the reading by Stackhouse). [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)


**Unit 3**
**OPT** Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1957), 272-287 [PDF: Barth_ChurchDoggmatics] [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_- _theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Keathley, J H (2004). The Trinity (Triunity) of God [Word: Keathley] (a web version of this article is available at: [http://bible.org/article/trinity-triunity-god](http://bible.org/article/trinity-triunity-god)

**Unit 5**
[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

**Unit 6**

**Unit 7**
OPT Packer, J.I. “What Did the Cross Achieve? The Logic of Penal Substitution”
[http://www.the-highway.com/cross_Packer.html](http://www.the-highway.com/cross_Packer.html) (This is the full lecture from which the excerpts in CTR, 5.33 were taken.)

**Unit 8**
[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Fee, Gordon. *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 24-35 [PDF: Fee] [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

**Unit 9**
[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Witherington, Ben, *The Problems with Evangelical Theology: Testing the Exegetical Foundations of Calvinism, Dispensationalism, and Wesleyanism*. (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press), 59-69, 73-89 [PDF: Witherington] [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)
Unit 10
http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm

OPT Bono, a sermon given at the 2006 National Prayer Breakfast at the White House:

http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm

OPT National Association of Evangelicals (NAE): “For the Health of the Nations: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility” (PDF):
http://www.nae.net/images/civic_responsibility.pdf (This document was produced by the National Association of Evangelicals in 2004 and was taken from their website.)


Sider, Ron: “An Evangelical Theology of Liberation”
http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1757


OPT Tutu, Desmond: “The Question of South Africa” (1984) [excerpts]:
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1984tutu.html

Unit 11

OPT Fackre, Gabriel: “Claiming Jesus as Savior in a Religiously Pluralistic World”:
http://www.luthersem.edu/ctrf/JCTR/Vol08/Fackre.pdf

http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1746

Sanneh, Lamin, “Christian Missions and the Western Guilt Complex” http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=143

Unit 14