THEO 303 Theology and the Christian Life  Spring 2008

Instructor: Jen Rosner     Time: T/Th, 11:25am – 12:50pm  
Email: JenMRosner@aol.com     Location: Duke 125  
Phone: 626.513.1131     Office Hours: By appointment

THEO 303 (03): Theology and the Christian Life  
Azusa Pacific University, Haggard School of Theology, Undergraduate Division  
Spring 2008, 3 Units

APU Mission Statement
“Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.”

APU Academic Integrity Policy
“The mission of Azusa Pacific University includes cultivating in each student not only the academic skills that are required for a university degree, but also the characteristics of academic integrity that are integral to a sound Christian education. It is, therefore, part of the mission of the university to nurture in each student a sense of moral responsibility consistent with the biblical teachings of honesty and accountability. Furthermore, a breach of academic integrity is viewed not merely as a private matter between the student and a professor, but rather as an act which is fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose and mission of the entire university. The maintenance of academic integrity is the responsibility of each student at Azusa Pacific University and each student is responsible for understanding and upholding the Academic Integrity Policy. A complete copy of the Academic Integrity Policy is available in the Office of Student Life, the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, and online.”

Available Support Services for Students with Disabilities
Students in this course who have a disability that might prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (ext. 3849) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

Course Description for THEO 303
“The 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 the student learn to think theologically from the Scriptures, orthodox ecumenical tradition, experience, and reason. Meets general studies core doctrine requirement for God's Word and the Christian Response. Prerequisite(s): three units of biblical studies, CMIN 108, PHIL 210 or PHIL 220, or instructor's permission.”
Desired Learning Outcomes/Faith Integration Outcome

1) Students will gain both broad and specific knowledge of the issues that have faced the Christian church in the past as well as those issues which we as Christians today must wrestle with;
2) Students will learn to think theologically about their surroundings, their decisions, and their practices and theories about life and the world;
3) Students will gain practice in searching the Scriptures for direction and guidance for all aspects of living out the Christian life;
4) Students will engage in those disciplines that make the Christian life distinct, and will deepen their understanding of how these disciplines function in the life of Christian scholars.

Required Text:

Course Packet

Recommended Texts:


Assignments:

*In-Class*

1) This course will have a heavy DISCUSSION component. I expect all of you to thoughtfully and respectfully contribute your ideas, comments and questions to our meetings together. This is a forum for you to work out your personal theology, and I encourage you to use it as such. Attendance is a significant component of this course, and your grade will suffer if you have excessive absences. Attendance may be taken at random. ***Please bring your course packet and a Bible to class each day.***

2) We will have periodic QUIZZES throughout the course of the semester. These may be announced or unannounced, and they will cover the material discussed in lecture or presented in your reading assignments. If you have attended class and read the assigned readings, you should have no problem performing well on them.

3) There will be a MIDTERM exam. This will be take-home, and will cover only the material that we have either discussed in class or you have read as homework. We will have a review session before the exam. The midterm will be due Tuesday, March 25.
4) At the end of the semester, we will have GROUP PRESENTATIONS as the culmination of your Vocation Project. These presentations will take place on Tuesday, April 22, Thursday, April 24 and Tuesday, April 29 at 9:45 (Final Exam period—please note time change).

**IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS MAY BE MADE UP FOR HALF CREDIT**

Outside of Class

1) **Class Readings and Reading Log.** You are expected to complete all of the required reading for this course. For each reading assignment, you will fill out a reading log indicating how much of the reading you completed. The reading log will be turned in on Thursday, April 24.

2) **Spiritual Discipline Practice and Reflection Paper.** 6-10 pages double-spaced. Choose one spiritual discipline from those outlined in Willard and Foster and practice that discipline throughout the semester (we will discuss the specifics of this assignment in class). At the end of the semester, you will write a reflection paper on your experience of practicing that discipline and your theology of spiritual disciplines (see assignment sheet, to be handed out). Due Thursday, April 24.

3) **Two reading response papers.** 2-4 pages each, double-spaced. Throughout the semester, choose two readings that you find particularly interesting, controversial, thought-provoking, etc. Write a reading response paper for each reading assignment, outlining what particularly struck you about the reading. (As you write, consider the following questions: What was new to you about this author’s perspective? Did you agree? Did you disagree? What are your thoughts on the subject? What biblical support does the author have? What biblical principles challenge this author’s perspective? Have you read any other material on this subject? How does it compare with the reading assignment? What objections could you raise to the author’s point of view? How was this reading helpful (or not helpful) in your practice of the Christian life?). First reading response DUE Tuesday, February 26; second reading response DUE Tuesday, April 8.

4) **Revenge Reaction Paper.** 2-4 pages double-spaced. Together as a class, we will be watching a documentary on the events that took place at the Munich Olympics in 1972. The documentary tells one chapter of the ongoing story of the conflict between Israel and its neighbors, and should launch a very lively discussion regarding an issue that, as Christians, we have the responsibility to engage. Following the film and our class discussion, you will write a paper with your thoughts—thoughts on the film, our discussion, and the issue as a whole. There will also be readings assigned on the topic of Israel and the current conflict, and you are encouraged to include the ideas expressed in these readings in your paper. Questions to consider as you write this paper are: Do you think Israel responded
in an appropriate manner to the Munich incident? Why or why not? What might they have done differently? What is the difference between a terrorist and a soldier? What about an assassin? How does the Munich incident of 1972 relate to the ongoing conflict today? **DUE Thursday, March 13.**

5) **Vocation Project.** This project serves as the culmination of the course, and is a group project that includes both a research and a presentation component. Group presentations will take place during the last week of class and finals week. Groups will be assigned based upon your major or area of vocational interest. At the time you present, you will turn in a one-page paper summarizing what you have learned through the group project.

**ALL LATE WORK IS AUTOMATICALLY MARKED DOWN 10%, AND IS MARKED DOWN BY 5% EACH ADDITIONAL DAY THAT IT IS LATE**

**Grading**

- Spiritual Discipline Project/Paper: 100 points
- Homework assignments and Reading Log: 50 points
- Reading Response Papers: 30 points each
- Revenge Response Paper: 40 points
- Midterm: 50 points
- Vocation Project: 100 points
- Class Participation/in-class assignments: 100 points

**Total possible points:** 500 points

The grading scale is as follows:

- **A**: 100-93%
- **B**: 86-83%
- **C**: 76-73%
- **A-**: 92-90%
- **B-**: 82-80%
- **C-**: 72-70%
- **B+**: 89-87%
- **C+**: 79-77%
- **D**: 69-60%

**Class Schedule:**

*(Course schedule, topics, evaluation and assignments may be changed at the instructor’s discretion.)*

**Tuesday, January 8**—Introduction to course; go over syllabus; student information sheets; discussion—the value of theological education

**HOMEWORK:** Read Simone Weil (“Reflections on the Right Use of School Studies with a View to the Love of God”)
Thursday, January 10—Mapping out course, Bloom’s Taxonomy

HOMEWORK: Read Rob Bell (“Velvet Elvis”)

Tuesday, January 15—History of Theological Studies; Intro to Spiritual Disciplines

HOMEWORK: Read Dallas Willard Preface and ch. 1 (“The Secret of the Easy Yoke”)

Thursday, January 17—Spiritual Disciplines

HOMEWORK: Read Richard Foster ch. 1 (“The Spiritual Disciplines: Door to Liberation”)

Tuesday, January 22—Spiritual Disciplines

HOMEWORK: Read Dallas Willard ch. 9 (“Some Main Disciplines for the Spiritual Life”), write Spiritual Disciplines Proposal

Thursday, January 24—GUEST LECTURE: RABBI JASON SOBEL

Spiritual Discipline proposal DUE.

Tuesday, January 29—NO CLASS

Thursday, January 31—Judaism and Christianity

HOMEWORK: Lauren Winner (“Introduction,” “Body”)

Tuesday, February 5—Judaism and Christianity


Thursday, February 7—Judaism and Christianity; Intro to Creation/Fall

HOMEWORK: Michael Wyschogrod (“Israel, the Church, and Election”)

Tuesday, February 12—Redemption (Israel, Jesus, Church)

HOMEWORK: Read N.T. Wright ch. 5 (“Jesus & God”)

Thursday, February 14—Eschatology

HOMEWORK: Read Stanley Grenz p. 599-611 (“The Consummation of History”)

Tuesday, February 19—Eschatology
HOMEWORK: Read N.T. Wright ch. 16 (“New Creation, Starting Now”)

Thursday, February 21—Eschatology; Intro to Theology and War/Peace

HOMEWORK: Read Michael Walzer (“Afterword: Nonviolence and the Theory of War”)

Tuesday, February 26—Reading Response #1 DUE. Theology and War, History of Israel/Palestine

HOMEWORK: Find 5 biblical texts related to war and peace, write one page about the tensions within Scripture on this issue

Thursday, February 28—GUEST LECTURE: REVEREND SARI ATEEK

HOMEWORK: Find one news article (online, magazine, newspaper) which relates to the Israel/Palestine issue, read it, and bring it to class

Tuesday, March 4—Theology and War; Key terms in Israel/Palestine; Four Wars

HOMEWORK: Read Gary Burge ch. 1 (“The Dilemma of Israel/Palestine for Christians”)

Thursday, March 6—watch Revenge documentary.

Tuesday, March 11—Class discussion—Revenge, Sari, Israel/Palestine

HOMEWORK: Write Revenge paper.

Thursday, March 13—Revenge paper DUE. Review for midterm

HOMEWORK: Take-home midterm.

SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, March 25—Midterm DUE. Intro to Ecclesiology/Missions

HOMEWORK: Read Darrell Guder ch. 3 (“Mission as Witness”)

Thursday, March 27—Ecclesiology/Missions

HOMEWORK: Read Darrell Guder ch. 4 (“Translation in Mission”)
Tuesday, April 1—Ecclesiology/Missions

HOMEWORK: Read Lesslie Newbigin ch. 10 (“The Logic of Mission”)

Thursday, April 3—Vocation in the Kingdom of God

HOMEWORK: Read Cornelius Plantinga ch. 5 (“Vocation in the Kingdom of God”)

Tuesday, April 8—Reading Response #2 DUE. Vocation in the Kingdom of God (two diagrams, LAAH)

HOMEWORK: Business scenario

Thursday, April 10—GUEST LECTURE: CORY WILLSON

HOMEWORK: Read N.T. Wright ch. 8 (“The Light of the World”)

Tuesday, April 15—Vocation in the Kingdom of God (Wilberforce)

HOMEWORK: Finish Spiritual Discipline paper.

Thursday, April 17—Spiritual Discipline Paper DUE, Reading Log DUE. In-class workday

HOMEWORK: Work on final project

Tuesday, April 22—Group Presentations

HOMEWORK: Work on Final Project

Thursday, April 24—Group Presentations

***FINAL EXAM PERIOD—Tuesday, April 29 @ 9:45***

(Group Presentations)