THEO 303 (01): Theology and the Christian Life  
Azusa Pacific University, Haggard School of Theology, Undergraduate Division  
Spring 2007, 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 Texts:


4) Course Packet/series of handouts

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. ***Please bring whatever reading assignment you had from the following class session to class with you, as well as a bible.***

2) We will have periodic “QUIZZES”—both individually and in groups—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 and a FINAL EXAM (Debate). Again, these will be taken in-class, and will cover only the material that we have either discussed in class or you have read as homework. We will have review sessions before each

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1 See Dallas Willard’s *Spirit of the Disciplines* p. 14ff for an explanation of this term.
exam. The midterm is scheduled for **Friday, March 16**, and the final is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 2 at 12:15** (please note time change). Please note: the final cannot be made-up.

**Outside of Class**

1) **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 APRIL 27.**

2) **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. (You do not have to answer the following questions, but they might help to get you started: 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 FEBRUARY 5; second reading response DUE MARCH 30.**

3) **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, I would like you to 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 these readings in your thoughts on the issue. **DUE MARCH 12.**

**Grading**

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Discipline Reflection Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Reading Response Papers</td>
<td>50 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenge Response Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Final (Debate)</td>
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<td>Class Participation/In-class assignments</td>
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The grading scale is as follows:

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Class Schedule:

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

Monday, January 8— Introduction to course; student introductions; go over syllabus

HOMEWORK: Read Preface in Plantinga (pgs. ix-xix)

Wednesday, January 10— syllabus; Bloom’s Taxonomy; student information sheets

HOMEWORK: Read Simone Weil essay (CP)

Friday, January 12— What is Theology? Who is a Theologian? How does (or should) theology shape the way we live?

HOMEWORK: read Rob Bell (CP)

Monday, January 15— No class

Wednesday, January 17— the value of theological education; Reactions to/discussion of Weil and Plantinga

HOMEWORK: Read Wright preface

Friday, January 19— Sub-disciplines within theology

HOMEWORK: Read Willard Preface

Monday, January 22— Intro to Spiritual Disciplines

HOMEWORK: Read Willard Ch. 1

Wednesday, January 24— Spiritual Disciplines & Spiritual Disciplines assignment; lecture on Willard, Foster; discussion

HOMEWORK: Read Foster Ch. 1 (CP)
Friday, January 26—Discuss spiritual disciplines

HOMEWORK: write proposal for Spiritual Discipline assignment (look at Willard ch. 9)

Monday, January 29—Spiritual Discipline Proposal DUE. Intro Longing and Hope/Eschatology

HOMEWORK: Read Plantinga ch. 1

Wednesday, January 31— discussion/in-class writing: What in your life has made you feel the pangs of longing and hope that Plantinga discusses on p. 3? Intro to Eschatology

HOMEWORK: Grenz 599-611 (CP)

Friday, February 2—Eschatology; CS Lewis

HOMEWORK: Write reflection paper

Monday, February 5—Reflection paper one DUE. Intro to Creation

HOMEWORK: Read Plantinga Ch. 2

Wednesday, February 7—Intro to Theology and Culture

HOMEWORK: Read Jacobsen foreword and ch. 1 (CP)

Friday, February 9—Theology and Culture; GUEST LECTURE: Eric Jacobsen

HOMEWORK: Read Jacobsen ch. 6 (CP)

Monday, February 12—Theology and Culture

HOMEWORK: TBA

Wednesday, February 14—Theology and Culture; Intro to Sin/the Fall

HOMEWORK: Read Plantinga ch. 3

Friday, February 16—No class

Monday, February 19—No class

Wednesday, February 21—Sin; Intro to Theology and War—GUEST LECTURE: Kent Davis Sensenig

HOMEWORK: Read “From Christ to the World” p. 409-445 (CP)
**Friday, February 23**—Theology and War

HOMEWORK: Read “From Christ to the World” p. 409-445 (CP)

**Monday, February 26**—Theology and War

HOMEWORK: TBA

**Wednesday, February 28**—Intro to Israel/Palestine

HOMEWORK: Read *The Economist* articles (CP)

**Friday, March 2**—History of Israel/Palestine lecture

HOMEWORK: Read *The Economist* articles (CP)

**Monday, March 5**—Theology and War; watch *Revenge* documentary

HOMEWORK: Read Burge ch. 1 (CP)

**Wednesday, March 7**—Common Day of Learning

**Friday, March 9**—discuss documentary, Theology and War (continued)

HOMEWORK: Write *Revenge* paper

**Monday, March 12**—*Revenge* paper due. Terrorism and Modern Warfare

HOMEWORK: Stassen article (CP)

**Wednesday, March 14**—Review for midterm

HOMEWORK: Study for midterm.

**Friday, March 16**—**MIDTERM**

**Monday, March 19**—Intro to Redemption—Israel, Jesus, church

HOMEWORK: Read Wright ch. 5

**Wednesday, March 21**—Redemption/Vocation

HOMEWORK: Read Plantinga ch. 4

**Friday, March 23**—Redemption/Vocation
HOMEWORK: Business Scenario

Monday, March 26—Redemption/Vocation; GUEST LECTURE: CORY WILLSON

HOMEWORK: Read Wright ch. 8 (CP)

Wednesday, March 28—Redemption/Vocation

HOMEWORK: Read Plantinga ch. 5; write reflection paper

Friday, March 30—Reflection paper two DUE; wrap up Redemption

March 31-April 9 Easter Break

Wednesday, April 11—Intro to Theology and Politics

HOMEWORK: TBA

Friday, April 13—Theology and Politics

HOMEWORK: TBA

Monday, April 16—Theology and Politics

HOMEWORK: TBA

Wednesday, April 18—Theology and Politics

HOMEWORK: TBA

Friday, April 20—Theology and Politics debate handout

HOMEWORK: TBA

Monday, April 23—Theology and Politics

HOMEWORK: Debate/Paper

Wednesday, April 25—Theology and Politics

HOMEWORK: Debate/Paper

Friday, April 27—Spiritual Disciplines paper DUE. Theology and Politics

***FINAL EXAM/DEBATE: WEDNESDAY MAY 2 @ 12:15PM***
Selected Bibliography: (** = course packet material)


Wright, N.T. *The Challenge of Jesus*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL: 1999


