Azusa Pacific University  
Department of Religion and Philosophy  
Syllabus  

THEO 303 (02) Theology and the Christian Life  

3 Units  
Spring 2007

Instructor:  
Dr. Allen Tennison  
(626) 339-6320  
dtennison@apu.edu

Course Description: “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

Course Objectives: This course will focus on basic categories or topics within systematic theology, with an emphasis on relevant Scriptures for each topic, the spectrum of Christian thinking within each category or topic, and the impact each topic has on practical Christian living.

Active engagement with the material of this course will enable the student to gain the following knowledge and skills:

1. A clear understanding of historical beliefs and practices of Christianity and how they differ from other perspectives, building on the general knowledge gained in the prerequisite courses.
2. An appreciation of the relevance of Christian doctrine for Christian living today through a growing ability to discern teaching and practice that is biblically sound from that which is not.
3. An ability to articulate clearly what you believe and why.
4. An ability to recognize and apply Christian beliefs to Christian living.
5. An ability to support your beliefs and life choices with appropriate use of Christian scriptures.
6. An ability to support your beliefs and life choices with clear, consistent logic.
7. A growing ability to identify false doctrinal arguments and contradictions between Christian belief and practice by recognizing a lack of biblical and/or logical support.
8. An ability to discern when the Bible and logic support theological perspectives and life choices different from one’s own.
THEO Desired Learning Outcomes:

1. **Outcome 1**: Undergraduate students will demonstrate an ability to give thoughtful consideration to current and historical issues in the light of the church's Scriptures and traditions.

2. **Outcome 2**: Graduates should demonstrate a practice of continual intellectual growth through personal scholarship and development.

THEO Desired Faith Integration Outcome: Most 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. 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. This is an application of the university-wide student learning goals that graduates should be able to articulate a Christian worldview of truth and life; should be able to apply biblically-based ethical reasoning skills to problems; should appreciate, understand, and value the Church; should practice a respect for the worth of all persons, with appreciation of individual and cultural differences, demonstrating truth-telling and grace in their relationships; and should be able to articulate the importance of extending genuine community to all peoples locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Textbooks:


**Course Requirements:** There are 300 possible points in this class, divided between a theology notebook, one research paper, three tests, and ten discussions. The grade of A will be given for a score ranging from 93% to 100%, a grade of A- for a score ranging from 90% to 92%, and so on. Your attendance will also affect your grade. Cheating in any way (i.e. plagiarism) will lead to a failing grade for the assignment. The following are detailed explanations of the assignments:

1. Complete three tests. The first test will be given on Tuesday, February 6, during the regular class time. The second test will be given on Tuesday, March 6, during the regular class time. The final test will be given on Thursday, May 3 from 12:15-2:15 p.m. Each test will cover both the lectures and the textbooks. The test will be divided between 30 objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and matching) worth one point each and two essay questions worth ten points each. There will be a review for the test during the
class before the test. Each test will be worth 50 points. None of the tests will be
comprehensive.

I will only allow a make-up test if I have at least one week advance warning that
you will not be able to take the test on the given date. If you miss a test, an
alternate writing assignment will be given in its place, similar to the paper
already assigned in number #3.

2. There will be 10 discussion sessions for ten topics discussed in class. I will hand
out a discussion outline for each individual to fill out while in small groups
discussing the particular theological topic. There will be no make-ups for the
discussion sessions. Each discussion outline will be worth five points.

3. One 10 page research paper on any issue in one of the following theological
topics: Doctrine of God, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Christology, Soteriology,
Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, Theology of Religions, and Eschatology. The paper
must be type-written, double-spaced with a 12 pt. font, and one-inch margins all
around. You may ask the instructor for advice on issues and resources while
you work on this paper, but you must have already begun preliminary research.
It is due on Thursday, April 19. It will be worth 50 pts. and graded according to
correct completion of the assignment (25 pts.) and neatness, including grammar
and spelling (25 pts.). The Department of Theology and Philosophy is involved
in assessing student learning, and your final paper may be chosen for this
assessment. If your paper is one of those randomly selected for evaluation, your
name will be removed so that the process is completely anonymous. This
assessment will occur after the grades have been given.

4. A typewritten theology notebook which must be turned in on the day of the
review for the final test, April 26. This notebook must divided into eleven
sections based on the first eleven topics discussed in class, with each section
consisting of type written notes from the class lectures, notes from the two books,
and personal reflections on the topic. The purpose of this assignment is not to
judge your note taking skills but to encourage you to keep a notebook for
theology so that, as you learn new theological lessons or Biblical truths, you can
include them in your notebook under the proper topic and so, through the years,
develop your theology. It is important to not only think through the truths of
Christian teaching, but to be able to relate those teachings to other truths and to
be able to apply what you know or believe to the way you live.

This notebook will be worth 50 points and will be graded according to
completeness (Does it cover every topic with the basic information that should be
known and the important people who said it? Does it include material from the
readings? Does it include the personal opinions of the author?), and neatness (Is
it typewritten? Can it be easily followed and understood?, etc.). You are not
required to write in complete sentences but are required to be clear as to the
meaning of terms, disputes, etc. in each topic. It should be at least thirty pages.
5. Attend all classes. You will be penalized by letter grades depending on your amount of unexcused absences. You can miss up to six classes without penalty. Upon a seventh unexcused absence, your final grade will be dropped one letter grade. Upon a ninth unexcused absence, your final grade will be dropped two letter grades. Upon an eleventh unexcused absence, your final grade will be dropped three letter grades. After that, you will no longer be penalized for absences.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 tests</td>
<td>50 pts. each</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 theology notebook</td>
<td>50 pts. each</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 research paper</td>
<td>50 pts. each</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 group discussions</td>
<td>5 pts. each</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
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300 pts.

Students with Disabilities: “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 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.”

Class Schedule:

January 9 – INTRODUCTION AND SOURCES OF THEOLOGY

January 11 – SOURCES OF THEOLOGY
Read Grenz 1-26, 379-404; McGrath 1.1-1.4, 1.19-1.22, 2.1-2.9, 2.11-2.20, 2.31-2.41, 2.45

January 16 – HISTORY OF THEOLOGY
Read McGrath 1.7-1.9, 1.14-1.19, 1.24-1.25

January 18 – HISTORY OF THEOLOGY
Read McGrath 3.1-3.2, 3.6, 3.13, 3.23-3.24, 3.29, 3.37-3.38

January 23 – DOCTRINE OF GOD

January 25 – DOCTRINE OF GOD
Read Grenz 53-76, 98-123; McGrath 3.3, 3.10-3.12, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.28, 3.32-3.33

January 30 – ANTHROPOLOGY
Read Grenz 125-180; McGrath 3.4-3.5, 3.31, 6.4-6.5, 6.10, 6.23, 6.25, 6.44, 6.49

February 1 – Review for Test I
Study, Study, Study

February 6 – TEST I
Study, Study, Study
February 8 – HAMARTIOLOGY
   Read Grenz 181-242

February 13 – HAMARTIOLOGY
   Read McGrath 6.1-6.3, 6.6, 6.9, 6.13, 6.31, 6.42, 6.47-6.48

February 15 – CHRISTOLOGY
   Read Grenz 243-293; McGrath 4.3-4.21,

February 20 – CHRISTOLOGY
   Read Grenz 294-356; McGrath 4.23, 4.25-4.29, 4.31-4.33, 4.35-4.36

February 22 – SOTERIOLOGY
   Read Grenz 405-431; McGrath 4.22, 4.34, 5.1-5.10, 5.12-5.21, 5.23-5.27, 5.26, 5.29-5.31

February 27 – SOTERIOLOGY
   Read Grenz 432-460; McGrath 5.11, 5.28, 6.8, 6.12, 6.14-6.21, 6.27-6.39, 6.40-6.41, 6.43, 6.45-6.46

March 1 – Review for Test 2
   Study, Study, Study

March 6 – TEST II
   Study, Study, Study

March 8 – NO CLASS
   Professor Absent

March 13 – PNEUMATOLOGY
   Read Grenz 357-378;

March 15 – PNEUMATOLOGY
   Read McGrath 3.9, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17-3.18, 8.9

March 20 – ECCLESIOLOGY
   Read Grenz 461-510; McGrath 7.1-7.4, 7.9, 7.11-7.12, 7.14-7.17, 7.20-7.21, 7.23, 7.26-7.28

March 22 – ECCLESIOLOGY
   Read Grenz 511-541; McGrath 7.5-7.8, 7.10, 7.13, 7.18-7.19, 7.22, 7.24-7.25

March 27 – ECCLESIOLOGY
   Read Grenz 542-570; McGrath 8.1-33

March 29 – THEOLOGY OF RELIGIONS
   Read McGrath 9.1-9.11

April 3-5 – SPRING BREAK

April 10 – THEOLOGY OF RELIGIONS

April 12 – ESCHATOLOGY
   Read Grenz 571-622; McGrath 10.1-10.11

April 17 – ESCHATOLOGY
   Read Grenz 623-659; McGrath 10.12-10.23

April 19 – CHRISTIAN ETHICS
   RESEARCH PAPER DUE

April 24 – CHRISTIAN ETHICS

April 26 – Final Review
   THEOLOGY NOTEBOOK DUE

May 3– FINAL (12:15-2:15 p.m.)
   Study, Study, Study
STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Phone # __________________________________________________________________

E-mail ____________________________________________________________________

Box # ____________________________________________________________________

Reason for taking the course ________________________________________________

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Prior studies in theology ____________________________________________________

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Denominational Affiliation (optional) _________________________________________

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Special Information _________________________________________________________

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