Azusa Pacific University  
Department of Religion and Philosophy  
Syllabus  

THEO 303 (04)  Theology and the Christian Life  

3 Units   Fall 2007  

Instructor:  
Dr. Allen Tennison  
(626) 437-5475  
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 February 13, during the regular class time. The second test will be given on March 12 during the regular class time. The final test will be given on April 30 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 April 16. 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 April 21. 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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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
Read McGrath 99-152; and 2.1-2.41, 2.45

January 14 – SOURCES OF THEOLOGY
Read McGrath 1-42

January 16 – HISTORY OF THEOLOGY
Read McGrath 1-42

January 21 – NO CLASS!
Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday

January 23 – HISTORY OF THEOLOGY
Read McGrath 43-98

January 28 - DOCTRINE OF GOD
Read McGrath 153-172 and 1.7-1.11, 1.14-1.19, 1.24-1.30

January 30 – DOCTRINE OF GOD
Read McGrath 201-235 and 3.2, 3.4-3.8, 3.14, 3.21, 3.23-3.27, 3.29-3.30, 3.32-3.34, 3.37-3.39, 3.42

February 4 –DOCTRINE OF GOD
Read McGrath 243-271 and 3.1, 3.3, 3.9, 3.11-3.13, 3.16, 3.20, 3.22, 3.28, 3.31, 3.33, 3.35-3.36, 3.40-3.41, 3.43

February 6 – ANTHROPOLOGY
Read McGrath 360-362, 387-390; and 6.4-6.5, 6.7, 6.10, 6.23, 6.27, 6.50, 6.56

February 11 - Review for Test I
Study, Study, Study
February 13 – TEST I

February 18 – HAMARTIOLOGY
Read McGrath 362-368; 6.1-6.3, 6.6, 6.9-6.10, 6.13, 6.18-6.21, 6.34, 6.47, 6.53, 6.55

February 20 – CHRISTOLOGY
Read McGrath 272-304; and 4.1-4.24

February 25– CHRISTOLOGY
Read McGrath 305-325; and 4.26-4.36, 4.38-4.41

February 27 – SOTERIOLOGY
Read McGrath 326-359; and 4.37, 5.1-5.10, 5.12--5.30, 5.32, 5.34-5.35

March 3 – SOTERIOLOGY
Read McGrath 368-390; and 5.11, 5.31, 5.33, 6.8, 6.11-6.12, 6.14-6.17, 6.29-6.43, 6.45- 6.46, 6.48-6.49

March 5 – NO CLASS
Common Day of Learning

March 10 - Review for Test 2
Study, Study, Study

March 12 – TEST II

March 17 – NO CLASS!
Spring Break

March 19 – NO CLASS!
Spring Break

March 24 – NO CLASS!
Spring Break

March 26 –PNEUMATOLOGY
Read McGrath 235-242; 3.10, 3.15, 3.17-3.19, 8.9

March 31 - ECCLESIOLOGY
Read McGrath 391-408; and 7.1-2, 7.8, 7.10, 7.15-7.16, 7.19-7.22, 7.25-7.28, 7.30

April 2 – ECCLESIOLOGY
Read McGrath 408-418; and 7.3-7.7, 7.9, 7.11-7.14, 7.17-7.18, 7.23-7.24, 7.29

April 7– ECCLESIOLOGY
Read McGrath 418-444; and 8.1-36

April 9 – THEOLOGY OF RELIGIONS
Read McGrath 445-464; and 9.1-9.12

April 14 – ESCHATOLOGY
Read McGrath 464-477; and 10.1-10.13

April 16 – ESCHATOLOGY
Read McGrath 477-485; and 10.14-10.25
RESEARCH PAPER DUE

April 21 – ETHICS
THEOLOGY NOTEBOOK DUE

April 23 – Final Review

April 30 – FINAL (12:15-2:15 p.m.)
STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Phone # _________________________________________________________________

E-mail _________________________________________________________________

Box # __________________________________________________________________

Reason for taking the course ________________________________________________

Prior studies in theology ___________________________________________________

Denominational Affiliation (optional) _________________________________________

Special Information _______________________________________________________