

Christian Theology II

TS 202

Fall 2023

John Leland Center for Theological Studies
School of Ministry
Diploma in Theology Program
Staunton Site

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Tuesday, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
Memorial Baptist Church, Staunton, VA

I. Course Description

This is the second portion of an introductory course designed to acquaint the student with the traditional expression and content of Christian theology. The scriptures and classical references, along with historical and contemporary sources will be used to examine main points of Christian Theology. We will examine the nature of the Christian faith and the specific doctrines concerning Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the Doctrine of Last Things.

II. Course Aim and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce the general study of Christian systematic theology in a way that is inspirational, spiritually formative, and meaningful in life and ministry. The goal is to help the student become a better minister and disciple of Christ.

By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Read with comprehension primary theological writings
2. Participate intelligently in the discussions about Christian doctrine that have occupied theologians throughout the history of the church
3. Understand the basic theological words, concepts, issues, and traditions in Christianity
4. Identify major theologians and their most significant theological contributions
5. Form reasonable belief-positions in regard to these issues, and articulate how these may influence and shape his/her ministry in the local church
6. Think and talk about Christian theological beliefs in a clearer, more informed manner
7. Be able to apply theological beliefs and concepts to his/her personal walk with Christ
8. Engage in the study of and reflection on Christian theological beliefs and practices

9. Interpret the world, personal existence, and all things in relation to the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ

III. Format and Procedures

This course is designed as an individual presentation and group discussion class. The instructor will be responsible for the presentations of pertinent material in each session and will facilitate class discussions. Students are expected to prepare for each session by completing all assigned readings and to participate actively in class discussions, and to constructively contribute to the group's knowledge and understanding. Each student will prepare (3) one-page papers and make an oral presentation of the paper to the class.

The instructor will use the textbook and the student presentations to contribute to the learning and reflection during class discussions. Additional handouts and material will be presented as time allows. Note-taking is highly recommended and encouraged.

IV. Course Requirements

Students are expected to:

1. Attend 15 class sessions, beginning August 29 and ending December 19, 2023.

No class sessions will be held on October 10 (Break) and November 21 (Thanksgiving) .

Adjustments may be made in the schedule during the semester, depending on the personal schedules of the instructor and students.

If a class session must be cancelled, advance notice will be given in class, or by email, phone call, and/or text-message.

Please inform the instructor when you must miss a class session.

Seminary policy does not allow more than 20% of class sessions to be missed during the semester. In other words, a student who misses four or more class sessions will automatically receive a final grade of "F" for the course.

2. Read the textbook by Thomas Oden, sections "Book Two" chapters 1-14 (pp 213 – 498) and "Book Three, chapters 1-11 (pp 501 -839). Be prepared at each class session to comment and raise questions on the assigned textbook material, and complete the papers and the presentations as assigned.

V. *Textbook:*

Thomas C. Oden. Classic Christianity, A systematic Theology. HarperCollins (Harper One), New York. One Volume edition 1992. (Previously published as three volumes, 1987, 1989, 1992) Available from Christian Books for about \$31.

A copy of the Baptist Faith and Message comparing the 1925, 1963, and 2000 versions will be handed out at the beginning of the class. Portions from these will be discussed briefly as they relate to class topics. The Course schedule lists the sections that will be discussed, for example: "BFM 2. God the Son" refers to Section 2 about God the Son in the Baptist Faith and Message. The comparison chart is available at website: <https://bfm.sbc.net/comparison-chart/>

A good theological dictionary is a helpful tool. Some Recommended dictionaries are:

Gonzalez, Justo L., *Essential Theological Terms*
 Grenz, Stanley K., *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*
 Harvey, Van A., *A Handbook of Theological Terms*
 McKim, Donald K., *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*
 (Or you can "Google it" like I do!)

VI. *Coursework:*

1. Papers and Presentations: 60%

(3) One-page papers and presentations about classical Theologians, Church Conferences, or Topics. Each Paper/presentation is worth 20% of the final grade.

Topics for Papers/ Presentations:

First Paper: An Early Classical Theologian of your choosing (Before the Reformation)
 Second Paper: An Ecumenical Conference or a Statement of Faith
 Third Paper: A Modern Theologian (During the Reformation and up to today)

Each paper will contain a brief summary emphasizing the following:

Describe the important facts and issues.
 Describe what was important about this person or meeting.
 Explain how the results apply to us today.

Along with the papers, on the same day that they are due, a 3-5 minute presentation will be made during class to briefly cover the important aspects of the topic or theologian examined. Copies of each paper will be handed out to the other students for their reference during the next class session. (Note: The instructor will hand out a list of suggested theologians and church conferences from which to choose)

Note: Leland follows the traditional academic writing standards of Times New Roman, 12 font, with 1 inch margins. See pages 6-10 in Leland's Student Handbook for general resources. Students may find a copy of this document on Leland's website.

2. Four Quizzes. 20% (Each worth 5%)

Quizzes will Cover topics and theological terms from the textbook and class discussions.

Quizzes will each have 5 or more questions requiring short answers of about 1-5 sentences.

3. Participation and Discussion: 20%

4. Extra Credit: (5%)

Complete an additional One-Page Paper and make a presentation about a theological topic, a church conference or statement of faith, or a theologian of his/her choice.

Note: Extra credit will be due on or before December 5.

VII. Course Grading

The student's final grade will be weighted in the following manner:

Class attendance and participation	20%
One Page Papers/ Presentations (3 Required)	60%
Quizzes	20%
Extra Credit	5%

Schedule for Assignments:

Quiz	Sept 12
First Presentation/ Paper	Sept 26
Quiz	Oct 17
Second Presentation/ Paper	Oct 31
Quiz	Nov 14
Third Presentation/ Paper	Nov 28
Extra Credit (Last Possible)	Dec 5
Quiz	Dec 12

This is a criterion referenced course and follows the grading system outlined in the Leland Center catalogue when needed:

A+	98-100	The student has demonstrated outstanding mastery of the material and its application.
A	95-97 93-94	
B+	90-92	The student has demonstrated above average mastery of the material and its application.
B	87-89 85-86	
C+	82-84	The student has demonstrated the required mastery of the material and its application.
C	79-81	
C-	77-78	
D+	74-76	The student has demonstrated below average mastery of the material and its application.

D	71-73	
D-	69-70	
F	68-below	The student has failed to master the material and its application.

VIII. Course Schedule

Date	Reading	Assignments Due	Topics
Aug 29	Oden, pp. 213-230 BFM Preamble		Introduction/ The need for a Savior/ Promise of a savior
Sept 5	Oden, pp. 231-316 BFM 1. Scripture		The incarnation/ One Person—Truly God, Truly Human
Sept 12	Oden, pp. 319-381 BFM 2. God the Son	Quiz	The Life of Christ/ The Work of Christ
Sept 19	Oden pp. 385-442		The Death of Christ/ Substitutionary Atonement
Sept 26	Oden pp. 443-498	First Presentation	The Risen Lord/ The Exalted Lord
Oct 3	Oden pp.499-525 BFM 2. Holy Spirit		The Person of the Holy Spirit/ Old Testament/ New Testament—Fullness of God within us
Oct 10 No Class			
Oct 17	Oden pp. 527-558 BFM 4. Salvation	Quiz	The Work of the Holy Spirit
Oct 24	Oden pp. 559-622 BFM 5. Grace		Repentance and Justification by Grace through Faith
Oct 31	Oden 623-688	Second Presentation	Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Abiding in Christ, and Sanctification
Nov 7	Oden 689-715 BFM 6. The Church		The Church: The Community of the Saints
Nov 14	Oden pp. 717-764 BFM 7. Baptism	Quiz	The Marks of the Church
Nov 21 No Class			
Nov 28	Oden pp. 765-786 Oden pp. 823-839	Third Presentation	Human Destiny/ Life after death/ Eternal Life, Heaven and Hell
Dec 5	Oden pp 787-821 BFM 10. Last Things	Last day for Extra Credit Presentations	The End of the Age and the Coming of Christ
Dec 12	Handouts to be determined later	Quiz	Extra Current Topics if time allows (Possible Topics: Women in Ministry, Homosexuality and the church, the Baptist Faith and Message, etc.)
Dec 19 Final			