

Time: Fall 2009, Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Rev. Josh Hayden, MDiv

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Prerequisites: None

Credits: 3 Credit Hours

Purpose:

Christian Theology I is the first course of two examining the major doctrines of Christian theology in their historical context (Christian Theology II is in the Spring 2010). This course aims to provide a contextual historical engagement with the major doctrines of Christianity as they have arisen over the course of time. Christian Theology I will first explore the form, sources, and methods of theological discourse followed by examinations of the major theological changes that have occurred on the theological landscape from the Patristic time period through part of Middle Ages and Renaissance. We will highlight especially major doctrines of Christianity (e.g. God, Person of Christ, Salvation, Eschatology, etc.). This course seeks to place the doctrines and theology of the church in a historical setting which will inform the implications for theology today. Christian Theology I will require diligent reading, but will be balanced out by limited papers. Students will have an opportunity to explore a specific topic they are interested in and will have opportunity for discussion of their topics in class.

Required Texts:

Luck, Donald. *Why Study Theology?* St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999. 0827242425

McGrath, Alister E. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought.* Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 1998. 9780631208440 *

Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition & Reform.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999. 0830815058 *

Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002 (reprint). 0802811981

*Note: Both of these books will be used in Christian Theology II as well.

Suggested Books:

O'Collins, G. and Farruiga, E. G. *A Concise Dictionary of Theology.* New York: Paulist Press, 2000. 089139294

Requirements:

1. Two exams (midterm, final)
2. One paper further exploring one of the topics from class (6-10 pages)

Course Outline:

1. Introduction
2. Why Study Theology?; Objections to Theology
3. Definition, Function, Sources, and Methods of Theology
4. Why Historical Theology?; Sacred Task of Theology
5. Patristic Theology: Theological Overview, Major Theologians, Philosophies
6. Patristic Theology: Authority, Ecclesiological, & Trinitarian Controversies
7. Patristic Theology: Ecumenical Councils, Christological Controversy
8. Patristic Theology: Augustine & Pelagius, grace, free will, predestination
9. **Midterm**; Introduction to Medieval Theology
10. Medieval Theology: Monastic Theology and/or Mystical Theology, *via negativa*
11. Medieval Theology: *Filioque*, Byzantine Theology, Orthodoxy
12. Medieval Theology: Heresies and Controversies
13. Medieval Theology: Eucharist, Scholasticism
14. Medieval Theology: Proof of God's Existence, *via moderna*,
15. **Final Exam**; Doctrine of Soteriology
16. **Paper Due & Class Discussion of Topics**