

**Course TP 2101**  
**INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

Fall 2009

John Leland Center for Theological Studies  
Robert H. Hetherington, D. Min.

Dr. Hetherington is the Executive Director of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association since 2001. He served as pastor of the Fifth Street Baptist Church, Key West, Florida from 1977 to 2001. He is also a retired US Naval Reserve chaplain. He and his wife, Judy, are members of Coopers Cove Baptist Church, Hardy, Virginia. He is a graduate of Old Dominion University (BS, Health and Physical Education) and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M. Div. and D. Min.).

**Contact Information:**

Robert Hetherington  
Roanoke Valley Baptist Association  
3926 Plantation Rd., NE, Roanoke, VA 24012  
Work: (540) 366-7631  
Home: (540) 890-6630  
Cell: (540) 520-7273  
[HOG777@aol.com](mailto:HOG777@aol.com)

**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

**Course Texts:**

Bible  
Grenz, S. Theology for the Community of God. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000  
Luck, D.G Why Study Theology? St. Louis: Chalice, 1999.  
Thielicke, H. A Little Exercise for Young Theologians. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002 (reprint).

**Catalog Description:** The purpose of this course is to give students a practical introduction to theological discourse and subject matter to prepare them for further studies.

**Instructional Objectives:**

- 1) To lead students to value the place of theology within Christian ministry.
- 2) To equip students with basic skills for theological studies.
- 3) To enable students to discover and utilize available resources for theological studies

**Grading Scale:**

A+ 98-100  
A 95-97

A-	93-94
B+	90-92
B	87-89
B-	85-86
C+	82-84
C	79-81
C-	77-78
D+	74-76
D	71-73
D-	69-70
F	68-below

**Grading Criteria:**

The student’s performance in the course will be evaluated as follows:

Class Participation (40%)

Mid-term Exam (20%)

Course Paper (20%)

Final Exam (20%)

**General Course Outline:**

This course meets once a week, one hour 45 minutes per session, for a semester. A variety of teaching methods will be utilized. Most sessions will include a class discussion based upon a reading assignment and a brief presentation of additional material by the instructor. The student is expected to come to each session prepared to discuss the assigned subject. The importance of the student’s preparation and participation is indicated by the weight of “Class Participation” in the grading criteria.

The mid-term and final exams will evaluate the student’s knowledge of information acquired through reading assignments, lectures, and class discussions. The mid-term exam will cover material from the first half of the semester and the final exam material from the whole course.

A list of suggested subjects for papers will be provided by the instructor. Students will not be limited by those on the list; however, any subject chosen by the student must be approved by the instructor.

**Course Schedule:**

A course schedule including reading assignments, session topics, exams and course paper deadlines will be distributed during the first session.

**Course Schedule:**

Date	Reading Assignments	Topics	Other Assignments
------	---------------------	--------	-------------------

27 AUG 09	Luck, pp. 1-64	Questions About the Study of Theology and the Importance of Theology	
3 SEP 09	Luck, pp. 65-139	The Goals of Theology, Constructing Theology and Developing Skills in Critical Thinking	
10 SEP 09	Grenz, pp. 1-76	The Nature and Task of Theology and the Doctrine of God	
17 SEP 09	Grenz, pp. 77-123	The Doctrine of God	Submit Topic for Paper
24 SEP 09	Grenz, pp. 125-180	The Doctrine of Humanity	
1 OCT 09	Grenz, pp. 181-242	The Doctrine of Humanity	
8 OCT 09			NO CLASS
15 OCT 09	Thielicke pp. 1-14	A Little Exercise for Young Theologians	MID-TERM EXAM
22 OCT 09	Grenz, pp. 243-293	The Doctrine of Christ	Submit Outline for Paper
29 OCT 09	Grenz, pp. 294-356	The Doctrine of Christ	
5 NOV 09	Grenz, pp. 357-404	The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit	
12 NOV 09	Grenz, pp. 405-460	The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit	
19 NOV 09	Grenz, pp. 461-510	The Doctrine of the Church	
26 NOV 09			NO CLASS
3 DEC 09	Grenz, pp. 511-570	The Doctrine of the Church	Submit Paper
10 DEC 09	Grenz, pp. 571-659	The Doctrine of Last Things	
17 DEC 09			FINAL EXAM

**Notes:**

1. The student is expected to be prepared to discuss reading assignments during class.
2. The student is expected to bring Bible, Theology for the Community of God, Why Study Theology? and A Little Exercise for Young Theologians to each class session.

