

Introduction to Theological Studies
TP 2101

Time: Spring 2010, Tuesdays 6 – 10 pm

Credit: 2 credit hours

Instructor: Brian Williams, PhD; uswilliams@cox.net; (757) 254-6538

Prerequisites:

This course has *no* prerequisites. *Introduction to Theological Studies* should be the first course for all incoming students.

A Description and Goal of the Course:

This course attempts to introduce academic study of theology in a “digestible” and preliminary form. It offers one an opportunity to get used to theological discourse and subject matter. Students are not yet expected to know how to solve theological problems. Rather, they are expected to know what the problems are. The course consists of three parts: methodological/introductory issues, historical overview, and systematic topics. The goal of *Introduction to Theological Studies* is to build a common basis for further studies for students from very different educational and ecclesiastical backgrounds.

Required Texts:

Gonzales, Justo L. *Church History: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

ISBN 0-687-01611-8

Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

ISBN 0-8028-4755-2

Course Requirements:

Reading of Assigned Texts

Class interaction and integration

Two exams (midterm and final)

Schedule:

Session 1 (Jan. 26) Introduction

Session 2 (Feb. 9) Doctrine of God Chapters 1 – 4

Session 3 (Feb. 23) Doctrine of Humanity Chapters 5 – 8

Session 4 (March 9) Doctrine of Christ Chapters 9 – 12

Session 5 (March 16) Mid Term Exam

Session 6 (March 23) Doctrine of the Spirit Chapters 13 - 16

Session 7 (April 6) Doctrine of the Church Chapters 17 – 20

Session 8 (April 20) Doctrine of the Last Things Chapters 21 – 24

Session 9 (May 4) Final Exam