

Christian Theology
Theo 6330
North Park Theological Seminary

Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, Professor
Fall Semester 2011
Tuesday, 9:30-12

Instructor Information:

Location- Nyvall 1st Floor (off Olsson Lounge)

Contact- mclifton-soderstrom@northpark.edu; 773-750-9971

*I prefer email for contact. In emergency cases, call the above cell phone number.

Office Hours- By appt.

Course Description

An introduction to the doctrines, methods and tasks of Christian theology, seeking active appropriation of Christian faith in the context of the church and in engagement with the world. History prerequisite.

Course Objectives

- Students will become familiar with basic Christian doctrine in its historical development and systematic embodiment
- To practice the tools, texts and tasks of Christian theology
- To engage in both formal and informal theological conversation, allowing students to explore and deepen their participation in the faith of the church
- To connect clearly the necessity of theology to the life, ministry and mission of the church, and to grasp the theological dimension of students' various callings
- To investigate the relationship of theology and culture, including clarification of the way cultural processes of production and meaning affect Christian identity
- To generate knowledge and love of God, to empower faithful service, and to articulate hopeful witness

Course Texts

The following authors will be our fellow disciples and conversation partners this semester.

1. Bible, NRSV
2. Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine* (Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1958). ISBN: 0024021504.
3. Justo González and Zaida Maldonado Pérez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Abingdon Press, 2002). ISBN 0687095735
4. Donald Frisk, *Covenant Affirmations* (Covenant Publications, 2003).

This book must be ordered through Covenant Publications:

<http://covbookstore.stores.yahoo.net/covafthisweb.html>

5. Kathryn Tanner, *Christ the Key* (Cambridge, 2010). ISBN: 0521732778
6. N. T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (HarperOne, 1989). ISBN: 9780061551826

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation.

Involvement in class discussions, attendance to all class sessions, and completion of all reading.

2. Essays

Throughout the semester, I will assign 3 essays. These papers will include analysis, interpretation and evaluation of the major themes in the course and the readings. They are approximately 3-4 pages (750-900 words).

*See calendar for due dates (below).

3. Final Paper

This paper is a short research paper that will address one question, to be determined in the last four weeks of class. The question should be one that in some way synthesizes the doctrines covered in this course (or another approved doctrine). Examples of questions include: How does Wright's understanding of hope challenge evangelical views of eschatology? How does the doctrine of the incarnation shape the sacramental practices of the church? Etc. The paper will in some way engage the Wright or Tanner book, along with at least 4 other scholarly sources to be included in your bibliography. See rubrics for grading criteria.

Grading

Grading breakdown is as follows:

Class Participation: 20%

Essays: 45% (15% each)

Final Paper: 35%

Academic Honesty:

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion.

Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University's online catalog.

Disabilities Accommodations

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office. Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>