

THEO 5110: CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

I. CATALOG 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. 3 semester hours.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The successful student will:

- A. Learn basic Christian doctrines in their historical context and systematic expression.
- B. Name key theologians and explain their contributions to historical and contemporary theological discourse.
- C. Define and explain important themes, theological concepts and vocabulary.
- D. Appreciate the personal and pastoral relevance of Christian doctrine, as well as their points of connection with contemporary life in various social contexts.
- E. Practice charitable theological conversation with others in the class who may have differing theological views.
- F. Develop skills in thinking theologically through the reading and analysis of course materials.
- G. Articulate a theological argument in academic writing by engaging, evaluating, and integrating various theological texts on a chosen theological theme.

III. REQUIRED COURSE READING MATERIAL

- The Bible, NIV or NRSV
- Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine* (Oxford University Press, 2008) ISBN 9780199540631
- Justo Gonzalez and Zaida Maldonado Pérez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Abingdon Press, 2002) ISBN 978-0687095735
- Donald Frisk, *Covenant Affirmations* (Covenant Publications, 2003).
Available at covbooks.com
- Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Beacon Press, 1996) ISBN 978-0807010297
- Joshua Jipp, *Saved by Faith and Hospitality* (Eerdmans, 2017) ISBN 978-0802875051
- Articles available on Canvas.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-course Reading (Due by first day of class: Friday, October 6)

Please read Augustine's *On Christian Doctrine* (Parts I-III, not IV) before class, as well as the reading pertaining to the course lectures for the first weekend of class as outlined in the course schedule. On the last day of class, please turn in a reading report with the percentage of all the required reading you finished.

B. Textual Interaction Essays

Students will have the opportunity to write three short essays (5 double-spaced pages each) in response to a prompt and a particular text (you will have several options from which to choose for the second and third essays). The purpose of these essays is theological reflection and analysis rather than research, so outside research is not

required. Due dates: Friday, October 13; Friday, November 3; Friday, December 1

C. Quizzes

The first quiz will be held on Saturday, November 11 at the beginning of class. The second quiz will be held on Saturday, December 2 in the afternoon. Study guides will be provided.

D. Post-Course Final Paper (Due December 16)

The topic of the final paper will be chosen by the student, with consultation of the instructor. Some suggestions include: an analysis of a specific doctrine or theological issue, engagement of a specific ministry issue with a theological response, research regarding the particular contribution of a theologian. More details will be provided on the first day of class.

Format Guidelines:

- 15 page, double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around
- Use a standard serif font like Times New Roman. Use 12-point font.
- Please use gender inclusive language when referring to people.
- Include a bibliography citing at least ten major sources (these can include course materials), at least one of which should be a periodical article. (Bibles, concordances, and lexica do not count!)
- Quotations, if they must be included, should be confined in footnotes rather than in the body of your paper.

V. GRADING

Required Reading	10%
Quizzes (2)	20%
Textual Interaction Essays	30%
Final Paper	30%

GRADING SCALE: A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (88-89); B(82-87); B (80-81); C+ (78-79); C (72-76); C- (70-71); D+ (68-69); D (62-67); D- (60-61); F (0-59).

VI. STUDENT RESOURCES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see the Seminary Catalog, p. 17 and review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

Academic Integrity

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.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Available on Canvas