

CTH 5520 DL/ Christian Theology for the Kingdom of God

ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Summer Semester, 2017

Online Course (May 15-August 12)

Onalee J. Pierce, Ph.D.

Email: opierce@ashland.edu and Phone: (614) 440-1657

I. Course Description

This course addresses the traditional topics of systematic theology as a narrative of salvation history. It is designed to equip students with a comprehensive and coherent theological framework for engaging in life and ministry in light of the present and future reign of God.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of this course, students will be able to:

1-3. Not assessed

4a. Articulate basic theological concepts.

4b. Analyze theological claims in light of Scripture, tradition(s), and experience.

4c. Express from their own perspective how the story of God's present and future reign should shape Christian life and ministry.

4d. Reflect theologically on a particular issue in a form appropriate to their own calling.

5-6. Not assessed

III. Course Requirements

A. Textbooks and Other Materials

Required: Stiver, Dan R. *Life Together in the Way of Jesus Christ: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2009. (555 pages total reading.) (ISBN 1602580618)

Recommended for students taking the course as CTH5510: Holeman, V. T. *Theology for Better Counseling*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012. (ISBN 13: 978-0830839728)

Students will also regularly need to access journal articles through ATLA Religion Database and occasionally access readings through the library's electronic reserve. (Students will read a total of 133 pages through these.)

Students will be required to read at least 500 pages in research and writing of the Theological Analysis Project (see below "C. Assignments of Student Learning") for a full description of the assignment).

B. Attendance

According to the *Student Handbook*, attendance at all class sessions is expected, unless the professor has been notified in advance and has approved the absence. Students should be on time and should stay through the duration of all classes. Any student missing more than six class hours (2 weeks) will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade, audit or withdraw from the class, or be penalized otherwise at the discretion of the professor.

C. Assignments of Student Learning

This course utilizes an online component (Blackboard) as its major teaching medium. Access to a reliable computer and the internet through a high-speed means (dial-up access does not usually work satisfactorily in this course) is required, as is familiarity with the use of Blackboard (assistance in Blackboard is provided in video format through Learn AU). It is highly recommended that you be familiar with computer and web functions prior to starting the course since it is not advised to try to learn them while the course is in progress. On-line learning often requires more self-motivation than a regular class and is not suitable for every student.

Online Discussions (30% total): Online discussions are the primary way in which you participate in the course and interact with others and your participation in these discussions will constitute your weekly “attendance” for the course. Therefore, non-participation in the discussions after two weeks will require extra work or a reduction of your grade. Non-participation after three weeks will result in failure or withdrawal from the course. Your participation will be evaluated not just by completing the required number of posts but by the quality of your online interaction. Your online participation will be evaluated by evidence presented that you have read the assigned reading material in its entirety, that you have grasped key concepts and ideas, that the questions you pose are related to the readings and their implications for our work in the course, and by thoughtful and respectful responses to your co-learners’ postings. Constructive disagreement is encouraged, but courtesy at all times is required. Any discourtesy will result in a deduction from your grade.

Each week there will be one discussion forum. The professor will post a series of questions based on the various assigned readings to help facilitate discussion. Each week the student will write one substantial paragraph in response to at least one of these questions, read the posts of five other students, and will write a one-paragraph response to one classmate (so, each student will make a minimum of two posts each week.) If the professor specifically asks you a question about your initial post, you do need to respond (this clarification does not count as your “response post”). All initial posts must be made each week by Wednesday at 8:00pm. All responses must be made each week by Friday at 8:00pm. **Late posts will not receive credit.**

Quizzes (30%): The quizzes will consist of objective questions (multiple choice, matching, true or false, fill in the blank, etc.). You will be given 45 minutes to answer 30-40 questions. The quiz may be taken (closed book/note/resources) anytime during the week it is assigned. The material will include the lectures and all of the reading assignments on the syllabus. Quiz #1 will cover weeks 1-5, Quiz #2 will cover weeks 6-10, Quiz #3 will cover weeks 11-13. **Dates: June 11-17 (week 5), July 16-22 (week 10), August 6-12 (week 13).**

Major Project (40%):

For CTH5520 Students: Theological Analysis Project (40%): Students will compose a 12-15-page theological analysis on a chosen topic. A proposal for your topic is due: **June 10.** The proposal should include: 1. Your topic (be as specific as you can about what you want to investigate); 2. Why you are interested in the subject; 3. An initial bibliography of 8-10 sources (the sources should be spread over the headings 2-5 found below and should be of a

scholarly nature.)¹ Because the assignment is divided into headings, there will be several “checkpoints” throughout the semester where you will submit a portion of the project (sections 1-3 will be due: **July 8**; sections 4-5 will be due: **July 29**). The professor will provide feedback on these sections which may be incorporated into the final project. The final analysis (sections 1-7) will be due: **August 12**. All portions of this assignment should be fully cited and each stage of the project should include a bibliography. (It is expected that you do at least 500 pages of reading as you research and complete this project.) The analysis should conform to the following headings:

1. **Describe your study** (1/2 page). What is your research question, and why did you want to investigate it? Why might it be a significant question to answer (and for whom)?
2. **Biblical resources** (2-3 pages). What biblical passages or themes shed light on your topic? What study resources did you consult? How have Scripture and biblical resources helped you answer your research question? (*You must use at least 5 scholarly sources, including at least 2 commentaries.*)
3. **Resources from tradition** (2-3 pages). What events or writings from church history (including your own tradition) illuminate your topic? Has your topic been especially important at certain times or places? Is there a consensus about your topic in church tradition? Has it been a matter of controversy? How have these resources helped you answer your research question? (*You must use at least 5 scholarly sources, including at least 2 historical sources [i.e., something written by a person from church history].*)
4. **Theological resources** (2-3 pages). What recent theological writings deal with your topic? Is it often or rarely discussed? What different perspectives on your topic have you discovered? Is there any consensus? How have these resources helped you answer your research question? (*You must include at least 5 scholarly sources, including at least 1 written by a person with whom you disagree.*)
5. **Resources from experience** (2-3 pages). Are there any other disciplines that shed light on your topic? Do you have any personal experience that has a bearing on your topic? How have these resources helped you answer your research question? (*You must use at least 3 sources in this section.*)
6. **Conclusions** (3-4 pages). What do you conclude from your research and thinking? What is the answer to your research question? Your thesis statement goes in this section. It's the one-sentence answer to your research question. You should expand upon it to explain it more fully. How confident are you in your conclusions? Are there still unanswered questions? Do you see any need for further research or thinking?
7. **Application** (1 page). What has this project meant to you? What difference does it make, to you or to others, that you have come to the conclusions you have? Are there practical implications for the lives of believers, for the church corporately, or for the world?

¹ Internet sources such as blogs, Wikipedia, and other online encyclopedias DO NOT count as scholarly sources. So, while you may choose to use these things in your analysis (and if you do, be sure to cite them properly), they will not count towards your required source total.

For CTH5510 Students: Case study (40%): Choose one of the case studies supplied by the instructor on the first day of class. Discuss the theological issues involved in the case from your own perspective. **Length:** 6-8 pages of text.

1. In your discussion, draw upon the Bible, course texts, class lectures, and at least **three** other sources. The secondary resources should represent biblical and theological scholarship rather than scholarly or popular counseling literature.

2. The objective is to develop a coherent and thoughtful theological discussion in your own voice, supported by biblical evidence, careful reasoning, and selected theological scholarship. Don't simply quote biblical verses but set forth the relevant theological content from your own perspective.

3. *Do not discuss how you would counsel the person in the case study. Do not refer to counseling theories or psychological insights.* Instead, construct a theological framework that would equip you to think theologically about this person's situation. Make sure you connect the theological discussion with the issues in the case study.

4. Include one paragraph that reflects on how your own presuppositions and religious tradition would inform your understanding of the issues.

Document all uses of secondary sources (including course texts, lectures, and handouts) in APA style (**must include page numbers**). Any statements taken directly from secondary sources must be enclosed in quotation marks. Biblical references should be documented in parentheses. The paper must conform to the seminary's Writing Handbook.

D. Calculation of Grade and Connection of Learning Outcomes

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>
Online Discussions	4a, 4b, 4c	30%
Major Project	4b, 4c, 4d	40%
Quizzes	4a	30%

IV. Course Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture/Topic</i>	<i>Readings/Assignments</i>
1	May 15- 20	Introduction: Thinking Theologically	Stiver, pg. ix-58.
2	May 21-27	Introduction: The Role of Scripture and Revelation	Stiver, pg. 59-103.
3	May 28-June 3	Our Trinitarian God	Stiver, pg. 105-161. Glen Shellrude, "The Freedom of God in Mercy and Judgment: A Libertarian Reading of Romans 9:6-29," <i>Evangelical Quarterly</i> 81, no. 4 (October 1, 2009): 306-318.

4	June 4-10	What Does It Mean for God to Be Provident?	<p>John Mark Hicks, "Classic Arminianism and Open Theism: A Substantial Difference in Their Theologies of Providence," <i>Trinity Journal</i> 33, no. 1 (March 1, 2012): 3-18.</p> <p>Cornel W. Du Toit, "Human Freedom and the Freedom of Natural Processes: On Omnicausality, A-causality and God's Omnipotence," <i>Religion & Theology</i> 20, no. 1-2 (January 1, 2013): 36-59.</p> <p>Theological Analysis: Proposal Due Saturday, June 10</p>
5	June 11-17	Creation	<p>Stiver, pg. 163-206.</p> <p>Quiz #1</p>
6	June 18-24	Humanity	<p>Stiver, pg. 207-225.</p> <p>John Frederic, Kilner, "Humanity in God's Image: Is the Image Really Damaged?" <i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i> 53, no. 3 (September 1, 2010): 601-617.</p>
7	June 25-July 1	Sin	<p>Stiver, pg. 225-251.</p> <p>Jürgen Moltmann, Margaret Kohl, and Steffen Lösel, "Sun of Righteousness, Arise! The Freedom of a Christian—Then and Now—For the Perpetrators and for the Victims of Sin," <i>Theology Today</i> 69, no. 1 (April 1, 2012): 7-17.</p>
8	July 2-8	Jesus Christ	<p>Stiver, pg. 253-306.</p> <p>Theological Analysis: Sections 1-3 Due Saturday, July 8</p>
9	July 9-15	Salvation	<p>Stiver, 307-364.</p> <p>Ted Peters, "Six Ways of Salvation: How Does Jesus Save?" <i>Dialog</i> 45, no. 3 (September 1, 2006): 223-235.</p>
10	July 16-22	The Holy Spirit	<p>Daniel Migliore, <i>Faith Seeking Understanding</i>, "The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life" (pg. 223-247) on electronic reserve at the library.</p> <p>Quiz #2</p>

11	July 23-29	The Church	Stiver, 365-426. Theological Analysis: Sections 4-5 Due Saturday July 29
12	July 30-August 5	The Church	Michael Kinnamon, "Ecumenical Ecclesiology: One Church of Christ for the Sake of the World," <i>Journal Of Ecumenical Studies</i> 44, no. 3 (June 1, 2009): 341-351. Ronald T. Michener, "The Kingdom of God and Postmodern Ecclesiologies: A Compatibility Assessment," <i>Evangelical Review Of Theology</i> 34, no. 2 (April 1, 2010): 119-130.
13	August 6-12	Consummation	Stiver, 427-482. Quiz #3 Theological Analysis: Final Project Due Saturday, August 12.

V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

If you are interested in continuing in your study of theology beyond this course, I recommend you read broadly, intentionally think theologically within your ministry, and foster friendships with other theologians. You may want to consider reading from the Selected Bibliography below or from such journals as the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* or *Theological Studies*.

VI. Seminary Guidelines

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy

Ashland Theological Seminary expects each student to uphold the Seminary's core value of academic excellence by contributing to an environment that is both challenging and supportive. In such an environment a student will neither seek nor offer improper assistance. All students have an obligation to be forthright in their academic endeavors and to respect ethical standards. The work that one submits for academic evaluation must be one's own, unless an instructor expressly permits certain types of collaboration. Academic integrity requires that each student will use one's own capabilities to achieve one's fullest potential and will neither offer nor accept aid that is not in keeping with regularly accepted standards of academic integrity. Failure to conform to this conduct shall constitute academic dishonesty. The full Academic Integrity Policy statement may be found in the *Student Handbook*.

B. Seminary Writing Consultation Service

The Seminary Writing Consultation Service can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing assignments in your graduate Seminary classes. Masters-qualified Consultants can advise you online or in person. E-mail your request for assistance to swc_group@ashland.edu. Include the following information: Your name, the course # & professor's name, a brief description of the assignment, and your timeline.

For more information, visit: <http://seminary.ashland.edu/services/student-services/seminary-writing-consultation-services>

C. Students with Disabilities

It is Ashland University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact Disability Services at 419-289-5904, or send an email to dservices@ashland.edu. The Disability Services office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations, and to meet your learning needs.

D. ATS Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	Description
A	97-100	Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.
A-	92-96	
B+	89-91	
B	86-88	Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.
B-	83-85	
C+	80-82	
C	77-79	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.
C-	74-76	
D+	71-73	
D	68-70	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	65-67	
F	Below 65	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

VII. Selected Bibliography

- Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*, Volumes I and 2 (Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 2001).
- Badham, Roger, editor. *Christian Theology: Contemporary North American Perspectives* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998).
- Barr, William, editors. *Constructive Christian Theology in the Worldwide Church* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997).
- Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Boyd, Gregory and Paul Eddy. *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002).
- Chan, Simon. *Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study of the Christian Life* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998).
- Cone, James H. *A Black Theology of Liberation* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997).
- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1992).

- Evans, James. *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992).
- Finger, Thomas. *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology* (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2004).
- Garrett, James. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical and Evangelical*, Volumes I and II (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996).
- González, Justo and Zaida Maldonado Pérez. *An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002).
- Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994).
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*. (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1986).
- Horton, Michael. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011).
- Jones, Serene and Paul Lakeland. *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005).
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- _____. *Systematic Theology: Ethics*, Vol. 1 (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002).
- _____. *Systematic Theology: Witness*, Vol. 3 (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000).
- McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2011).
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- Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).
- Oden, Thomas. *The Living God: Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 2001).
- _____. *The Word of Life: Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2 (Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 2001).
- _____. *Life in the Spirit: Systematic Theology*, Vol. 3 (Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 2001).
- Olsen, Roger. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002).
- Placher, William, editor. *Essentials of Christian Theology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003).
- _____. *A History of Christian Theology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1983).
- Scott, Peter and William Cavanaugh, editors. *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2004).
- Seitz, Christopher, editor. *Nicene Christianity: The Future for a New Ecumenism* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2001).
- Thorsen, Donald. *An Exploration of Christian Theology* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008).
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J., editor. *The Cambridge Companion to Postmodern Theology* (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2003).