

THEO 303 Online: Theology and the Christian Life

Azusa Pacific University, Haggard School of Theology
Undergraduate Division of Religion and Philosophy
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Online Location: <http://online.apu.edu>

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DESCRIPTION (from the catalogue)

This course provides an introduction to the doctrines of the Christian Church, focusing on the Christian life and its relationship to theology. The course approaches theology from an inductive method in the Wesleyan tradition, helping students to learn to think theologically from the Scriptures, orthodox ecumenical tradition, experience and reason. Meets General Studies core doctrine requirement for God's word and the Christian Response. *Prerequisites:* 3 Units of Biblical Studies and CMIN 108, Foundations of Ministry.

OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students (undergraduate) will demonstrate an ability to give thoughtful consideration to current and historical issues in the light of the church's Scriptures and traditions.
2. Students will demonstrate growth in the ability to think critically about the historical, doctrinal, biblical and practical aspects of the Christian faith, including appreciation, understanding, and valuing the Church.
3. Students will grow into a greater awareness of the personal and social relevance and spiritual richness that informed, disciplined theological reflection can bring to their Christian existence and their own impact upon the world in which they live.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to understand and state the main distinguishing beliefs of Christianity and to discern the difference between core Christian doctrines and practices and the varying ways in which people in different cultural and historical settings have formulated those doctrines and practices.
5. Students will demonstrate an ability to identify false doctrinal beliefs and faulty doctrinal arguments.
6. Students will have the opportunity to strengthen critical thinking and writing skills, and, more generally, to grow in the ability to effectively communicate in both written and oral forms.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Boyd, Greg and Paul R. Eddy, *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002.
2. McGrath, Alister ed., *The Christian Theology Reader*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001. [Note: A 3rd Edition of this book is now available, but the reading assignments in this syllabus correspond to the 2nd Edition.]
3. *Online materials:* websites or electronic documents available either through the Department of Theology and Philosophy website (http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theology_program.htm) or, sometimes, through our

- course website through eCollege (online.apu.edu). In the schedule of assignments below, such items will be marked by the term “WEB” followed by the author’s name. The links for these items will be provided in the list of web readings at the end of this syllabus.
4. The Bible (NIV or NRSV is recommended)

RECOMMENDED/OPTIONAL TEXTS

Note: Portions of some of these texts are including in the required or recommended readings listed below.

1. Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*. New York: Harper and Row, 1959.
2. Fackre, Gabriel. *The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine*. Vol. 1. Third Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
3. Grenz, Stanley. *A Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.
4. Johnson, Alan F. and Robert E. Webber, *What Christians Believe: A Biblical and Historical Summary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.
5. McGrath, Alister, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 3rd Ed. Oxford: Blackwell,
6. McGrath, Alister, *Theology: The Basics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004. [CURRENTLY OUT OF PRINT]
7. Olson, Roger E. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
8. Runyan, Theodore. *The New Creation: John Wesley’s Theology Today*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1998.
9. Reserve readings: Some optional reserve readings (in books reserved for this class) will be available at the Stamps Theological Library circulation desk.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

The dates for all assignments will be given below on the course schedule:

1. Two Written Reading Assignments [also called RAs] (16%; 8% each): These will be due on the dates given below on the course schedule. See pages 8-10 below for more details.
2. Three Threaded Discussions (15%; 5% each). The first discussion is an introduction of yourself to the class. The remaining two discussions involve debates of significant theological issues drawn from the Boyd and Eddy's *Across the Spectrum*. Note that your posting for these discussion are always due on Thursdays due on the dates given below on the course schedule. See page 11 below (and online directions) for more details.
3. One Research Project (30%): This project involves researching the way one theologian deals with one theological question. As, such the research project involves three separate assignments (each due on the dates given below on the course schedule), each of which represent steps in the research process:
 - a. The paper topic (1%): Survey the topics and questions covered in the required books to get an idea of what topic you might want to pursue, keeping in mind that your topic can be changed later if necessary. If possible, tell me not only the topic or question you would like to pursue, but also a theologian you would like to investigate who deals with that topic or question (you will eventually need to choose one theologian).
 - b. A one-page preview of the paper (2%): This assignment will require (a) a statement of the question to be asked in the paper (see below under the paper itself), (b) your reasons for choosing the topic and the theologian, (c) an outline

and (d) a list of *at least 5 sources*, including *at least one primary source* (i.e. a source written by the theologian you are writing on). You can use the Bible and required course texts in your paper, but these do not count in your list of 5 or more sources. Further, no more than half of your sources can be websites (unless it is a republication of a book or article). You must provide *full* bibliographic information for all of the sources (using a standard style, like Turabian, MLA, etc.). The instructor will return these previews with feedback that should help you to write your paper.

- c. **The paper itself (27%):** This is an 8-10 page research paper on a selected theologian on a selected topic. The paper should ask a specific question and give it a specific answer (the answer is the paper's "thesis"). For example, your question could be "What is John Wesley's view of Christian perfection?" Your answer (the thesis) could be: "According to Wesley, a Christian may reach a state of perfection in which he or she is entirely sanctified or free from conscious sin." The paper should include the following elements: an introduction, a body, conclusion, citations (either footnotes or parenthetical citations for all non-original material), and a list of sources (can be different than what was given in the preview). In your citations, you should always include the page numbers from the source you are citing, even when you are only paraphrasing someone (note that this is different than APA style). The body of the paper should involve both a clear presentation of what the theologian says about the topic and the student's own view of the topic. The student's "view" should include his/her critical evaluation of what the theologian says, a presentation of his/her personal view on the topic, and an explanation of the significance of the topic. More specifically, the research paper will be graded based on the following criteria (a rubric):

Format and Style (30%)

- ___ (5%) Appropriate length & format (8-10 pp., 12 pt. New Times Roman font)
- ___ (10%) Consistent, clear citations (a rule of thumb: use at least one citation including specific page numbers per paragraph in the paper; no plagiarism!)
- ___ (10%) Good organization/structure, with intro., body & conclusion
- ___ (5%) Paper free of spelling, punctuation, grammatical errors

Presentation of the Theologian's Viewpoint (40%)

- ___ (20%) Demonstrates accurate understanding of the person's views (comprehension)
- ___ (10%) Demonstrates clarity in thinking and writing (clarity)
- ___ (10%) Demonstrates adequate use of primary and secondary sources and covers the main elements of the question at hand (comprehensiveness)

The Student's Viewpoint (30%)

- ___ (15%) Effective critical evaluation of the theologian's viewpoint (critical thinking)
- ___ (10%) The student's own view
- ___ (5%) Explanation of the significance of the topic and/or viewpoint

- d. **Two Notes:** (1) Students are *strongly encouraged* to present a rough draft of the paper to the writing center before turning it in. If the paper is not free of errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar, the instructor will downgrade the student. (2) The Department of Theology and Philosophy is involved in assessing student learning, and your paper *may* be chosen for this (by a random selection). If your paper is one of those randomly selected for evaluation, your name will be

removed so that the process is completely anonymous and does not affect your grade.

4. Two Exams (39%)
 - a. Cumulative Midterm Exam (15%): an exam over all the readings and class sessions prior to the midterm must be taken and submitted through the course website sometimes between the dates listed in the course schedule below. The exam is *open book and open note* and will be made up of a combination of objective questions and essay questions.
 - b. Cumulative Final Exam (24%): an exam over all the readings and class sessions of the course must be taken online anytime during finals week. Like the midterm, the exam is *open book and open note* and will be a combination of objective questions and subjective (essay) questions. About 1/3 of the questions will be based on material covered on the midterm and about 2/3 will be on material from the second half of the term.
 - c. Study resources for both exams: Study guides for both exams are available online in the Exams unit (although they may be revised slightly later). In addition, I will publish a short list of possible essay questions to the class shortly before each exam. (In general, the questions and debates covered in the threaded discussions and reading assignments will *not* be covered again in the exam—although they do indicate the kind of questions that would make good essay questions.)

COURSE POLICIES

1. The grade for late assignments or papers will be reduced 5% for each calendar day after the due date.
2. I do not intend to give any extra credit opportunities.
3. All papers must be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced. They must be submitted as one of the following kinds of documents: Microsoft Word [.doc], Adobe [.pdf], or Rich Text Format [.rtf]. *Note*: Word Perfect or Mac Documents are not acceptable!
4. Although I will grade papers primarily on the basis of their content, I will take into consideration how well the papers are written.
5. Make-up exams will not be offered, *except* in the case of university sponsored events (e.g., a soccer game for a soccer player, a concert tour for a musician) or documented medical conditions (a doctor's note is required). Students who will miss class for any reason should inform me *prior to* the class or classes that will be missed.
6. See the Student Handbook for the policy on academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.). You must give complete citations of the sources used for every non-original quote or idea. You may not in any case try to pass off someone else's work as your own. (Hint: I am very good at detecting when you are doing this.) Basically, be honest or fail!
7. Student responsibility: If you find yourself falling behind or failing in this course for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact me for assistance. If you wait to the end of the course, it will probably be too late for me to help. Again, I do not plan on giving opportunities for extra-credit work.
8. *Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (LEC) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.* In addition, such students ought to speak with me during the first week of class and make me aware of any special needs you have.

SOME HELPFUL WEBSITES

- All the websites listed in McGrath, 689-691 and especially <http://www.Blackwellpublishers.co.uk/RELIGION/> (many links can be found here)
- Christian Classics Ethereal Library: <http://www.ccel.org>
- Religion Online: <http://www.religion-online.org>
- Catholic Encyclopedia: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>
- Online MLA Style Manual: <http://webster.comnet.edu/mla/index.shtml> (this is a helpful resource to follow in your papers; based upon the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Key to the Course Schedule (Memorizing these abbreviations will make your life easier!):

1. CTR=McGrath's *Christian Theology Reader*
2. ATS=Boyd and Eddy's *Across the Spectrum*
3. WEB=Reading from the list of "Websites" at the end of the syllabus (also listed under the course home on the Course website (the author's name given below after the word "Web" will specify which website I am referring for given unit)
4. When I list a chapter in the *Christian Theology*, the decimals following the chapter number refer to the readings selections found in the CTR. Selections identified with numbers in bold type refer to readings that you could write on for your reading assignments.
5. The abbreviation ch.= chapter and chs. = chapters.
6. RA stands for a Reading Assignment (based on selections from McGrath's *Christian Theology Reader* (CTR), as explained in the section of this syllabus immediately following the course schedule below (8-10 when printed).
7. TD stands for Threaded Discussion (otherwise known simply as a "Thread"), which are also explained later in the syllabus (page 11 when printed).
8. CT=McGrath's *Christian Theology: An Introduction* [for optional readings and some required readings marked WEB: McGrath (CT)]
9. TB=McGrath's *Theology: The Basics* [only for *optional* readings, since the book is not generally available; instructor copy is on reserve in the Stamps Theology Library]
10. Reserve: Books (for optional readings) on reserve at the Circulation desk of the Stamps Theological Library. You can request them by giving the library worker the course number and instructor name and the name of the author (as listed below).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Threaded discussion postings are due on selected Thursdays and all other assignments are due on selected Fridays (unless otherwise noted). See the key above for abbreviations used below.			
Unit/Week/Topic	Assignments/Exams	Required Reading	Optional Reading
Unit 1 (1/8-1/13): Introduction to the Class and to Theology	- Submit Student Information Sheet (available under the "Course Home" with directions) by Wed, 1/10 (if you are adding the course later, get it in as soon as possible).	-Bible: Matt. 22:34-40; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Heb. 11:1, 6 -WEB: Hart -WEB: McGrath (CT, ch. 5) -CTR, ch. 1: 1.5, 1.6, 1.22, 1.28 (RA1, question 1)	-Reserve [book]: TB, vii-xxv

Unit 2 (1/14-1/20): Revelation, Faith, the Bible and Other Sources and Norms of Theology		-Bible: Rom. 1:18-23; 1 Cor. 2:1-16 (esp. 12-13); 2 Tim 3:14-17 -CTR, ch. 2: 2.9, 2.16, 2.17, 2:18, 2.19 , 2.22 , 2.29, 2.32, 2.43, 2.45 (RA1, question 2) -ATS, ch. 1 -WEB: McGrath (CT, ch. 6) -WEB: Stackhouse -WEB: Pokrifka-Joe (handout based on Stackhouse reading)	-Reserve [book]: TB, ch. 1
Unit 3 (1/21-27): God and God's Kingdom	Threaded Discussion 1 Due on 1/25	-Bible: Exodus 33:12-34:9, Matt 6:9-33 -CTR, ch. 3: 3.7, 3.8 , 3.18, 3.19, 3.21 , 3.23 , 3.25, 3.30 , 3.32, 3.37, 3.38 (RA1, questions 3 and 4) -ATS, ch. 3 -WEB: Kraybill -Web: Wright (part 1 of sermon on Matt 6:33)	-Reserve [book]: TB, ch. 2 -WEB: Wright (parts 2 & 3 of sermon on seeking the kingdom, etc.)
Unit 4 (1/28-2/3): Creation and Providence		-Bible: Gen. 1, Psalm 104 -CTR, ch. 3 (again): 3.22, 3.24, 3.26 -ATS, chs. 2 & 4	-TB, ch. 3
Unit 5 (2/4-2/10): Anthropology, Sin, and Covenant		-Bible: Gen. 1:26-31; Gen 2-3, Rom. 5 -CTR, ch. 6: 6.5, 6.6, 6.13, 6.14, 6.16 , 6.17 , 6.18, 6.42, 6.44, 6.47, 6.49 (RA1, question 5) -ATS, chs. 5 & 6 -WEB: Fackre -WEB: Runyan	
Unit 6 (2/11-2/17): Christology	Reading Assignment 1 due on 2/16	-Bible: John 1, 14:9, 20:28; 1 Cor. 15:3-20, Col. 1, Heb. 1 -CTR, ch. 4: 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.14, 4.15, 4.21, 4.22, 4.26, 4.32, 4.33 , 4.36 (RA1, question 6) -ATS, ch. 7 -WEB: Berkof (2 chapters)	-Reserve [book]: TB, ch. 4 - Reserve [book]: CT, 345-367, 377-379
Unit 7 (2/18-2-24): Salvation (Soteriology), part 1: The Work of Christ	Research Paper Topic Due on 2/23	-Bible: Rom. 3:21-26 and Rom. 5:6-10 -CTR, ch. 5: 5.1, 5.3, 5.7, 5.12, 5.13, 5.15, 5.25, 5.27 -ATS, ch. 8	-Reserve [book]: -TB, ch. 6 - Reserve [book]: CT, 406-439
Unit 8 (2/25-3/3): Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)	<i>Midterm Exam</i> (take online between 3/1- 3/3 , by 11pm on the 3 rd)	-Bible: Acts 2, John 14 and 16, 1 Cor. 12-14 -ATS, ch. 15 -WEB: Fee -WEB: Chevreau	-Reserve [book]: -TB, ch. 6
Unit 9 (3/4-3/10): Salvation (Soteriology), part 2: Work of the Spirit & Election vs. Free Will	Threaded Discussion 2 due on 3/8	-Bible: Eph. 1-2, Rom. 8:28, Rom. 9 -CTR, ch. 6 (again): 6.11, 6.12, 6.29 , 6.33, 6.35, 6.36, 6.39, 6.34, 6.45, 6.46 (RA2, questions 1 and 2) -ATS, chs. 9 and 11 -WEB: Johnson & Webber -WEB: Witherington	- Reserve [book]: CT, 440-453, 465-475
Unit 10 (3/11- 3/17): Salvation (Soteriology), part	[Note: 3/16 is the last day to withdraw from the class.]	-Bible: Job 29, Amos 8, Luke 4:16-21 -ATS, ch. 10 -WEB: Barth	-WEB: Interview with Ron Sider -WEB: Sermon

3: Justification, Sanctification, Spirituality, and Social Action		-WEB: Foster -WEB: Sider -WEB: National Association of Evangelicals document, "For the Health of the Nations"	by Bono - Reserve [book]: CT, 453-465
Unit 11 (3/18-3/24): Salvation (Soteriology), pt. 4: The Question of World Religions	Research Preview due on 3/23	-Bible: John 14:4-11; Acts 17:22-34; Rom. 10:6-15 -CTR, ch. 9: 9.1, 9.5, 9.6, 9.8, 9.9 (RA2, question 3) -ATS, ch. 12 -WEB: D'Costa	-WEB: Fackre -WEB: Mbiti -WEB: Song
Unit 12 (3/25-3/31): The Church (Ecclesiology)	Threaded Discussion 3 due on 3/29	-Bible: Matt 16:13-20, Eph. 2 and 4; 1 Peter 2:4-10 -CTR, ch. 7: 7.4, 7.6, 7.9, 7.14, 7.15, 7.17, 7.28 (RA2, question 4) -ATS, ch. 16	- Reserve [book]: CT, 476-486, 494-507
SPRING BREAK (3/31-4/9)	SPRING BREAK (3/31-4/9)	SPRING BREAK (3/31-4/9)	SPRING BREAK
Unit 13 (4/10-4/14): The Sacraments		-Matt 26:26-30, 28:19-20, John 3 and 6, 1 Cor. 11:23-34, Col. 2:8-15. -CTR, ch. 8: 8.5, 8.7, 8.10, 8.11, 8.16, 8.18, 8.23, 8.26, 8.28 (RA2, question 5) -ATS, chs. 13-14	-Reserve [book]: Runyan, 128-145
Unit 14 (4/15-4/21): Last Things (Eschatology)	Reading Assignment 2 due on 4/20	-Bible: Isa. 11, 60-61, 65-66; Mark 13, 1 Cor. 15, 1 Thess 4:13-18, 2 Peter 2, Rev. 12-13, 19-22, -CTR, ch. 10: 10.2, 10.4, 10.11, 10.13, 10.16, 10.17, 10.22, 10.23 -ATS, chs 17-18 -WEB: Dart	- Reserve [book]: CT, 553-577
Unit 15 (4/22-4/28) "Study week"	Research Paper due on 4/27	<i>No new reading; work on Papers and prepare for final</i>	
Finals (4/30-5/4): Submit Final Exam online anytime during M-F of finals week [before 11pm on 5/4]			

Reading Assignments Based on Readings in the *Christian Theology Reader*

I. General Explanation

- As noted above, you must two reading assignments (RAs) for a total of 14% of your course grade (140 points). RA1 covers selected CTR readings from the first half of the term, and RA2 covers selected CTR readings from the second half of the term.
- For each RA (RA1 and RA2), you will answer questions on reading selections related to one theological question. In each you will choose which theological question you want to focus on from a list of six options, which are listed below.
- The two RAs are due on the dates given in the course schedule above.
- The purpose of this assignment is to challenge you to understand and thoughtfully interact with important theological *primary sources*, that is, sources that are written by major theologians from various periods of church history (not summaries written by contemporary writers). I will grade your assignment depending on how well you follow the directions below and on the quality of the work done.
- **Note 2:** You must do **all** the required readings listed for the CTR above in the course schedule. This means you need to do all the readings even for weeks when you did not choose to do any RA on those readings.

II. Directions (Please follow carefully!):

1. Choose *one specific theological question* out of the questions listed below for each of the two RAs.
2. Do all the required readings from McGrath's CTR listed next to *your chosen question* below (the readings are identified by decimals, like 1.3, 5.5, etc.). (Note: You need to have the 2nd edition of the CTR, otherwise you will be doing the wrong readings). Your assignment paper will be composed primarily of your answers to the questions listed by McGrath at the end of each reading (there are typically 2 to 4 questions for each reading).
3. Your paper must take the following format:
 - Type the number of the RA at the top of the paper (RA1 or RA2), along with the question you chose for that RA (see 1 above).
 - Answer all the questions in the McGrath book at the end of the readings identified below (an exception is that you do not need to answer questions that ask you do compare the selected reading with some other reading selection in McGrath that is not a part of the required reading). Type out *both* the questions from McGrath and your answers.
4. After you have written all the relevant questions and answers from McGrath, write one or two paragraphs expressing your own views about the general theological question that all the readings relate to, namely, the question that you chose and placed at the top of your paper. State what you think about it and why, interacting with the readings as you do this. (For example, "I agree with what Augustine said about predestination in the reading selection, because . . .")
5. The paper should be 3 to 5 pages long (roughly one page or less for each reading in McGrath) and should follow the regulations given for all papers above under the "course policies" (double-spaced, 12 pt font, etc.).
6. Submit the paper by attaching it in the online "Dropbox" for RA1 or RA2 (The dropbox tab is on the top of the screen), which will both be due on the two Fridays noted in the course schedule.

III. Theological Questions from CTR for Reading Assignments:

(1) For Reading Assignment 1: RA1 (choose 1)

1. What is the main content and significance of the ancient Christian creeds? 1.5, 1.6

2. What is the proper relationship between Scripture and tradition/the work of theologians? 2.19, 2.22, 2.45
3. Does God suffer (or change or have compassion)? 3.7, 3.8, 3.19, 3.21, 3.27, 3.30
4. Is feminine language for God appropriate? If so, what kind? 3.23, 3.37, 3.38
5. What is the nature of human freedom (and human responsibility)? 6.14, 6.16, 6.17
6. What is the proper role of history in understanding Jesus Christ? That is, what is the relationship between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith? 4.26, 4.32, 4.33, 4.36

(2) For Reading Assignment 2: RA2 (choose 1)

1. What are different views of the nature of election or predestination? 6.11, 6.12, 6.33, 6.39 6.45, 6.46
2. What is justification? 6.29, 6.35, 6.36, 6.43
3. What is the proper Christian perspective on non-Christian (or pre-Christian) religions? 9.1, 9.5, 9.6, 9.8, 9.9
4. What does “catholicity” mean in the context of the doctrine of the church? 7.4, 7.9, 7.14, 7.28
5. How is Christ present in communion and what is the meaning of the doctrine of the “real presence” of Christ in communion? 8.5, 8.10, 8.11, 8.23
6. What are some different views of final punishment (hell and/or conditional immortality/everlasting death)? 10.2, 10.16, 10.23

IV. Some Other Theological Questions Covered in the Required CTR Readings

[Note: These are not for RAs, but are potentially similar to essay questions on the exams.]

- What are some views of the nature of Theology? 1.22, 1.28
- What is the role and nature of Scripture for Christianity? 2.9, 2.18, 2.32
- What is the role of revelation for Christianity and what are some different forms of revelation? 2.16, 2.17, 2.29, 2.43
- What is the meaning and significance of the doctrine of the Trinity? 1.5 (review) 3.18, 3.25, 3.32
- What is the nature of God’s power and how does God use his sovereign power in creation? 3.22, 3.24, 3.26
- What is sin, including “original sin”? 6.6, 6.13, 6.18, 6.42, 6.47
- What does it mean to speak of humanity being created in the image of God? 6.5, 6.44, 6.49
- What is the relationship of the two natures (divine and human) in Christ? What is the “Chalcedonian view” as opposed to some heretical views (like Arianism, Nestorianism and Apollinarianism)? 4.6, 4.7, 4.14, 4.15, 4.21 (see also the optional readings 4.10, 4.11, and 4.13 on the varying views of Cyril and Nestorius).
- What is the threefold office (or the three offices) of Christ and how do they relate to the Old Testament? 4.22
- What are three different models/theories of Christ’s work of atonement? 5.1, 5.7, 5.12, 5.13, 5.15, 5.27 [Note: These readings represent examples of varying theories or models of atonement. Although some are similar to the three views presented in *Across the Spectrum*, ch. 9, be aware they are not exactly the same as them. See the PowerPoint slideshow on this subject.]
- Describe the “moral example” theory of Christ’s atonement, based on three representatives of it. 5.3, 5.13, 5.25
- What are the identifying marks of the church and is the church pure or mixed? 7.6, 7.15, 7.17, 7.19

- What is the meaning and significance of the doctrine of the transubstantiation for Roman Catholics? 8.16, 8.18, 8.28
- What are sacraments and/or how many sacraments are there? 8.6, 8.7, 8.15, 8.17, 8.24, 8.26
- What is the meaning and significance of the doctrine of purgatory for those who believe in it? 10.11, 10.13
- How will creation and history come to an end and what are some features of these “last days”? 10.4, 10.17, 10.22

Topics for Threaded Discussions (Threads)

General Explanation

- As noted above, you have three required threaded discussions (TDs or threads), for a total of 15% of the course grade (or 150 points).
- In the first thread, you will introduce yourself to your instructor and classmates, by means of answering a specific set of questions (see online instructions).
- The next two threads (TD2 and TD3) require that you choose one debate to answer among the options given below (and online).

Thread 2—Choose one of the following debates to comment on:

The Charismatic Gifts Debate (2 views):

The Eternal Security Debate (2 views):

Thread 3—Choose one of the following debates to comment on:

The Destiny of the Unevangelized Debate (4 views):

The Women in Ministry Debate (2 views):

- The purposes of thread 2 and thread 3 are to get you to think through, state clearly, and wisely defend your own view concerning a number of controversial issues within evangelical theology, as presented by Boyd and Eddy's *Across the Spectrum* (ATS). These TDs also gives you an opportunity to dialogue with your classmates about these theological issues.
- Your participation in the threads takes the form of posting comments online (in the final unit marked "Threads") either in response to the debate itself or in response to your classmate's comments. Your participation (postings) is due by the dates given on the course schedule above (the usual 5% lateness deduction will apply for comments made after these dates).

Directions

- Choose one of the two debates to comment on in each thread.
- After you have read the relevant chapter in ATS, post *at least* one comment by the date in the course schedule, which is always on a *Thursday*.
- To get full credit, your comment *must* include the following:
 1. An informed, logical defence of one viewpoint on your chosen debate (not a casual comment!). If you are not sure which view you prefer, then explain why.
 2. Critiques of or interaction with viewpoints other than your own, as represented either by the book or by your classmates (you may need to post more than once).
 3. Points or observations that *go beyond* repeating what is already said in the ATS book. This could include comment on the relevance of ideas or readings that you have encountered on your own.

NOTE: Please be as brief as possible in your posting, covering only the essential points (for the sake of both your classmates and your instructor!)

A List of Websites for Required and Recommended Readings for THEO 303

Note: Websites readings are listed by unit, with required readings listed first, and any recommended readings listed after the required ones (only units 3, 10 and 11 have optional readings).

Unit 1, Required:

Hart, Trevor. *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology*. (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1995), 1-8: [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Third Edition. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2001), 137-155:
[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Unit 2, Required:

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Third Edition. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2001), 159-197:
[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Pokrifka-Joe, Todd. Handout on "Evangelicalism and its Future" (based partly on the reading by Stackhouse, listed below).

[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Stackhouse, John G. Ed. *Evangelical Futures: A Conversation on Theological Method*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2000), 39-58. [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Unit 3, Required:

Kraybill, Donald B. *The Upside-Down Kingdom*. (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1990), 17-34:
[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Wright, Christopher. "Seek God's Kingdom and his justice" (**Part 1** of a Sermon on Matt 6:24-34): http://www.micahchallenge.org/global/prayer_resources/documents/430.doc

Unit 3, Optional:

Keathley, J H (2004). The Trinity (Triunity) of God:
http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=215

Wright, Christopher. "Seek God's Kingdom and his justice" (**Part 2** of a Sermon on Matt 6:24-34): http://www.micahchallenge.org/global/prayer_resources/documents/431.doc

Wright, Christopher. "Seek God's Kingdom and his justice" (**Part 3** of a Sermon on Matt 6:24-34): http://www.micahchallenge.org/global/prayer_resources/documents/434.doc

Unit 5, Required:

Fackre, Gabriel. *The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine*. Vol. 1. Third Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978, 89-99:
[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_-theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Runyan, Theodore. "The Renewal of the Image of God" in *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*, 13-25: [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Unit 6, Required:

Berkof, Louis. Chapters 14 and 16 in *Summary of Christian Doctrine* (written from a tradition Calvinistic perspective): <http://www.mbrem.com/shorttakes/berk.htm> (click on chapters 14 and 16 when you reach this page)

Unit 8, Required:

Fee, Gordon. *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 24-35: [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Chevreau, Guy. *Catch the Fire: The Toronto Blessing, An Experience of Renewal*. (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1994), 205-225:

[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Unit 9, Required:

Johnson, Alan F. and Robert E. Webber, *What Christians Believe: A Biblical and Historical Summary*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993), 277-301:

[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Witherington, Ben, *The Problems with Evangelical Theology: Testing the Exegetical Foundations of Calvinism, Dispensationalism, and Wesleyanism*. (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press), 59-69, 73-89: [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Unit 10, Required:

Barth, Karl. "Prayer." In *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1963), 159-170:

[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Foster, Richard. *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of the Christian Faith*. (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1998), x-xiv, 1-22:

[http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

National Association of Evangelicals: "For the Health of the Nations: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility" (The following contain the same document in different formats):

- 1) PDF Version: http://www.nae.net/images/civic_responsibility.pdf (This document is produced by the National Association of Evangelicals in 2004 and is taken from their website.)
- 2) HTML Version (in 2 parts):
 - a. Part 1:
http://www.micahchallenge.org/global/prayer_resources/documents/An%20Evangelical%20Call%20to%20Civic%20Responsibility%201.doc

b. Part 2:

http://www.micahchallenge.org/global/prayer_resources/documents/An%20Evangelical%20Call%20to%20Civic%20Responsibility%202.doc

Sider, Ron: "An Evangelical Theology of Liberation"

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1757>

Unit 10, Optional:

A 2005 interview with Ron Sider about the scandal of Evangelicals who don't practice what they preach: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/004/32.70.html>

A sermon by Bono given at the 2006 National Prayer Breakfast at the White House:

http://www.micahchallenge.org/global/prayer_resources/documents/506.doc

Unit 11, Required:

D'Costa, Gavin. "Theology of Religions," in *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology in the Twentieth Century*. 2nd Ed. edited by David F. Ford (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1997), 626-644: [http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_\(z1\)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm](http://groups.apu.edu/theophil/theo_303_(z1)_theo_&_the_christian_life.htm)

Unit 11, Optional:

Fackre, Gabriel: "Claiming Jesus as Savior in a Religiously Pluralistic World" (PDF file)

<http://www.luthersem.edu/ctrf/JCTR/Vol08/Fackre.pdf>

Mbiti, John: "The Encounter of Christian Faith and African Religion"

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1746>

Song, C. S.: "The Tortoise and the Hare: Creating a Reforming Church for a Global World"

<http://www.psr.edu/page.cfm?l=62&id=80>

Unit 14, Required:

Dart, John. "Beam Me Up Theology" <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=2600>