

ADVANCE Ministry Preparation

Sponsored by Gateway Seminary

CLL 1211 Christian Theology I – 3 hours

Spring 2023

Sunday, January 15, 2023 (6:30p-8p) – Tuesday, May 23, 2023 (8p-9:30p)

Redwood Empire School of Ministry at North Hills Church, Vallejo

Instructor: David Quitevis

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This class meets for fifteen weeks for periods of two hours and fifty minutes including two 10-minute breaks. However, centers can choose to schedule this class with times that work best for your ministry context as long as you meet the 45 hours of seat time required for this course. This class will be online and virtual.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to Christian Theology focusing on its nature, task, method, and application followed by a survey of the doctrines of Revelation, the Triune God, Creation, Humanity, and Sin.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be better able to:

1. Express a clear understanding of the major Christian doctrines.
2. Employ a theological method that includes Biblical exegesis, historical developments, philosophical insight, and experiential reality to articulate Biblical truth with accuracy, clarity and coherence.
3. Be knowledgeable of a variety of theological approaches and methodologies.
4. Articulate their own personal theological positions, and
5. Function as responsible pastoral theologians in applying Christian truth to contemporary life.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

Akin, Daniel L., ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Rev. ed. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2014.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. 2 vols. HarperOne, 1982.

Boice, James Montgomery. *Foundations of the Christian Faith: A Comprehensive and Readable Theology*. Rev & exp. IVP Academic, 2019.

Conyers, A. J. *A Basic Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Edited by Jacob Shatzer. St. Augustine Press, 2019.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Baker Academic, 2013.

Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Eerdmans, 2000.

Grenz, Stanley. *What Christians Really Believe & Why*. WJK, 1998.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Zondervan, 1995.

Humphreys, Fisher. *Thinking About God*. Insight Press, 1994.

McGrath, Alistair. *Christian Faith: An Introduction*. 4th ed. Blackwell, 2007.

Milne, Bruce. *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief*. 3rd ed. IVP, 2009.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Over the course of the semester, the following evaluation exercises will be used to determine the level of mastery of course content achieved by each class participant:

1. ***Class attendance and participation*** (10%)
Class attendance and participation are critical to the learning process. Students should attend and properly prepare for every class meeting.
2. ***Reading*** (15%)
Students will read *Akin*. [and any selected readings].
3. ***Weekly quizzes*** (15%)
A quiz will be given at the beginning of each class. Quizzes will focus on lectures and reading from the previous week. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
4. ***Personal position papers*** (15%)
Students will write a series of short responses to theological topics covered in this course. These should be turned in prior to the topic being covered in class and should be based entirely on the students' understanding prior to the course and without utilizing *Akin*. These views will likely change or be updated by the end of the course. Position papers should be about a 1/2 page each.
 - a. What is revelation and how does it work?
 - b. Is the Bible unreliable, trustworthy, or inerrant and why? What are the implications?
 - c. Explain the Trinity and its importance in Christian theology.
 - d. God's relationship to creation and time.
 - e. What is the role and meaning of God's sovereignty and relationship to his providence?
 - f. Historicity of Adam and Eve and its implications on Christian theology.
 - g. What does the 'image of God' mean and what are its implications?

- h. What is original sin and how does it affect Christian theology?
5. **Theological interviews** (15%)
Students will conduct three interviews using the topics for the personal positions papers. Students should consolidate notes and views of interviews, which should be about 1-3 pages per interview. One of the interviews will be with a layperson from their church not in the class. One will be with a pastor or ministry leader at their church. One will be with someone who does not attend their church, either Christian or not. (These can be turned into presentations but should not include names of interviewees.)
6. **Final exam** (30%)
There will be a final exam as noted in the schedule below. The final exam will be a comprehensive exam, focusing on the material from *Akin* and class lectures throughout the semester.

Semester Grades	<i>Participation</i>	10%,	<i>Reading</i>	15%,	<i>Quizzes</i>	15%,
	<i>Position Paper</i>	15%,	<i>Interview</i>	15%,	<i>Final Exam</i>	30%,
	Total	100%				

GRADING SCALE

A 94-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D 65-69
A- 90-93	B 83-86	C 73-76	F 0-64
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Lectures & Assignments	Reading
1	Introduction to the Course Introductory Matters: The Why and What of Theology	Akin, ch. 1
2	Introductory Matters: The How and Where of Theology	Akin, ch. 1
3	Revelation: Natural	Akin, ch. 2
4	Revelation: Special	Akin, ch. 3
5	The Triune God: Being	Akin, ch. 4
6	The Triune God: Attributes	Akin, ch. 4
7	The Triune God: Acts	Akin, ch. 4
8	Creation	Akin, ch. 5
9	Providence	Akin, ch. 5
10	Agents of God: Angels	Akin, ch. 6
11	Humanity: Image Bearers of the Triune God	Akin, ch. 7
12	Humanity: Image Bearers of the Triune God	Akin, ch. 7
13	Evil and Sin	Akin, ch. 8
14	Evil and Sin Review of Semester	Akin, ch. 8

	Interview Papers DUE (present or discuss)	
15	Final Exam	

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Systematic Theology

Chan, Simon. *Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study of the Christian Life*. IVP, 1998.

Conner, W.T. *Christian Doctrine*. Broadman, 1937.

Jenson, Robert. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. Oxford University Press, 1992 & 1997.

Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Eerdmans, 1991.

Oden, Thomas. *Systematic Theology: The Living God, The Word of Life, Life in the Spirit*. 3 vols. Hendrickson, 2006.

Theological Studies

Coppedge, Allan. *Portraits of God: A Biblical Theology of Holiness*. IVP, 2001.

Cowan, Steven, ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Zondervan, 2000.

Erickson, Millard. *God in Three Persons: A Contemporary Interpretation of the Trinity*. Baker Book House, 1995.

Erickson, Millard. *God the Father Almighty: A Contemporary Exploration of the Divine Attributes*. Baker Book House, 1998.

Hart, Trevor. *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology*. IVP, 1995.

McGrath, Alister. *The Christian Theology Reader*. 4th ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Moreland, J. P. and John Mark Reynolds, eds. *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*. Zondervan, 1999.

Musser, Donald and Joseph Price, eds. *New & Enlarged Handbook of Christian Theology: Revised Edition*. Abingdon, 2003.

Piper, John. *The Pleasures of God*. Multnomah, 2000.

Packer, James. *Knowing God*. IVP Books, 1993.

Stone, Howard and James Duke. *How to Think Theologically*. Fortress Press, 1996.