



TS5201 Theological Foundations

Directed Study Syllabus

Winter 2020

3 credit hours

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Course Description

This introductory course is designed to equip students to think theologically. Students will learn the sources and methods for doing theology within a broadly evangelical perspective (a ‘generous orthodoxy’) and then reflect on the major themes and concepts in Christian theology, including the doctrine of God and the Trinity, Christology, the Holy Spirit, creation and fall, salvation, the church, and the last things. Students will develop an ordered understanding of basic Christian doctrine and cultivate an appreciation for the ongoing significance of theological reflection for the health and impact of the church and for the Christian’s life, ministry/vocation, and service in the world.

Required Textbooks and Readings

Gabriel, Andrew K. “Pneumatological Insights for the Attributes of the Divine Loving.” In *Third Article Theology: A Pneumatological Dogmatics*, edited by Myk Habets, 39-53.

Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016. (Available on the [Populi](#) course page, under the info tab.)

Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. (ISBN: 0802847552 or ISBN-13: 978-0802847553)

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 6th ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2016. (ISBN: 978-1118869574)

McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. 2nd edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2014. (ISBN: 978-0664238353)

Olson, Roger E. *Reformed and Always Reforming: The Postconservative Approach to Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007. (ISBN: 0801031699 or ISBN-13: 978-0801031694)

Theology Reading Pack. (Available on the [Populi](#) course page, under the lesson tab.)

Your denomination’s and the [Evangelical Fellowship of Canada’s statements of faith](#).

Course Goals

1. Begin to understand why and how theology is done.
2. Recognize and appreciate the doctrinal consensus of the Christian faith as well as the diversity found within it.
3. Appreciate the particularity of the evangelical theological tradition as well as your own denomination.
4. Become more aware of Christian theological traditions other than your own.
5. Identify personal theological presuppositions and beliefs.
6. Build a basic vocabulary of theological terms.
7. Develop skills of careful theological analysis and reflection.
8. Be equipped to minister with greater biblical and theological clarity.
9. Appreciate the value of systematic theology, including the implications it has for Christian living and the practice of ministry.

Course Requirements

Lecture Attendance and Interaction	n/a	3 pages	Mar 6
Approaches to Theology	20%	5 pages	Feb 7
The Doctrine of God	20%	5 pages	Feb 28
Topical Reading Responses	20%	6 pages	Mar 20
Research Paper	35%	10 pages	Apr 7
Final Reflections	5%	2 pages	Apr 9

The due dates for these assignments overlap. You will be completing assignments 2-3 while you are still working on assignment 1. The assignment descriptions below describe when to work on each assignment.

General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

Formatting Papers

- Papers should be typed, double-spaced and follow the appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Follow either the “[Chicago Style](#)” of formatting or the [Horizon Format Guide](#) (whichever you choose, be consistent with what you use).
- Employ [gender-inclusive language](#) wherever possible and appropriate.
- Use **Times New Roman** font only.
- Use *italics* rather than underlining (including in the footnotes and bibliography).
- Use **footnotes** only, not endnotes.
- Papers that exceed the **maximum length** may not be graded and will receive a grade reduction

Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

Submitting Your Assignments

Assignments should be submitted via [Populi](#). This [video](#) explains how to submit assignments on Populi (the link to the video is also available on the info tab of the Populi course page). I will accept submissions in either **MSWord format** (doc or docx is fine), **Rich Text format** (rtf), or as **PDF files**. When you submit electronic files, please name the file as follows:

Example: **Pat Brown – Approaches to Theology**

Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%. After six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

Assignments Notes:

- You will complete assignments 2-3 while also working on assignment 1.

1. Lecture Attendance and Interaction (marked as complete/incomplete) *Complete by **Mar 6**

In order to pass this course, you are required to “attend” and engage with all of the lectures (via the videos, the *Theology Reading Pack*, handouts, notes, etc.). Your lecture interaction will take place in each of the “lesson” discussions on Populi ([see here](#)). To demonstrate your participation, plan to make *one or more posts of about 100 words for every lesson*. With your posts, I also encourage you to respond to other students in the course. Note that you are *not* required to answer all of the questions that I direct students to post on within the lecture videos. Also, you are *not* required to write out answers to the supplementary reading questions. Within the lessons, however, I will direct you to complete the readings from the *Theology Reading Pack*, to think about the answers to the questions, and to listen to our in-class discussion of those readings. This assignment will be marked as complete or incomplete. By the due date, you will submit a one-sentence statement to the professor indicating that you have “attended” all of the lectures online.

*NOTE: You will complete assignments 2-3 while also working on assignment 1.

2. Approaches to Theology – 20%* Due **Feb 7**

After you have *finished lessons 1-4 on Populi*, you should complete this assignment. The purpose of this paper is to get you to think more deeply about how people (including you) do theology. For this assignment you will read (in this order):

- McGrath, chs. 5-8.
- Grenz, Introduction + ch. 14.
- Olson, Introduction, chs. 1-6 + Conclusion.

After completing the reading, write a **1600-1900 word evaluation** (about 5 pages) of Olson’s proposal in *Reformed and Always Reforming*. This paper has three parts: (1) review the book by identifying Olson’s thesis and tracing his argument through the book (2 pages); (2) critique Olson’s book (about 2 pages) by noting its theological strengths and weaknesses (*not* how he presents the material)—you can draw on the other authors you read to assist you in your critique; and (3) note how the readings (not just Olson) have impacted your understanding of theology (about 1 page). Be sure to use (and cite) *all* of the required readings for this assignment, not just Olson.

3. The Doctrine of God – 20%* Due **Feb 28**

As or after you have *finished lessons 5-6 on Populi*, you should complete this assignment. The primary purpose of this assignment is to build your knowledge of the doctrine of God which will serve as a foundation for the remainder of your theology. For this assignment you will read (in this order):

- McGrath, chs. 9 + 13.
- Olson, ch. 7.
- Gabriel.

d) Grenz, chs. 1-3.

After completing the reading, write a **1500-1800 word evaluation** (about 5 pages) of **Grenz's** presentation of the doctrine of God in *Theology for the Community of God*. This paper has three parts: (1) review the book by identifying Grenz's main arguments in each of the three chapters (about 2 pages); (2) critique Grenz by noting both strengths and weaknesses in his presentation (about 2 pages); and (3) note how the readings (not just Grenz) have impacted your own doctrine of God (about 1 page). Be sure to use (and cite) all of the required readings for this assignment (not just Grenz).

4. Topical Reading Responses – 20%

* Due **Mar 20**

After you have *finished lessons 7-10 on Populi*, you should complete this assignment. The primary purpose of this assignment is to further introduce you to key topics in theology. For this assignment you will read the following:

- 1) Christology = McGrath, ch. 10.
- 2) Pneumatology = **Grenz**, ch. 13.
- 3) Soteriology = McGrath, chs. 11 + 17.
- 4) Human Nature, Sin, and Grace = McGrath, ch. 14.
- 5) Church and the Sacraments = McGrath, chs. 15 + 16.
- 6) Last Things = McGrath, ch. 18.

After you complete each of the six readings, you will submit a 1-page response for *each topic* (for a **total of 6 pages**). For this assignment citing the page number in parentheses will be sufficient (you do not need to use full footnotes). Your responses should include the following aspects (please number each aspect for each reading you are responding to):¹

- 1) Respond to/reflect on key issues that stood out to you in the reading. For example, you might note points that you disagreed with (and why!) or points that you found particularly helpful (and why!). Do not summarize what you have read. This should take up the majority of the page (2-3 paragraphs).
- 2) Thoughts on how this doctrine(s) or an aspect of the doctrine(s) might be applicable/practical (only 1-3 sentences). Ask yourself how this doctrine(s) might affect how you live?²
- 3) A brief personal belief statement on the topics you have read about (only 2-3 sentences). You do *not* have to state why nor support your statement.³
- 4) Two or three questions you have from the readings.⁴ You do not need to explain your questions.

Submit your responses after you have completed all of the reading and responses.

¹ That is, you should have numbers 1-4 on each of the six pages.

² For example, one aspect of the doctrine of creation is that creation is distinct from God. This implies that one should not worship anything created. (Please do not say that a doctrine is practical because you could teach the doctrine in church.)

³ Please do not *only* state that you believe whatever the consensus of the Christian church is. Also attempt to decide what you believe regarding issues where church traditions disagree as well (even if you are not totally decided).

⁴ These will likely not be answered; however, they are a means of evaluating how well you have thought about the issues. They will also alert you to possible areas you might consider in future research (e.g., your research paper!).

5. Research Paper – 35%* Due **Apr 7**

You may write either a theological heresy paper, an historical theology paper, a theological traditions paper, a general theological research paper, a theological response paper, or a contemporary/pastoral theological issues paper. You can find examples for each of these options along with possible research topics in a file within the lesson called “Notes Regarding your Research Paper.” You are also free to choose your own topic. This assignment should be characterized by critical theological reflection and not just a matter of reporting what others have said. As you write your paper:

- Aim for **3000-3500 words** (about 10 pages), [not including](#) your **footnotes and bibliography** (include both of these with your paper).
- Record the **word count** for your papers after your conclusion.
- Aim to use at least 12 [scholarly⁵ sources](#) (dictionary definitions do not count as sources).
- Your sources should include at least two journal⁶ articles and two books.
- Please note the **document** “Common Pitfalls When Writing a Research Paper” (see the lesson called “Notes Regarding your Research Paper”).
- Follow the **general assignment guidelines** on p. 2 of this syllabus.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

Ministry Project (option in lieu of a research paper)

In lieu of a research paper, you may choose to do a ministry project. Please discuss your proposed topic with the professor to ensure that it meets the expectations for this assignment. Just like a research paper, a ministry project will require the above-stated research and you will need to follow the formatting guidelines above (unless otherwise arranged with the professor). Since the purpose of this project is different than a research paper, you do not need to have a thesis statement. However, your project should still follow a logical outline. Although you may propose an alternate idea to the professor, in general the project involves developing a church curriculum or sermon series on a theological topic. *Remember:* Although you will present your topic in a way appropriate to a church teaching context, you still need to base this material on careful theological reflection. That is, you need to use academic research sources and include adequate documentation/citations that indicates that you have adequately used these sources in your project.

6. Final Reflections – 5%* Due **Apr 9**

This final assignment is based upon all of the material covered in class and the readings. In a *maximum* of **2 pages** double-spaced (about 600-700 words), identify a number of ways and reasons that you have matured in your theology through this course. You may consider the nature of theology in general as well as a number of doctrines, but do not limit yourself to discussing only one or two doctrines. For example: you may never have thought seriously about God as

⁵ “Scholarly” sources generally include articles published in academic journals and academic books (a book is often not ‘academic’ if it does not have footnotes or endnotes). You are welcome to use magazine articles and [web pages](#), but these will often not count as scholarly sources.

⁶ There are a number of excellent databases available for searching the contents of many journals at one time. If you request a password from the [Horizon librarian](#), you can access many journals online through the electronic search databases once you login to the [STU Library page](#) (see [this video](#)). An internet search can help you as well (although this would not be as helpful).

Trinity. How has doing so enriched your understanding of who God is? Or perhaps certain portions of the course have been surprising, challenging, and/or encouraging. You might want to explore why this is the case. How have your views been challenged or strengthened? Note that sometimes even frustration and difficulty can be a great source of growth. *Please provide specific examples not just general statements.*

Course Timeline

- Please complete your assignments in the following order.
- You are welcome to finish your assignments sooner than indicated below.

Weeks 1-3	Lessons 1-4 on Populi Approaches to Theology paper (Feb 7)
Week 4-7	Lessons 5-6 on Populi The Doctrine of God paper (Feb 28) Lessons 7-10 on Populi Statement of Completion for Lecture Attendance and Interaction (Mar 6)
Week 8-9	Topical Reading Responses (Mar 20)
Week 10-12	Research Paper (Apr 7)
Week 12	Final Reflections (Apr 9)

Bibliography

Internet

-Be sure you check out the [Christian Theology Virtual Reading Room](#).

-You can also search for books on the [Google books](#) webpage, which often provides access of up to 75% of a book's content.

Selected Theological Journals

<i>Evangelical Review of Theology</i>	<i>Pneuma</i>
<i>International Journal of Systematic Theology</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>	<i>Theology Today</i>
<i>Journal of Pentecostal Theology</i>	<i>Toronto Journal of Theology</i>
<i>Modern Theology</i>	

Books

**Note: Most of these books will contain helpful bibliographies that can lead you to works on specific topics.*

Akin, Daniel L., ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2007.
(Southern Baptist)

- Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. trans ed. G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance. 13 vols. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1957-1975. (Reformed and Neo-orthodox)
- _____. *Dogmatics in Outline*. trans. G. T. Thomson. London: SCM, 1949.
- Berkhof, Hendrikus, *Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Study of Faith*. trans. Sierd Woudstra. rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. (Reformed)
- Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. 2 vols. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1978. (Congregationalist)
- _____. *Christian Foundations [Series]*. 7 vols. Downers Grove: InterVarsity.
- Boyd, Gregory A., and Paul R. Eddy. *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. ([extra appendices online](#))
- Braaten, Carl, and Robert Jensen, ed. *Christian Dogmatics*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984. (Lutheran)
- Buschart, W. David. *Exploring Protestant Traditions: An Invitation to Theological Hospitality*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006.
- Catechism of the Catholic Church*. rev. ed. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1999. (Catholic)
- Elwell, Walter A., ed., *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. [[full text of 1st ed](#), published 1996]
- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. (Baptist, Reformed)
- Evans, James H., Jr. *We Have Been Believers: An African-American Systematic Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992. (African American)
- Finger, Thomas. *Christian Theology: An Eschatological Approach*. 2 vols. Nashville: Nelson, 1985. (Anabaptist)
- _____. *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: Biblical, Historical, Constructive*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004. (Anabaptist)
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical and Evangelical*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995. (Baptist, Reformed)
- Grenz, Stanley, *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. (Canadian Baptist, Arminian)
- Grenz, Stanley J., and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1996.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. (Vineyard, Reformed)
- Gunton, Colin E. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. (Reformed)
- Hodgson, Peter, and Robert H. King, ed. *Christian Theology: An Introduction to Its Traditions and Tasks*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985. (Liberal Protestant)

- Horton, Stanley, ed. *Systematic Theology*. Rev. ed. Springfield, MS: Logion, 1995. (Pentecostal)
- Inbody, Tyron. *The Faith of the Christian Church: An Introduction to Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. (Methodist, liberal leaning)
- Lewis, Gordon R., and Bruce A. Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. (Baptist, Reformed)
- Kärkkäinen, Vali-Matti. *A Constructive Theology for a Pluralistic World [Series]*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. (Pentecostal and Lutheran)
- Kasper, Walter. *An Introduction to Christian Faith*. New York: Paulist, 1980. (Catholic)
- Kim, Sebastian C. H., ed. *Christian Theology in Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Lossky, Vladimir. *Orthodox Theology: An Introduction*. trans. Ian and Ihita Kesarcodi-Watson. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1978. (Eastern Orthodox)
- Luck, Donald G. *Why Study Theology?* St. Louis: Chalice, 1999.
- Macchia, Frank D. *Baptized in the Spirit: A Global Pentecostal Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (Pentecostal)
- McClendon, James W., Jr. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1986-2000. (Evangelical Anabaptist)
- McGrath, Alister E., ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. 4th ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2011.
- Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. (Presbyterian [Reformed])
- Oden, Thomas C. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols [*The Word of Life, The Living God, Life in the Spirit*]. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987, 1989, 1992. (Wesleyan)
- Olson, Roger E. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*. 2nd Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2016.
- Packer, J. I., and Tomas C. Oden, ed. *One Faith: The Evangelical Consensus*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. trans. G. W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991, 1994, 1998. (Lutheran)
- Parsons, Susan Frank. *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. (Feminist Perspectives)
- Pinnock, Clark H., and Delwin Brown. *Theological Crossfire: An Evangelical/Liberal Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.
- Placher, William C., ed. *Essentials of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003. (Various, contrasting essays)
- Quash, Ben, and Michael Ward, ed. *Heresies and How to Avoid Them: Why It Matters What Christians Believe*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2007.
- Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity*. trans. W. V. Dych. New York: Crossroad, 1978. (Catholic)

- Richardson, Alan, and John Bowden, ed. *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1986. (Dispensational)
- Shepherd, Victor. *Our Evangelical Faith*. Toronto: Clements, 2006.
- Sobrinho, Jon, and Ignacio Ellacuría, ed. *Systematic Theology: Perspectives from Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1996. (Liberation, Catholic, Latin American)
- Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Translated by Charles L. Taylor. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962.
- Thiessen, Henry C. *Lectures in Systematic Theology*. rev. ed., revised by Vernon D. Doerksen. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. (Dispensational)
- Van Der Kooi, Cornelis, and Gijbert Van Den Brink. *Christian Dogmatics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017. (Dutch Reformed)
- Vondey, Wolfgang. *Pentecostal Theology: Living the Full Gospel*. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2017. (Pentecostal)
- Warrington, Keith. *Pentecostal Theology: A Theology of Encounter*. New York: Continuum, 2008. (Pentecostal)
- Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988, 1990, 1992. (Reformed and Charismatic)
- Yong, Amos. *Renewing Christian Theology: Systematics for a Global Christianity*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2014. (Pentecostal)