

COURSE SYLLABUS

Building Your Theology

Course Lecturer: Vincent Bacote, PhD

Director of Center for Applied Christian Ethics at Wheaton College

Course Description

Does theology sometimes seem complicated, dry and abstract to you? It shouldn't be that way, if it is done properly. This course will help you learn to build your theology on the certain foundation of the Scriptures, but also with pathos and practical application. As an introduction to theology, this course teaches the purpose and importance of doing theology, the different sources of revelation, the meaning of inspiration, the proper interpretation of Scripture, and the key distinctive emphases of reformed theology. It is based on the DVD lessons of Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Develop a new love for theology and become excited about doing theology that flows from the Scriptures and changes your heart and life.
- Understand the proper nature and purpose of theology.
- Make changes in your life as a response to the teachings of this course. It should change the way you do theology and help you analyze contemporary theological expressions.

Course Lecturer



Vincent Bacote, PhD

Education:

- Drew University, MPhil and PhD
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, MDiv
- The Citadel, BS

Teaching Career:

- Director of Center for Applied Christian Ethics, Wheaton College
- Associate Professor of Theology, Wheaton College

Publications:

- *The Political Disciple: A Theology of Public Life and The Spirit in Public Theology: Appropriating the Legacy of Abraham Kuyper*

- Contributor to several books including *Black Scholars in White Space: New Vistas in African American Studies from the Christian Academy*; *On Kuyper*; *Aliens in the Promised Land: Why Minority Leadership Is Overlooked in White Christian Churches and Institutions*; *Keep Your Head Up*; and *Prophetic Evangelicals*
- Regular columnist for *Comment* and has also had articles appear in magazines such as *Books and Culture*, *Christianity Today*, *Think Christian* and journals such as *Christian Scholars Review*, *Urban Mission* and the *Journal for Christian Theological Research*

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, activities, etc. that students may use to supplement their learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Lectures:** 90-minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
 - **Further Study:** Suggested further study that will help you dig deeper into the material.
2. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.