

COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Theology

Course Lecturer: Aaron Smith, PhD

Course Description

Welcome to *Introduction to Theology*, an online undergraduate-level course designed to introduce you to the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. The teaching method is systematic, but it locates each topic within Scripture and with reference to formative historical concerns. The course assumes that you have some basic familiarity with the Bible; it is intended primarily to serve as a general education survey for undergraduate students.

The course recognizes that the discipline of theology itself is not well understood, and therefore strives not only to teach theological content, but also method. You will be invited into the act of “faith-thinking” (*fides quaerens intellectum*), aiming to cultivate the lifelong virtue of intellectual obedience to the Word of God.

Course Objectives

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

- Express an understanding of basic concepts, themes, figures, and events that have shaped historic Christian faith.
- Show an awareness of theological sources and subject matter, especially Scripture and the central doctrinal formulations of the Christian tradition.
- Identify and engage some significant patterns of thought within Christian history.
- Express sensitivity to issues that have divided Christians, including the different ways people have thought about such matters and exhibit a preliminary ability to assess strengths and weaknesses of these lines of thinking.
- Practice doing theology and not just talking about it.
- Develop a knack for effective communication; no class in Christian theology should want for opportunity to show grace while interacting with persons whose ideas differ from one’s own.
- Exhibit critical thinking skills, including analysis of and personal interaction with complex arguments.

Course Lecturer



Aaron Smith, PhD

Education:

- Marquette University, PhD
- Bethel Seminary-San Diego, MDiv
- California State University-San Diego, BA

Teaching Career:

- Associate Professor Theology at Colorado Christian University

Publications:

- *A Theology of the Third Article: Karl Barth and the Spirit of the Word*
- Author of numerous articles appearing in professional journals, multi-author works, and dictionaries or encyclopedias

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

McGrath, Alister. *The Christian Theology Reader*. 4th Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2011.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2011. (available as an e-book)

Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004. (available as an e-book)

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

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 Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Lectures:** 20-30 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
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.