

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary Theology I: From Hegel to Death of God Theologies

Course Lecturer: John S. Feinberg, PhD

Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Course Description

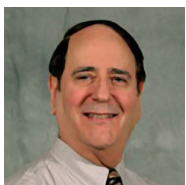
For good or for bad, philosophy has played a pivotal role in the development of theology and culture. In this course, learners examine the major trends in contemporary theological thought in light of their philosophical contexts. The course begins with a review of the major developments in Western thought prior to Hegel, and then explores the theologies of Hegel, Kierkegaard, Barth, Bultmann, and Tillich. The course culminates in the “Death of God” theologies of Paul Van Buren and Thomas Altizer. The course enables learners to evaluate contemporary, non-evangelical theologies and to recognize their impact on everyday life.

Course Objectives

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

- Know the major trends in contemporary, non-evangelical thought.
- Understand the presuppositions (philosophical and otherwise) that generate such modern theologies.
- Recognize and defend against such views.
- Better comprehend orthodox positions through analysis of errant views.
- Apply Old Testament theology to life and ministry.

Course Lecturer



John S. Feinberg, PhD

Education:

- University of Iowa, postgraduate work
- University of Chicago, MA and PhD
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, ThM
- Talbot Theological Seminary, MDiv
- University of California, BA

Teaching Career:

- Department Chair and Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Professor at Liberty Baptist Seminary and College (1981-1983)
- Professor at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary (1976-1981)
- Visiting professor at Bethel Theological Seminary
- Guest lecturer at numerous schools across the United States
- Visiting professor in Germany and Italy
- Adjunct Professor, Tyndale Theological Seminary in the Netherlands
- Instructor in Doctrine, Los Angeles Bible Training School (1969-1971)

Other Career Highlights:

- Ordained minister
- Preacher at local churches and holder of various pulpit supply roles in California, Idaho, Illinois, Oregon, and Wisconsin
- Pastor of Elmwood Park Bible Church in Illinois (1974-1976)
- Missionary work in Los Angeles (1970-1971)
- Staff member for the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc. (1970-1974)
- Member of the Evangelical Theological Society (with a term on the National Membership Committee during the mid-1980s)
- Regular presenter at ETS regional and national conferences, the American Academy of Religion, and the Society of Biblical Literature
- Roles as President and Vice President of the Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Theological consultant for the academic division of Crossway Books

Publications:

- Articles in various journals in both Europe and North America, including submissions to the *Evangelical Theological Journal*, *Trinity Journal*, and *Westminster Theological Journal*
- Author and editor of several books, including *Ethics for a Brave New World*, *Deceived by God? A Journey Through Suffering*, *The Many Faces of Evil*, and *Where Is God?: A Personal Story of Finding God in Grief and Suffering*
- General editor of Crossway's "Foundations of Evangelical Theology" series

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

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

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course

and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.