

Howard University School of Divinity
Systematic Theology II
Dr. Frederick L. Ware, Associate Professor of Theology
3.0 Credits

Course Description

This course examines the nature and method of theological discourse. Various theological perspectives on doctrines of Christian faith will be treated critically and systematically. Major doctrines (or themes) will include God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Creation, Theological Anthropology, Sin and Salvation, Church and Its Mission and Ministry, Sacraments, Eschatology, Theology of Religions, and **Religious Belief and the Natural Sciences**. Students are required to construct a personal Credo, based on their presumed mastery of theological sources and methodology. Prerequisite: THEO 305 Systematic Theology I or its equivalent.

Required Textbook

Alister E. McGrath. Christian Theology: An Introduction, 5th edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. ISBN: 978-1-4443-3514-9. List Price: \$ 54.95.

Recommended Textbooks:

Alister E. McGrath, editor. Christian Theology Reader, 4th edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-470-65484-2. List Price: \$ 54.95.

Donald K. McKim. Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms, 2nd Edition, Revised and Expanded. Westminster John Knox Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0664238353. List Price: \$ 35.00.

The above books, required and recommended, are available for purchase through the Howard University Bookstore at 2225 Georgia Avenue N.W. Howard Bookstore prices may vary slightly from those prices listed above.

Other books, articles, and learning materials listed in the syllabus may be found in the Reserve, Reference or Periodical sections of the Howard Divinity School Library or on the Blackboard website for this course. In order to use the blackboard system, you will need a computer and internet access (from home, office, or Howard campus). The log-in page for blackboard is: <http://howard.blackboard.com/>

Course Goals

The purposes of this course are to:

1. Introduce students to various interpretive traditions in Christian theology, which has been marked by diversity in thought and contrasting perspectives from the time of its beginning to the present.

2. Examine issues and controversies in Christian thought as well as the relevance and implications of science and philosophy for basic Christian beliefs.
3. Provide students with options and alternatives towards their own constructive statement of Christian faith.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Read and analyze classical and contemporary theological texts.
2. Define and utilize basic terms and concepts in Christian theology.
3. Write a coherent summary of the major themes (or doctrines) of Christianity.

Course Requirements

Your academic performance in the course will be graded in the following areas:

1. **Class attendance and participation.**

You should be present, on-time, prepared, and fully attentive for each class session. So, please adjust your personal schedule so that you can be present and on-time for class as well as meet the announced deadlines for course assignments. Your full cooperation in maintaining the etiquette of the classroom is expected. Communication devices (i.e., cell phones, smartphones, pagers, Skype, etc.) should be turned off during class. You should not be making or receiving calls during the class. Use the break periods for taking and returning calls as well as for eating and drinking. If wireless internet is available, you should not use your computer, tablet, or smartphone to surf the internet, check email, or conduct other business. Any use of the internet should be restricted to and synchronous with the class discussion.

2. **Journal.**

For each class session, you will post to the Blackboard Discussion Forum your response to a question related to the topic for that class session. The instructor will formulate these questions which are designed to aid your integration and application of the reading materials and theological vocabulary into your context of faith and ministry. Via email through blackboard, you will be notified of the question and the time period for you to make your posting. In every case, your posting should be done before the beginning of class. During the class, some of the postings will be reviewed and discussed in the class.

3. **Theological Essay (Credo).**

You will write one theological essay, which is called a "Credo." This type of theological essay is a summary of the major themes (or doctrines) of Christianity. This essay should be in the range of about 12 to 15 pages, typed and double-spaced, not including your footnotes (or endnotes) and bibliography. To ensure that you receive sufficient guidance and feedback from the instructor, please submit a written proposal for your essay on or before **February 23**. The proposal should be 1 page, typed, single-spaced, consisting of 200 - 300 words,

describing your approach to and/or perspective for the essay, the larger purpose for which the Credo may be used, followed by a list of sources (primary and secondary) that you will use in writing the Credo. After comments and suggestions from the Instructor, you will be asked to submit a revised proposal along with an outline on **March 23**. The final draft of the essay is due on **May 4**. Prospective graduates are required to submit the final draft of their essays on April 23. The essay will be graded using the Writing Rubric of the Howard University School of Divinity. The Writing Rubric is published in the *Howard University School of Divinity Student Handbook*, which is posted at the divinity school's website. This document and a simplified version of the same are posted on the blackboard website for this course.

Submission of papers should be in hardcopy, that is, on 8 ½" x 11" white bond paper with Times New Roman 12 font printed in black ink. The pages should be numbered and adhere to 1 inch margins on top, bottom, and sides of each page. Papers will not be accepted via e-mail, fax or in any other electronic form unless the instructor gives you permission beforehand to do so. Moderately late papers will incur a reduction in grade. Excessively late papers will not be accepted.

Students are advised to communicate with the instructor about any unusual circumstances or physical challenges that may adversely affect their ability of meet any course requirement. *Students in need of accommodations due to disability should contact the Office of the Dean for Special Student Services for verification and determination of reasonable accommodations as soon as possible after admission to Howard University, or at the beginning of each semester.* The Office of Special Student Services is located at the Howard Center, 2225 Georgia Avenue N.W., Suite 725. The telephone number of the office is (202) 238-2420. The fax number is (202) 588-9755.

Course Requirements in Percentages

Class Attendance and Participation	15 %
Journal (Weekly Reflections posted to Blackboard)	30 %
Paper Proposal and Outline (credit given when approved by instructor)	15 %
Final Paper (content = 12-15 pages, double-spaced)	40 %

Scale for Final Grades: A = 90 – 100; B = 80 – 89; C = 70 – 79; D = 60 – 69; F = Below 60.

Howard University School of Divinity does not use a plus (+) and minus (-) system for final grades. However, if you are attending a consortium school that uses a plus and minus system, then your grade may be reported to your school's registrar showing a plus or minus, if such an indicator becomes necessary.

Writing Matters

Writing is an essential tool for thinking and communicating in every profession. Therefore, in this course it is expected that you produce writing that is not only thoughtful and accurate, but also organized, clear, and consistent with the rules of

Standard American English. If your writing does not meet these standards, you may lose points or be asked to revise your written work. For assistance with your writing, you can schedule consultations with the instructor and utilize resources at the Writing Across the Curriculum Program and the Center for Academic Reinforcement.

Course Calendar

Check weekly for additional readings as well as any other changes in the course calendar.

SOURCES AND TASKS OF THEOLOGY

- January 12 McGrath, Christian Theology: An Introduction, pp. 101-107, 120-151; Gregersen, "Theology in a Neo-Darwinian World."
- January 16 Last Day to Add or Drop a course without a grade of "W," change from one section to another, or to change from credit to audit or from audit to credit.
- January 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY OBSERVED – Legal Holiday (Class does not meet)

CHRIST

- January 26 The Doctrine of Christ
- Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 11; Christian Theology Reader, documents 4.1 – 4.25, 4.27 – 4.28, 4.32, 4.34, 4.37 – 4.40.
- February 2 Christology, History, and **Cosmology**
- Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 12; Christian Theology Reader, documents 4.26, 4.29 – 4.31, 4.33, 4.35 – 4.36, 4.41; Gregersen, "The Cross of Christ in an Evolutionary World."

GOD

- February 9 The Doctrines of God and Trinity
- Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapters 9 & 10; Christian Theology Reader, documents 3.2, 3.4 – 3.6, 3.9, 3.14, 3.26 – 3.27, 3.29, 3.32, 3.34, 3.44; Pannenberg, "The Doctrine of Creation and Modern Science;" Adams, "Chaos or Creation."
- February 16 PRESIDENTS' DAY – Legal Holiday (Class does not meet)

HUMAN BEING

February 23 The Doctrine of Human Being

Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 14;
Christian Theology Reader, documents 6.1 – 6.7, 6.9 – 6.10, 6.22 –
6.23, 6.50, 6.53 – 6.54, 6.56; Hefner, “Biological Perspectives on
Fall and Original Sin.”

Proposal for Credo is due on today (February 23)

SALVATION

March 2 The Doctrine of Salvation

Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 13;
Christian Theology Reader, documents 5.13, 5.24, 5.25, 5.29, 5.34,
5.37, 6.3, 6.13 – 6.18, 6.22, 6.33 – 6.38, 6.48 – 6.49, 6.51- 6.52;
Smith, An Autobiography, chapter 7.

HOLY SPIRIT

March 9 The Doctrines of the Holy Spirit and Sanctification

Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, pp. 81-82, 227-232,
247-249; Christian Theology Reader, documents 3.10, 3.15, 3.17 –
3.19; Pope, “The Evolutionary Roots of Morality in Theological
Perspective.”

March 16 SPRING RECESS (Class does not meet)

CHURCH AND ITS MISSION AND MINISTRY

March 23 The Doctrine of the Church

Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 15;
Christian Theology Reader, documents 7.3 – 7.4, 7.6, 7.12, 7.17,
7.20 7.21, 7.26, 7.28, 7.30; Ransom, “The Church that Shall
Survive.”

**Revised Proposal and Outline of Credo is due on today (March
23)**

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

March 30 Worship and the Doctrine of Sacraments

Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 16; Christian Theology Reader, documents 8.7 – 8.8, 8.14 – 8.19, 8.21, 8.23 – 8.24, 8.26, 8.28, 8.31 – 8.33; Cone, “Sanctification and Liberation.”

April 3 Last Day to Withdraw from a Course or to Withdraw from the University

LAST THINGS

April 6 The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and New Being

Reading: Polkinghorne, “Eschatology: Some Questions and Some Insights from Science.”

April 13 The Doctrine of Last Things

Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 18; Christian Theology Reader, documents 10.1 – 10.7, 10.13, 10.18 – 10.26.

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

April 20 Theology of Religions

Readings: Christian Theology: An Introduction, chapter 17; Christian Theology Reader, documents 9.4 – 9.9, 9.11 – 9.13; Hodgson, “The Spirit and Religious Pluralism.”

Course Evaluation

April 23 Due date for Final papers for Prospective Graduates

April 27 STUDY DAY (Class does not meet)

May 4 **Final Paper is due on today (May 4)**

Bibliography

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- Core, Deborah. The Seminary Student Writes. Chalice Press, 2000.
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<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/smitham/smith.html>
- Stump, J.B., and Alan G. Padgett, ed. The Blackwell Companion to Science and Christianity. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.
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