

## THEO 5110-02 SYLLABUS

Spring 2021, EQUIP COHORT, 3 Credit Hours  
Jan 4- Mar 26; Meets January 18-22 via Zoom  
(Draft syllabus--subject to change)

### I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Armida Belmonte Stephens, Theology Teaching Fellow

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Office phone: 773-244-5228

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 AM-10:45 AM CST; by appointment

### II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the doctrines, methods, and tasks of Christian theology, seeking active appropriation of Christian faith in the context of the church and in engagement with the world (from Catalog).

### III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The successful student will:

1. Identify and describe basic Christian doctrines, and significant theologians, in terms of their historical contexts and/or their contributions to the Christian theological tradition (KNOWLEDGE).
2. Explain important theological themes, concepts and vocabulary, based on lectures and reading materials (COMPREHENSION).
3. Connect the personal and pastoral relevance of Christian doctrine to contemporary life in various social contexts (ANALYSIS).
4. In light of the significance of civil and collegial discourse, employ charity in dialogue with those who hold differing theological views from you (APPLICATION).
5. Defend a theological argument in academic writing by engaging, evaluating, and integrating various theological texts on a theme (SYNTHESIS, EVALUATION).

### IV. REQUIRED COURSE READING MATERIAL; **PRE-COURSE READING HIGHLIGHTED**

- The Bible
  - Augustine, *On Christian Teaching* (Oxford University Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0199540631
  - Donald Frisk, *Covenant Affirmations* (Covenant Publications, 2003). Available at covbooks.com
  - Justo González and Zaida Maldonado Pérez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Abingdon Press, 2002) ISBN 978-0687095735 (G&MP in the schedule)
  - Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Beacon Press, 1996) ISBN 978-0807010297
  - Articles available on Canvas
- CHOOSE ONE BELOW:
- Joshua Jipp, *Saved by Faith and Hospitality* (Eerdmans, 2017) ISBN 978-0802875051
  - Dennis Edwards, *Might from the Margins: The Gospel's Power to Turn the Tables on Injustice* (Herald Press, 2020) ISBN 978-1513806013

**V. ASSESSMENTS**

**A. Reading and Participation (10%) (CO 2, 4: COMPREHENSION, APPLICATION)**

Students are expected to complete the two texts *before* attending the week-long course intensive from January 18-22. The ISBN number for *On Christian Teaching* has been included so that you purchase the edition we will be using during class.

Students are expected to arrive prepared to actively engage in discussion. Respectful and considerate behavior toward the professor and other students is expected. Class and small group conversations should be comfortable spaces that encourage constructive contributions from everyone. To that end, students should come ready to listen, share space (take turns speaking), ask questions, and respect the views of others. Attendance is expected for all class sessions (one day of class may consist of 3-4 sessions). Absences will negatively affect the participation grade.

**B. Weekly Reading Quizzes (20%) (CO 1: KNOWLEDGE)**

Students will take a reading quiz on Mondays that covers material from the *previous* week. The only exception is the last quiz, which will be given on a Friday and will count as two quizzes. See the course schedule for dates. Quizzes will be available on Canvas from 8AM to 11:59PM PST on the day of the quiz. They are closed book, closed note, and discussion of any of the quiz contents with fellow classmates on the day of the quiz is considered cheating.

**C. Textual Analysis Essays (20%) (CO 2, 3, 4: COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS, APPLICATION)**

Students will have the opportunity to write two short essays (~1200 words each) in response to a prompt. The purpose of these essays is theological analysis rather than research, so outside research is not required. See the “Essay Assignments” document on Canvas for more information. The essays are due **January 26** and **February 9**.

**D. Exam (20%)**

A final exam covering important concepts and terms will be given at the end of the semester on **March 24**. The exam will be available to students on Canvas from 8AM to 11:59PM PST. Please note that *you must pass the final exam in order to pass the course*. A study guide will be provided the week before the exam.

**E. Final Research Paper (30%) (CO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: KNOWLEDGE, COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS, APPLICATION, SYNTHESIS) \*This assignment can be included in your student portfolio.**

Students may choose a paper topic/question from the list provided in the “Final Paper Guidelines” document on Canvas. If a student has an interest outside of the list provided, the topic may be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. A brief proposal should be emailed to the instructor for approval with the topic, a list of potential resources, and a working thesis statement. Final papers are due **March 17**.

Format Guidelines:

- 12 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around

- Use a standard serif font like Times New Roman. Use 12-point font.
- Please use gender inclusive language when referring to people (e.g. *humanity* instead of *man*).
- Include a bibliography citing at least 6-8 quality sources, at least one of which should be a periodical article. (Bibles, concordances, and lexica do not count!)
- Please refer to Professor Kris Bruckner’s “NPTS Writing Expectations and Strategies” document on Canvas.
- Quotations, if they must be included, should be confined in footnotes rather than in the body of your paper.

## VI. GRADING

**Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading**

Reading and Participation	10%
Weekly Reading Quizzes	20%
Textual Interaction Essays	20%
Exam	20%
Final Paper	30%

\*Grade percentages operate as follows: A (93+), A- (90-92.9), B+ (87-89.9), B (83-86.9), B- (80-82.9), and so on.

## VII. ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

### *Attendance*

- Please note that because this is a course intensive your attendance is expected at all sessions. Your enrollment in the course signals that you have reserved those days for your full participation in the course and do not have conflicting commitments. Missing class sessions will negatively impact your participation grade.
- Students are expected to keep their cameras on at all times during the course intensive. Turning the camera off will be considered the same as stepping out of the classroom and will negatively impact the participation grade.

### *Course work*

- A rule of thumb is that for every hour of graduate-level coursework, you will spend another three hours of time working on assignments. So, a three-hour course will result in about nine hours per week on assignments.
- Once the course opens, students will have access to all the reading materials, but modules will not be opened more than one week in advance.
- Any materials provided are for personal use only; they may not be circulated, posted on social media or the internet.
- Rubrics for each of the assessments can be found on Canvas.
- Late work will not be accepted for weekly quizzes or the final exam. For all other assignments, late work beyond the dates noted in the course schedule will be deducted one-third of a letter grade for each day late.

- Extension Requests: Assignment extension requests will be granted only for adverse or mitigating circumstances, *but must be arranged prior to the assignment due date*. See the policy below for extensions beyond the scope of the semester.

#### *Communication*

- University email and Canvas will be used for notifications and updates. It is your responsibility to check your email or have it forwarded to your preferred email address.
- Please feel free to email with any questions. Barring holidays or school breaks, you can expect to hear back from me with at least an initial response within a day or so, Monday through Friday. University email and Canvas will be used for notifications and updates. It is your responsibility to check your email or have it forwarded to your preferred email address.
- How to address your professor? I don't have a preference for how to be addressed and you are welcome to call me by my first name. If, however, it is customary or you expect titles to be used in your own context of service (e.g. Pastor Z, Chaplain Y), then, I ask you to extend the same courtesy to me.

### **VIII. INCOMPLETE GRADES**

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates she will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. For the full policy, see page 15 of the Seminary Academic Catalog.

### **IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on a quiz or exam.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), p. 25–27.

### **X. STUDENT RESOURCES**

I am here to help you. If at any point you need clarification *beyond what is already stated in the syllabus* or want to discuss the reading, lectures, discussions, or assignments, please ask. I am happy to talk with you. If you would rather speak in person, you are welcome to call me during my office hours. An email or a call shortly before an assignment deadline is not an acceptable excuse for turning in late assignments.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tues 10:30 to 11:30 AM CST and Thurs 1 to 2 PM CST; by appointment  
Appointments can be made for 20 or 30 minutes. Unless otherwise indicated, you can reach

me at the number listed on the first page of the syllabus. If you need to arrange a meeting outside of these hours, take into account that it could take a couple of days to arrange a meeting that works for both of us. *Please get in touch with me beforehand by email so I can set aside that time slot specifically for you.*

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

North Park is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this class related to a disability, contact the Center for Student Engagement by email at [ada@northpark.edu](mailto:ada@northpark.edu) or phone at 773-244-5737 to schedule an appointment with the Learning Specialist. You can also stop by the Center for Student Engagement, located on the first floor of the Johnson Center.

#### **TITLE IX**

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns.

Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to North Park's [Safe Community site](#) for contact information and further details.

#### **XI. COURSE SCHEDULE: AVAILABLE ON CANVAS**