

THEO5110-01 SYLLABUS
Spring 2021, Campus, 3 Credit Hours
(Draft syllabus--subject to change)

I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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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

- 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 assigned reading *before* coming to class and to arrive prepared to actively engage in discussion. 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. Two absences are allowed without penalty to a student's final grade; three absences may negatively impact their final grade. Students with four or more unexcused absences may not pass the course.

B. Weekly Reading Quizzes (10%) (CO 1: KNOWLEDGE)

Students will take a reading quiz on Mondays that covers the material due on Tuesdays. The only exception is the last quiz, which will be given on a Wednesday, which covers material from the next day, Thursday. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. See the course schedule for dates. Quizzes will be available on Canvas starting at 8AM on the day of the quiz until half an hour before class the following day. 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 (30%) (CO 2, 3, 4: COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS, APPLICATION)

Students will have the opportunity to write three short essays (~1200 words each). The first two will be in response to a prompt, with the third essay being more flexible. 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 **February 2, February 25, and March 30.**

D. Exam (20%)

A final exam covering important concepts and terms will be given at the end of the semester on **May 6.** 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.

The topic of the final paper will be chosen by the student, in consultation with the instructor. Some suggestions include: an analysis of a specific doctrine or theological issue, engagement of a specific ministry issue with a theological response, research regarding the particular contribution of a theologian. Due date is **Tuesday, April 27.** Details will be provided the first day of class. See "Final Paper Guidelines" on Canvas.

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	10%
Textual Interaction Essays	30%
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

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.
- Recordings of class lectures is not permitted without the permission of the instructor and any materials provided are for personal use only; materials 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.

Class etiquette

- Phones must be put away and turned off or on silent at all times. Please do not take calls, text, or surf the internet during class.
- Please arrive on time. If you arrive late, please sit near the exit.

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 meet with you.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please [email the Disability Access Specialist](#) or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

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