

THEO 5110 DRAFT SYLLABUS

Fall 2023, EQUIP 2, 3 Credit Hours

(Syllabus subject to change)

I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Armida Belmonte Stephens

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Office phone: 773-244-5228

Office hours: Wednesdays 10am -12 noon and Thursdays 1pm - 3pm (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 your own (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

- Alister McGrath, *Christian Theology*, 6th edition (Wiley Blackwell, 2017) ISBN 978-1118869574
- Augustine, *On Christian Teaching* (Oxford University Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0199540631
- Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Beacon Press, 1996) ISBN 978-0807010297
- Weekly readings from a diversity of viewpoints provided on Canvas

CHOOSE ONE BELOW:

- Beth Allison Barr, *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* (Brazos Press, 2021) ISBN: 978-1587435348
- Dominique Gilliard, *Subversive Witness: Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege* (Zondervan, 2021) ISBN: 978-0310124030
- Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill, *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* (IVP, 2018) ISBN: 978-0830845415
- Kristin Kobes Du Mez, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* (Liveright Press, 2020) ISBN: 978-1631495731

V. ASSESSMENTS

A. Participation (5%) (CO 2, 3, 4: COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS, APPLICATION)

Please 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, please come ready to listen, share space (take turns speaking), ask questions, and respect the views of others.

B. Weekly Reflections (15%) (CO 1, 2, 3: KNOWLEDGE, COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS)

On most weeks, students will write a one-page reflection a) summarizing their understanding of the readings' core concepts and contribution, b) share one or two key questions raised by the reading, and c) reflect on the reading's implications for faithful Christian practice.

C. Textual Interaction Essays (30%) (CO 2, 3, 4: COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS, APPLICATION)

Students will have the opportunity to write three short essays (~1200 words each). Their purpose is theological analysis rather than research, so outside research is not required. See the "Essay Assignments" document on Canvas for more information.

D. Exam (20%) (CO 1, 2, 4: KNOWLEDGE, COMPREHENSION, APPLICATION)

A final exam covering important concepts, terms, figures, and events from the course readings and lectures will be given at the end of the semester.

E. Final Research Paper (30%) (CO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: KNOWLEDGE, COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS, APPLICATION, SYNTHESIS)

Students will write a 3000-word paper on a 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. See the "Final Paper Guidelines" document on Canvas for more information.

VI. GRADING

Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

Course Participation	5%
Weekly Summaries	15%
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

Participation and 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 the course intensive days for your full participation in the course and do not have conflicting commitments. Missing class sessions will negatively impact your participation grade.

Course work

- A rule of thumb is that for every hour of graduate-level coursework, you will spend another two to three hours of time working on assignments. So, a three-hour course will result in up to nine hours per week on assignments.
- Rubrics for each of the assessments can be found on Canvas.

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.

VIII. INCOMPLETE GRADES

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they 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. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.” 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. 25–26.

X. 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.

XI. TITLE IX

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or TitleIX@northpark.edu to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support services.

As members 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 members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University's Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or counseling@northpark.edu. Please refer to North Park's [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

XII. COURSE SCHEDULE: AVAILABLE ON CANVAS