

THEO 5110-01 SYLLABUS

Summer 2023, IGNITE COHORT 5, 3 Credit Hours

Meets June 5-9 at Mission Springs

(Syllabus subject to change)

I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Armida Belmonte Stephens

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Office phone: 773-244-5228

Office hours: Wednesdays 2pm - 4pm (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
- 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 provided on Canvas

Students should complete Augustine's *On Christian Teaching* and Chapters 9, 10, and 13 of the McGrath text before attending the week-long course intensive from June 5-9. The ISBN numbers for course texts have been included so that you purchase the editions we will be using during class.

V. ASSESSMENTS

A. Participation (15%) (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.

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.

B. Reading Discussions (15%) (CO 1, 2, 3: KNOWLEDGE, COMPREHENSION, ANALYSIS)

On most weeks, you will engage your classmates online by posting an original post about that week's reading and respond to two of your classmates' original posts. Original posts are due on Thursdays and your responses to your classmates are due on Saturdays. Read the "Weekly Posting Guidelines" document on Canvas for more information. The course schedule lists the dates for posts and deadlines for assignments.

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

Students will have the opportunity to write two short essays (~1200 words each). Their purpose is theological analysis rather than research, so outside research is not required. If there is enough interest, you also have the option of meeting in assigned groups to discuss the texts and turning in one paper as a group that reflects your collective reflections. See the "Essay Assignments" document on Canvas for more information. The essays are due by **12 noon on Friday June 16 and Friday, June 30.**

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 on **Wednesday, July 26.** Exams are due by 11:59 PM CST. Late submissions will not be accepted. *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 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. A brief proposal should be emailed to the instructor for approval with the topic, a list of potential resources, and a working thesis statement. See the "Final Paper Guidelines" document on Canvas for more information. Final papers are due by **12 noon on Thursday, August 3.**

VI. GRADING

Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

Course Participation	15%
Weekly Summaries	15%
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

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.
- 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.
- Respectful and considerate behavior towards the professor and other students is expected.
- 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.

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.
- Rubrics for each of the assessments can be found on Canvas.
- Late work will not be accepted for weekly summaries 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 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. 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: Wednesdays from 12 noon to 2pm PDT; by appointment. Appointments can be made for 15 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

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 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.

XI. COURSE SCHEDULE: AVAILABLE ON CANVAS