I. Course Description

This course explores the nature and method of theological study and engages with key issues. The course focuses on a survey of Christian teachings—primarily in the evangelical tradition—relating to God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, scripture, salvation, the gospel, humanity, ethics, creation, the church, and the future, in order to help the student understand and articulate their faith within the diverse theological streams of the Christian church.

II. Objectives

At the end of this course, each student will demonstrate knowledge of:

- the nature and method of theological study.
- Christian teaching on central topics (e.g., Creation, Sin, God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, church, etc.).
- diverse theological perspectives that exist between Christians (e.g., baptism, creation, atonement, eschatology, etc.).

At the end of this course, each student will demonstrate appreciation for:

- the importance of Christian theology for Christian life and discipleship.
- the role of the Bible and the community in the articulation of Christian theology.

At the end of this course, each student will demonstrate ability in:

- thinking critically and being able to evaluate differing theological viewpoints.
- using the Bible to do theology.
- articulating their personal beliefs on theological issues.
- basic library research for the purpose of theological thinking.
III. Course Textbooks


Bible – you are expected to bring a Bible to every class.

IV. Course Requirements

1. LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF THEOLOGY (10%)

   A list of 80 theological words will be assigned for you to learn. These words will be tested on a mid-term quiz and again on the final exam. Definitions for these words can be found in online and print theological dictionaries such as:
   - The Glossary at the back of your textbook
   - Theological dictionaries in the library
   - Online resources: Wikipedia, Theopedia, Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry (www.carm.org), etc.

   *Mid-Term Quiz: February 22*

2. ENGAGING THE CONVERSATION OF THEOLOGY

   a. **Engaging YOURSELF**: Personal Bias Paper (10%)

      Write a two page reflection paper that identifies three specific “biases” in your life. Identify each bias and discuss how that bias has influenced and shaped a specific theological belief that you hold. Instructions for this assignment will be given in the Sept. 19 class on *Theology and Bias*.

      *Due Date: January 23*

   b. **Engaging OTHERS**: Stanley Grenz, *Created for Community* (20%)

      Read the assigned chapters in Stanley Grenz, *Created for Community* as per the course schedule and answer the four assigned questions (see schedule) from “Mastering the Material” at the end of each chapter.

      - At the top of each Report complete the following statement:
        
        “I HAVE READ ____% OF THE WORDS IN THIS CHAPTER.”

      - Your Chapter Reports are to be ½-1 single-spaced page and submitted before the beginning of class by email on the due dates.

        - All reports are to be submitted to introtochristiantheology@gmail.com
        - Please note that this email address is to be used only for Chapter Reports as it will be monitored by the class Teaching Assistant rather than Jerry.

      - All late submissions will be penalized 50%.

      - Chapter Reports will be marked out of five. One mark will be for your declaration of reading and four marks for your answers.
c. **Engaging OTHERS: Theological Forum (5%)**

All students are expected to participate in an online theological forum (Columbia Online). The goal of this online forum is to encourage you to engage in theological conversation with your classmates and to provide an opportunity to discuss ideas that we will be covering in classes. Each calendar month you are required to make at least three posts (on separate calendar days).

**Please Note:** Your participation in this forum, as with all theological conversation, should be marked by HUMILITY and GRACE toward others. The forum is not a place to offend or disrespect others but to build up the body as together we seek to understand, embrace, and live out our common faith in Christ.

d. **Engaging SCRIPTURE: Theological Issues Study (20%)**

Choose one of the theological conversations from the list below and write a 5 page research paper. Research both sides of the conversation and summarize each of the theological positions, paying particular attention to key biblical texts and the way they use Scripture to establish their arguments (1½ pages each). The final section of your paper (2 pages) will be a statement of where you stand on the issue at this time. Your statement should be based upon a comparison and evaluation of how each side uses scripture to support their point of view. Include a Bibliography with at least one significant author representing each viewpoint.

**Note:** Your paper must follow the CBC Term Paper Guide for formatting.

**Due Date: March 15**

**Theological conversations:**

- Bible: Inerrant vs. Infallible
- Atonement: Penal Substitutionary vs. Christus Victor
- Baptism: Infant vs. Believer
- Creation: Young Earth vs. Theistic Evolution
- Eschatology: Premillennialism vs. Amillennialism
- God: Classical Theism vs. Open Theism
- Intermediate State: Soul Sleep vs. Consciousness
- Salvation: Freewill vs. Predestination
- Salvation: Eternal security vs. Conditional security
- Tongues: Cessationism vs. Continuationism
- Hell: Eternal Conscirous Torment vs. Annihilationism
- Women: Complementarianism vs. Egalitarianism
Library Research Introduction (5%)  
As part of the research for this assignment, all students will be required to complete an online library research assignment administered by our librarian, Anne Andres. The purpose of this assignment is to assist you with research for this assignment and to develop basic library skills that will better equip you for college level research.  
**Due Date: March 6, Midnight**

3. **FINAL EXAM (27%)**  
The final exam is a significant part of this course. For the student it is an opportunity to review and learn the course material. If you would like to do well on the exam a significant amount of study will be required. The exam will be (mostly) multiple choice, focusing on vocabulary and class content. A study sheet, to be handed out in the last class, will give instructions to prepare for the exam.  
**Due Date: Exam Week (April 17-20)**

### Course Requirements Summary

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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V. **Course Outline**

1. **Thinking about Christian Theology**
   1. The Importance of Christian Theology
   2. Christian Theology and Bias

2. **Doing Christian Theology**
   1. The Bible and the Biblical Story
   2. God
   3. Creation
   4. Humans: *Identity* and *Failure*
   5. New Community: *Israel*
6. Jesus  
7. Salvation  
8. Holy Spirit  
9. New Community: Church  
10. Ethics: Life in the New Community  
11. The Future: Resurrection and Kingdom  

VI. Academic Policies

For all CBC Academic Policies please refer to the Academic Manual on the CBC website. Students are expected to be informed about these policies, particularly the following:

- Attendance Policy  
- Late Assignment Policy  
- Academic Integrity  
- Grading Grid

1. Attendance

Attendance will be graded as per the CBC Academic Manual. Students will lose 1% for each unexcused absence and .5% for each late.

2. Participation

Learning is a communal practice. We will learn in this class together. Your participation in the class will enhance not only your own learning experience but the experience of others. With this conviction, the following rules will seek to promote a healthy learning experience for everyone.

- **Computers** – **use of computers will not be permitted in this class.** Computers and other electronic devices, while offering benefits for learning, often prove to be a distraction in first year college classes. Because of this they will not be permitted unless accommodations are deemed necessary by Academic Support.

- **Cell Phones** – **cell phones are not permitted in class!** This will be enforced. Use of cell phones in class will result in loss of participation marks.

- **Marks** – a small percentage of your grade will be based upon class participation (3%). This is intended to encourage you to participate in class discussions, both verbally and attentively. Students will lose these marks for class behaviors that do not promote a healthy learning community (e.g., cell phones, music, etc.)

3. Late Assignments

All assignments are due **at the beginning of class on the due date** (unless otherwise stated on the syllabus). Papers submitted on the due date but after the beginning of class without an extension will be reduced 5%, with an additional 5% lost for each successive 24 hour period (including the weekend) the paper is late, up to seven days or one week (maximum 35% of the assignment).

Papers submitted more than one week late, without an instructor approved **extension**, will **not be accepted** for grading. The only exception to this is if there are extenuating circumstances (see below) and the request is discussed with the instructor within seven
days of the due date. During this discussion, the instructor will determine the latest date that the assignment will be accepted and the late penalties which will apply (this may exceed the usual maximum of 35%).

4. Extensions
Extensions will be given for extenuating circumstances only. Extenuating circumstances are circumstances beyond a student’s control and prediction. Examples of extenuating circumstances might include an extended illness, accident, or family emergency. Multiple assignments due at the same time in different courses, vacations, family events, or other circumstances related to poor time management do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Computer problems will also not warrant an extension; backup your work regularly.

5. Grades
All assignment grades for the course will be posted on the Student Portal.

VII. Selected Bibliography


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II. Doing Christian Theology

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* K = “You Should Know” questions
  A = “Connection and Application” questions