

CHTH 60003 Introduction to Christian Theology

Three (3) Semester Hours, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Texas, Fall 2019

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Prerequisites: none

Description of Content: An exploration of issues and doctrines that animate Christian life. Topics include the sources and goals of theology, as well as basic questions about major doctrines. Discussions, lectures, and course assignments identify and critically engage patterns of faith and practice that persist over time, and theological priorities from specific cultural and historical contexts.

This course is required of M.Div. students. It also fulfills a requirement for MTS and MATM students.

Class Procedures:

Lectures, seminar-length discussions, and assigned readings

Course Objectives:

1. Students will acquire a basic theological vocabulary to engage in theological and ethical reflection.
2. Students will demonstrate comprehension and careful, critical analysis of theological texts from a variety of perspectives—especially those of ethnicity, race, and gender.
3. Students will acquire familiarity with influential Christian theologies and doctrines, with attention to contemporary interpretations.
4. Students will develop critical, argumentative, and constructive skills through reading, discussion, and writing assignments.

Requirements:

1. Attendance at all class meetings, weekly reading assignments, active participation (*informed by the readings*)
2. Quizzes on theological terms/ideas
3. Reading journal (one entry per class, ½-1 page, single-spaced)
4. First essay, 1,250-1500 words)
5. Second essay (2,500-3,600)

Texts:

1. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Theology*, eds. Ian A. MacFarland et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011). ISBN-13: 978-1107414969. \$40.84
2. Additional texts for purchase (TBA)
3. Articles and chapters available as PDF files on the course website.

Grading Procedures:

Passing the course requires the completion of all assignments.

1. Attendance (penalties for absences)
2. Reading journal (15%)
3. Quizzes on theological terms/ideas (20%)
4. Peer review of first essay (10%)
5. First essay (25%)
6. Second essay (30%)