

PROSPECTUS

CHTH 60003 Introduction to Christian Theology

Fall 2022

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

Instructor: Dr. Natalya Cherry, n.cherry@tcu.edu

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:

Assigned readings and online posts & video lectures, in-person Q&A and discussions

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
2. Weekly reading assignments, video lectures, and discussion preparation posts online in advance
3. Active participation (*informed by readings*) in discussions during regularly scheduled in-person sessions each week
4. “Theologians in Conversation” Paper (750-1,000 words)
5. First Argument Essay
 - a. Initial Version (1,250-1,500 words, turned in to instructor and redistributed at random for peer to review w/ungraded checklist & return)
 - b. Final Version (1,250-1,500 words, turned in to instructor for grade)
6. Second Argument Essay (2,500-3,600)

Texts:

1. Alister E. McGrath, *Theology: The Basics, 4th Edition*. (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2017). ISBN-13: ISBN: 978-1-119-15808-0. (Paperback) \$31.25. NOTE: eBook freely available online to Brite students and faculty via TCU Mary Couets Burnett Library website (<http://library.tcu.edu>).
2. _____. *Theology: The Basic Readings, 3rd Edition*. Alister E. McGrath, ed. (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2018). ISBN-13: 978-1-119-15815-8. (Paperback) \$31.25. NOTE: eBook freely available online to Brite students and faculty via TCU Mary Couets Burnett Library website (<http://library.tcu.edu>).
3. Articles and chapters available as PDF files on the course website. (Recommended additional readings, such as Dr. Cherry's *Believing INTO Christ: Relational Faith and Human Flourishing*, to be listed on syllabus but not required)

Grading Procedures:

Passing the course requires the completion of all assignments.

1. Attendance and participation (penalties for absences)
2. Weekly Discussion Preparation Posts (30%)
3. "Theologians in Conversation" Paper (15%)
4. First Argument Essay, consisting of
 - a. Initial Version for Peer Review (10%)
 - b. Final Version for Instructor Grade (15%)
5. Second Argument Essay (30%)