LAIDLAW COLLEGE
Te Wananga Amorangi

200.415 Christian Belief
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

CAMPUS: Distance Learning

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level: 4, 15 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW:
1. Introduction—Doing Theology
2. Who is God?
3. Creation & Providence
4. Humanity
5. Sin, Evil & Suffering
6. The Person of Christ
7. The Work of Christ
8. The Holy Spirit
9. Redemption 1
10. Redemption 2
11. The Church
12. The Future

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES:

1. Participation in Online Discussion
Learning Outcomes:	1, 3, 4, 5
Due Dates:	11.59PM Sunday end of semester weeks 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
Percentage Weighting:	20%
Word Count:	As specified below

In six lessons you will find Assessment Exercises which require you to post a response of not more than 200 words on the Online Discussion Forum to a question on some aspect of that lesson. In addition to your initial posting, you will be required to make at least one further posting of at least 50 words which interacts with what your online tutor and other students have said. The second posting for each assessment exercise must be within 7 calendar days of the due date for the initial posting. Full details of what to do are included in your course materials and on Moodle.

2. Theological Definitions
Learning Outcomes:	2, 3, 6
Due Dates:	11.59PM Sunday end of Semester Week 7
Percentage Weighting:	35%
Word Count:	200 words each

This assessment task requires you to interact with some of the theological terms and ideas you have encountered so far in this course by writing two theological definitions. A good place to start would be to look up the terms in a Bible Dictionary or a Theological Dictionary, but you ***must*** write the definition in your own words. The Laidlaw Library has a number of Dictionaries available as e-books, so these can be accessed easily even if you don't own one! Also, you might like to refer to one or two key texts from the Bible that support the ideas you are writing about.

When you write your definition, try to capture the main ideas about this theological concept, rather than getting caught up in too much technical detail. You will need to write concisely, because you have only 200 words for each definition!

Write theological definitions for **two** words from the following list:
- Special Revelation
- Inspiration (of Scripture)
- Omnipresence
- Providence
- Image of God
- Sin
- Original Sin

Use appropriate link words to make your writing cohesive. You do not need footnotes, but do include a bibliography.

3. Essay

Learning Outcomes: 2, 5, 6
Due Dates: Midnight Sunday end of Study Week 1
Percentage Weighting: 45%
Word Count: 1200

Write an essay which answers **one** of the following four questions:
- If God is good and all powerful, why is there evil and suffering in the world?
- What is the best way to explain what Christ did on the cross? In your answer, discuss at least two models you have learned about.
- What is the role of good works in salvation?
- What is the church?

Write your essay in two main parts:
- **Part 1**. Outline an answer to the question based on orthodox Christian teaching.
- **Part 2**. Identify a couple of cultural and personal issues that might make it hard for someone to accept such a position. How might you help someone overcome these issues and accept the biblical position?

Your essay should also include an introduction and a conclusion. You should write approximately the same amount on each of parts 1 and 2. Your essay should refer to 4 or 5 sources that you have read in preparation for your writing. Be sure to reference your sources using footnotes, and also include them in your bibliography.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT:

1. Online Discussion Forum
Before beginning your first online discussion, please see the grading grid (rubric) on the "online discussion grading guide and mid-semester feedback" for further details on how these criteria will be applied.

- Engagement with material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation
- Timeliness

2. Theological Definitions
- The definitions are written in the student's own words
- The definition is accurate
- Ideas are linked together logically and cohesively.

- The message is clear, and spelling and grammar are correct.
- The bibliography is correctly formatted

3. Essay
- Structure: the essay has an introduction, body and conclusion; is in good paragraphs; is in a logical order.
- The essay addresses both parts of the task appropriately
- The writing is cohesive, and grammar and expression are clear
- The essay is written in the writer's own words (except for quotations).
- Biblical references are included in brackets and sources are acknowledged (footnotes); bibliography (4 – 5 works) in proper format.

LEARNING HOURS:

Course Material Study	70 hours
Participation in Online Discussion Forum	20 hours
Theological Definitions	20 hours
Essay	40 hours
Total:	**150 hours**

TEXTBOOKS:
The required text for this course is:

Lane, Tony. *Exploring Christian Doctrine*. London: SPCK, 2013.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Eby, J. Wesley, George Lyons, and Albert Truesdale. *A Dictionary of the Bible & Christian Doctrine in Everyday English*. Kansas City, Mo: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2004.

Erickson, Millard J., and L. Arnold Hustad. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2001.

McFarland, Ian A. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. (Available as an E-Book in the library.)

McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub, 2004. (Available as an E-Book in the library.)

Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids (Mich.): William B. Eerdmans, 2004.

Milne, Bruce. *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Plantinga, Richard J., Thomas R. Thompson, and Matthew D. Lundberg. *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2010.