

## LIDLAW COLLEGE

*Te Wananga Amorangi*

# 215.515 BEGINNING THEOLOGY: LEARNING TO THINK THEOLOGICALLY

## Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Distance Learning  
Tutor: David Wells

Semester SS, 2017-18  
NQF Level 5, 15 credits

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

This course introduces students to the study of the Bible, Christian theology and theological ethics. It provides basic skills for working with biblical texts and theological ideas and applying those skills in everyday contexts.

### ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Assessment	Word count	% Final Grade	Due Date
Online Discussion Forum	1000 words	20%	As per schedule
Biblical Interpretation Worksheet	1000 words	20%	Sunday, Week 7
Theology Summary Worksheet	1000 words	20%	Sunday, Week 9
Integrative Project	2000 words	40%	Sunday, Week 12

### COURSE SCHEDULE

The teaching schedule is as follows:

Semester Week	Week start	Topic	Assessment Task	Word count	Due date	% Final grade
1	27/11/17	What is theology and how do we do it?				
2	4/12/17	Sources and tools for doing theology	Online Discussion	200+50	10/12/17	5%
3	11/12/17	The Bible: Introduction				
4	18/12/17	The Bible in its context(s)	Online Discussion	200+50	24/12/17	5%
5	25/12/17	The Bible in our context(s)	Online Discussion	200+50	31/12/17	5%
6	1/1/18	A basic method of biblical interpretation – case study			7/1/18	
7	8/1/18	Introduction to systematic theology	Biblical Interpretation Worksheet	1000	14/1/18	20%
8	15/1/18	Systematic Theology – case study			21/1/18	
9	22/1/18	Ethics and the Christian life	Theology Summary Worksheet	1000		20%
10	29/1/18	Ethics – case study			4/2/18	
11	5/2/18	Thinking contextually about theology			11/2/18	
12	12/2/18	Doing theology as the people of God	Online Discussion	200+50	18/2/18	5%
			Integrative Project	2000		40%

### Notes:

1. The standard course schedule has been compressed for summer school. There is no break, even over the Christmas/New year period. We recommend you plan to do your work well in advance of days you intend to take off.
2. The library will be open 8am-5pm except over the period from 23/12/17 to 7/1/18. Loan periods will be adjusted to compensate for the closure. Please ensure you obtain any resources required for the assignment before the close down.
3. Academic support will be available every weekday except the statutory holidays. You will be advised on who to contact.

## ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

### Assessment 1: Online Discussion Forums

Length:	200 words initial post, followed by at least one 50 word response
Learning outcomes:	1, 2, 3, 4
Percentage weighting:	20% (5% each)
Due date:	11:55pm Sunday Week 2, Week 4, Week 5, Week 12

The online discussions require you to engage with various themes and topics. Typically, these tasks will require you to prepare an initial post of 200 words in response to a reading and/or some questions. This is to be followed by a response to at least one other student's post of at least 50 words, which is due the following week. Specific instructions will accompany each online discussion task.

Expectations for online discussions:

- The purpose of the online discussions is to create an opportunity for students to discuss aspects of the course in a well-informed but informal way.
- As such, your initial posts should address the topic, be logical and concise, consider the course material, and, if appropriate, refer to your experience. In the response posts, you should encourage genuine conversation with at least one other student by engaging with their writings, and respond to those who have taken the time to read yours. Both your initial and response posts should be on time so that all students can draw from each other's perspectives.
- The forum posts are graded to encourage you to participate, but do not consider them as assignments requiring formal referencing. If you refer to another author or source in preparing your post, it would be helpful to identify it (e.g. "In *Knowing God* Packer says..."), but do not use footnotes.

Assessment Criteria

- Engagement with material
- Reasoning and connections are clearly articulated.
- Structure and presentation

### Assessment 2: Biblical Interpretation Worksheet

Length:	1000 words
Learning outcomes:	1, 3, 4, 5
Percentage weighting:	20%
Due date:	11.55pm, Sunday Week 7

Using the supplied worksheet in **Moodle**, work through the basic process of biblical interpretation for the Bible passage set below to show how the passage might inform Christian living in your current context. Submit your completed worksheet in Moodle.

Bible passage to study: **John 15:1-17**

You will find a selection of resources in Moodle to assist you with this. When you use them don't forget to reference them correctly in your work.

## Assessment Criteria

- Focus upon the passage in the biblical context
- Focus upon the passage in today's context
- Application to Christian living
- Quality of written expression
- Accuracy of bibliography and other referencing

### Assessment 3: Theology Summary Worksheet

Length:	1000 words
Learning outcomes:	2, 3, 5
Percentage weighting:	20%
Due date:	11.55pm, Sunday Week 9

In this assessment, you are required to summarise the theological concept or doctrine set below using the supplied handout template available in **Moodle**. You will produce a summary that highlights key points, people and history of the concept or doctrine, as well as how it affects life and faith today.

You will find a selection of resources in Moodle to assist you with this, but you are not limited to those and you should take advantage of the wider library resources. Your summary should engage with and reference **four to five (4-5)** scholarly print items (e.g. journal articles, books, scholarly dictionary articles, peer-reviewed web material) that support and resource your work.

The topic to summarise is: **Christology: (Jesus as God and Man)**

## Assessment Criteria

1. Clear focus on the topic
2. Summary of the key ideas, people and history
3. Engagement with resources
4. Application to faith and life
5. Correct formatting of the bibliographic details
6. Quality of written expression

### Assignment 4: Integrative Project

Length:	2000 words
Learning outcomes:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Percentage weighting:	40%
Due date:	11.55pm, Sunday Week 12

In this assessment, you are to use the Praxis/Pastoral Cycle process of theological reflection to engage with an aspect of the topic set below. A worksheet will be supplied in Moodle to guide you through the process, including how much to write for each step in the process.

The goal of this assessment is for you to produce a basic theological understanding of a contemporary issue related to the topic and to express how that theological understanding might be worked out in practice. In the assessment, you will demonstrate basic research skills, use of biblical and theological resources, and the integration of those to produce your suggested action.

The general topic area set for this project is: **Family**

You will find a selection of resources in Moodle to assist you with this, but you are expected to go beyond those and you should take advantage of the wider library resources. Your summary should engage with and reference **eight to ten (8-10)** scholarly print items (e.g. journal articles, books, scholarly dictionary articles, peer-reviewed web material) that support and resource your work. Other resources, such as magazine and

newspaper articles and web sites and government reports, will be helpful to describe particular issues and the context.

#### Assessment Criteria

- Shows good awareness of the issue selected
- Engages with the steps of the theological praxis/pastoral cycle process in a substantial way
- Good use of biblical and theological resources
- Shows evidence of reflection and learning
- Quality of written expression
- Accuracy of bibliography and other referencing

#### LEARNING HOURS

Learning guide and readings	55 hours
Online Discussion	20 hours
Biblical Interpretation Worksheet	20 hours
Theological Summary Worksheet	20 hours
Integrative Project	<u>35 hours</u>
150 learning hours (15 credits)	

#### TEXTBOOK

The required textbook is supplied as a PDF within Moodle. This is a book that introduces students to doing theology at an introductory university-level of study:

- Breingan, Lucienne. *Beginning Theology: An Introduction for Students*. Newcastle, Aus.: Lucienne Breingan, 2015.

Students are also strongly recommended to acquire the following:

- Harris, Brian. *The Big Picture: Building Blocks of a Christian World View*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2015.

Any additional required and recommended readings supplied in Moodle.

#### NOTES

- All assignments must:
  - comply with the standards set out for assessment in Laidlaw College's "General Information and Regulations".
  - be presented according to the Laidlaw College "Guidelines for Written Assignments".
  - be submitted to Moodle no later than 11.55pm on the due date, unless otherwise noted.
- Please see the "General Information and Regulations" for guidance on extension requests, submission of late work, and plagiarism.

#### SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bartholomew, Craig G, and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

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- Gunton, Colin E. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.
- Harris, Brian. *The Big Picture: Building Blocks of a Christian World View*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2015.
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- LaCugna, Catherine Mowry. *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*. 1st ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.
- Long, D. Stephen. *Christian Ethics : A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics*. 2nd ed. Oxford, UK ; Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2008.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction, fourth edition*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.
- McGrath, Alister E., ed. *The New Lion Handbook: Christian Belief*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2007.
- Migliore, Daniel M. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology, second edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.
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- Milne, Bruce. *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief, second edition*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
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