

LIDLAW COLLEGE
Te Wananga Amorangi

201.515 THEOLOGY: INTRODUCTION
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Henderson
Lecturer: Mark McConnell

Semester 1, 2015
NQF Level 5, 30 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The course will introduce students to the practice of Christian theology which seeks to answer the question: What do Christians believe and why? The course examines the sources of theological authority; theological method based on those sources; the content of Christian belief; and the relevance of such belief for individual, communal and global life.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Assessment	Word count	% Final Grade	Due Date
Response Review	1200	25%	30 August
Essay	1200	25%	25 October
Exam (2.5 hours)	N/A	50%	TBA

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Date	Topic	Assessment Task
1	Introduction to Christian theology	
2	The purpose of Christian theology	
3	Theology as both act of faith and scientific discipline	
4	The Apostles' Creed and Christian Theology	
5	God as Creator and Redeemer	Response Review due
	INTENSIVE WEEK	
6	The person of Christ (Christology)	
7	The work of Christ: (Soteriology)	
8	Humanity in the light of Jesus Christ (Anthropology)	
9	The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)	
	MID-TERM BREAK	
10	The Church (Ecclesiology)	
11	Salvation, Sacraments and Sanctification	Theological Reflection due
12	Resurrection and New Creation (Eschatology)	
Study and Examinations		

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

1. Response Review

Length: 1200 words
 Learning outcomes: a (part), b, c (part), d
 Percentage weighting: 25%
 Due date: 11.59pm, Sunday 30th August 2015

Write a response review of NT Wright’s “Scripture and the Authority of God”.

As well as description, analysis and evaluation your review should also outline how the book has enhanced or challenged your understanding of the authority of Scripture. In addition you should also outline what you see as the implications of Wright’s perspective for theology, discipleship and/or ministry.

Criteria for Assessment

1	Fair and accurate understanding of content
2	Clear interaction with, and evaluation of, the basic argument of the book
3	Discussion of implications for the ongoing tasks of theology, discipleship and/or ministry
4	Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
5	Communication & Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

2. Theological Reflection

Length: 1200 words
 Learning outcomes: b, c, d
 Percentage weighting: 25%
 Due date: 11.59pm, Sunday 25th October 2015

Either:

OPTION A: Write a 1200 word theological film analysis.

In one or two paragraphs, give a brief summary of the plot of the film and its primary theme or main point (approximately 10% of the total essay).

Identify any theological themes, aspects or symbolisms found in the film. Analyze the film and determine its (explicit or implicit) view of God, humanity, redemption, saviour/Christ, evil, suffering, creation, humanity, sin and other relevant theological doctrines. You need not cover every doctrine; most films interact with only one, two, or maybe three theological areas of doctrine, if at all.

Finally, evaluate the theological view(s) espoused by the film and give an **argument** (with clearly specified **reasons!**) for your conclusion (approx 30% of the essay). Try to think and argue theologically.

This analysis should be original to you; do not be tempted to plagiarise! Do not consult other students for analysis or evaluation of the film. Be discerning when using the internet as a resource’ ideas found on the net are not necessary correct or relevant to a theological film analysis. If consulted, the internet should be used minimally as a source and any ideas (not only phrases) borrowed should be acknowledged.

Criteria for Assessment (Option A)

1	Succinct summary of plot and theme(s) of the film
2	Clear identification and explanation of theological themes
3	Robust theological reflection and analysis
4	Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
5	Communication & Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

OR

OPTION B: Write a theological reflection on a cultural issue

Select an issue, trend or phenomena from your particular culture and present a theological reflection using one or more of the theological themes/doctrines from this course. The overall aim of this assignment will be for you to show your understanding of the theological theme/doctrine and its relevance for your culture today and thus your ability to think “theologically.”

Criteria for Assessment (Option B)

1	Succinct description and analysis of cultural issue, trend or phenomena
2	Clear presentation of theological themes/doctrines
3	Robust theological reflection and application
4	Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
5	Communication & Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

3. Exam

Length: 5 essay type questions
Learning outcomes: a, b, c, d
Percentage weighting: 50%
Due date: Exam week (exact date and time to be advised)

The exam paper will assess students’ grasp of the content of basic Christian beliefs and their ability to apply an appropriate theological method in the expression of that content. The exam will be 2 ½ hours long.

Criteria for Assessment

1	Coverage of main points
2	Depth of treatment
3	Clarity & development of answer

LEARNING HOURS

Class time 36 hours
Pre-reading for classes 33 hours
Response Review 25 hours
Theological Reflection 16 hours
Exam 40 hours
150 learning hours (15 credits)

TEXTBOOK

**Jenkins, Michael. *Invitation to Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

In addition, for the first assessment students will require:

**Wright, NT. *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today*. New York: HarperOne, 2011 (The 2005 SPCK edition or the 2005 American edition entitles *The Last Word* are also acceptable.)

Additional required and recommended readings may be supplied in Moodle.

NOTES

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

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

In order to ensure a wide and balanced appreciation of the range of theological opinion found in the Christian community, especially recommended additional works are:

*Boyd, Gregory A, and Paul R Eddy. *Across the Spectrum*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.

**Elwell, Walter A, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001.

Erickson, Millard J. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

**Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*, second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

**Ferguson, SB and DF Wright, eds. *New Dictionary of Theology*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1988.

**Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1994; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

**Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI and Nottingham: Zondervan and Inter-Varsity Press, 1994, 2007.

Gunton, Colin E. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

Gunton, Colin E, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

*Horton, Michael. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

*Lewis, Gordon R, and Bruce A Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987.

**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.

Milne, Bruce. *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief*, second edition. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

**Olson, Roger. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002; Leicester: Apollos, 2002.

*Stiver, Dan R. *Life Together in the Way of Jesus Christ: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2009.

*Warrington, Keith. *Pentecostal Theology: A Theology of Encounter*. London: T&T Clark, 2008.

** Desk copy library books

* Short loan library books