

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

201.515 Theology: Introduction Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

CDL/Bishopdale Theological College
Tutors: Andrew Burgess, Richard Drury

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level: 5, 15 credits

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course, which may be run in either semester or intensive mode (during August intensive week), will define good theology and then discuss the biblical foundations and later development of the following topics:

1. Christian belief: Unity and diversity
2. Sources and norms of Christian belief: One and many
3. Divine revelation and good theology: Universal and particular
4. God: Great and good
5. God: Three and one
6. Creation: Good and fallen
7. Humanity: Creature, sinner, and new being in Christ
8. Jesus Christ: Human and divine
9. Salvation: Objective and subjective
10. Salvation: Gift and task
11. The church: Visible and invisible, worshipping and missional
12. Eschatology: Continuity and discontinuity in the Kingdom

PREPARATION FOR THE INTENSIVE

In preparation for the course, please gain access to a copy of the textbook by Olson and read at least the first 6 chapters.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

1. Pre-reading and book report

Read the first five chapters of Karl Barth's *Dogmatics in Outline*. (A PDF file of these chapters will be made available on the Moodle course page. Write a report of no more than 1500 words. Your report should include:

- 1) A summary of Barth's central claims. This is the majority of the report.
- 2) Some reflection on the manner in which Barth approaches the task of theology, and what initial thoughts you have in response.

Due date: Sunday, end of semester week 4 (Sunday prior to intensive week), 11.55 pm.
Length: 1500 words
Learning outcomes: 1, 2

2. Research task with integrative interaction

This will be a research task in which students are asked to write five (5) carefully crafted and theologically balanced definitions with some integrative application to life and ministry, of key theological terms relating to the course material. Students will also be required to present one of these definitions in class and discuss definitions provided by others.

Due dates: Class presentation as agreed with tutor.
All write-ups due Sunday end of semester week 10, 11.55pm.
Length: 300 words per term. (Total: 1500 words)
Learning outcomes: 3, 4

Instructions

At an appointed class time you will present on one of the terms you have been given. Then **ALL** the students who are doing the assignments write up their 300 words on **that term** and submit by the above date

It is important to use your own words and yet capture an orthodox and balanced definition. Remember to allow space within the word limit for integrating and explaining the importance of the definition for life and ministry.

Presentations

You decide best *how* to present your material – the format and style is purely your choice. Do not lose sight though of the communication of your content as priority.

3. Essay

An essay is to be written giving a balanced account of the Christian consensus on ONE of the following topics:

- Revelation as both universal and particular
- Humanity as both wonderfully created and sinfully flawed
- Jesus Christ as both human and divine
- The Kingdom of God as already and not yet

Due date: Sunday, end of semester week 12, 11.55pm)
Length: 2000 words
Learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3

Instructions

Remember that **all** the learning outcomes of the course should be borne in mind. Try to be fair and balanced in your approach even if you strongly disagree in presenting other views. Be sure to present the positive and negative outcomes and applications of the subject and offer a conclusion. You should argue your point(s) bearing in mind that you are trying to show in what ways they will apply to Christians *today* even though you have considered various Christian approaches in the past.

GRADING CRITERIA

Pre-reading and book review

- Comprehension: Balanced understanding of the text
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
- Communication and presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

Research task:

- Appropriate research
- Theological understanding; balanced coverage of main points
- Integrative application: Relevant application; depth of contextual insight
- Participation in class discussion
- Communication and presentation: Clarity of presentation and write-up.

The total for the task is 25%. It will be marked out of a total of 100 and then the outcome divided by 4 to get the final grade out of 25.
The marks divide like this:

- 15 marks max for each piece of writing (total for written submissions = 75)
- 15 marks for the student's in-class presentation
- 10 marks for participation in the class discussions when they are NOT the presenter.

Essay:

- Understanding of the content of basic Christian beliefs
- Ability to apply sound theological method
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
- Communication and presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

LEARNING HOURS

201.515 is a 15 credit course consisting of some 150 learning hours. The assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows:

Task	Weight	Hours
Tutorial time		24 hours
Reading and reflection		36 hours
Pre-reading and book report	25%	25 hours
Research task with integrative interaction	25%	25 hours
Essay	50%	40 hours
	100%	150 hours

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

COURSE MATERIALS

All registered students will have access to the BTC 201.515 Theology: Introduction course area in Moodle.

TEXTBOOK

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline* London: SCM Press, 1949.
- Boyd, Gregory A, and Paul R Eddy. *Across the Spectrum*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.
- Dorrien, Gary. *The Remaking of Evangelical Theology*. Louisville KY: John Knox, 1998.
- Dyrness, William A. *Learning about Theology from the Third World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990.
- 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.
- Jenkins, Michael. *Invitation to Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

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

McGowan, ATB, ed. *Always Reforming: Explorations in Systematic Theology*. Leicester: Apollos, 2006.

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.

Seitz, Christopher R, editor. *Nicene Christianity: the Future for a New Ecumenism*. Grand Rapids, MI ; Carlisle: Brazos ; Paternoster, 2002 [BT999 NIC].

Tennent, Timothy C. *Theology in the context of world Christianity: How the global church is influencing the way we think about and discuss theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007 [BR118 TEN].

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

Willis, David. *Clues to the Nicene Creed: A Brief Outline of the Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI, and Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2005 [BT999 WIL].

Also recommended is the series 'The Bible Speaks Today: Bible Themes' (Inter-Varsity Press). A variety of other resources, including internet sources, will be suggested during the course. Students going on to do further BCNZ courses in Theology will have their attention drawn to a wider range of reading in those courses.

- Ability to apply sound theological method
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
- Communication and presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography