

## LIDLAW COLLEGE

*Te Wananga Amorangi*

### 203.715 Theology: God and Creation Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

**Campus:** Distance Learning

Semester 2, 2015  
NQF Level: 7, 15 credits

#### CONTENT OVERVIEW:

1. The Nature and Attributes of God Part 1
2. The Nature and Attributes of God Part 2
3. The Holy Spirit Part 1
4. The Holy Spirit Part 2
5. The Triune God Part 1
6. The Triune God Part 2
7. God and the World: Creation
8. God and the World: Providence
9. Providence and Theodicy
10. Humanity as Created
11. Humanity as Fallen: Sin Part 1
12. Humanity as Fallen: Sin Part 2

#### ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES:

##### 1. Participation in Online Discussion Forum

*Learning Outcomes:* 1, 2, 3  
*Due Dates:* 11.59PM Sunday end of Semester Weeks 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12  
*Percentage Weighting:* 20%  
*Word Count:* As specified below

In lessons 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 12 you will be required to post responses of no more than 200 words to the Online Discussion Forum to a question about some aspect of that lesson. In addition to your initial posting you will be required to make at least one further response of at least 50 words which interacts with what other students and/or your tutor has said. The second posting for each assessment exercise must be within 7 calendar days of the due date for the initial posting.

##### 2. Short Essay

*Learning Outcomes:* 1, 2,  
*Due Dates:* 11.59PM Sunday end of Semester Week 6  
*Percentage Weighting:* 30%  
*Word Count:* 1000

Write an essay on the Holy Spirit. Critically engage with a movie, or a tradition (e.g. Pentecostalism), or a book. Try to bring out the dynamism of the Trinity, and what the Holy Spirit contributes uniquely to doctrine and Christian life.

As a guideline, in your essay, refer to at least four scholarly sources such as books or academic journal articles.

### 3. Research Essay

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3
<i>Due Dates:</i>	11.59PM Sunday end of Study Week 1
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	50%
<i>Word Count:</i>	3500

Choose one of the following three topics:

- a) Does a loving God exist? In your answer, consider the problem of evil. Refer to the witness of Israel and the Church, as well as the arguments given by philosophers and theologians. Address the views of at least one of the following groups: atheists, agnostics or pantheists.
- b) What is sin and where does it come from? In your discussion, consider Scripture, church traditions, and the work of recent theologians. Also consider individual and societal elements.
- c) What does it mean to be made in the image of God? Discuss in the light of contemporary concerns, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and evolutionary history.

As a guideline, in your essay refer to around 12-15 resources, at least 9 of which should be scholarly sources such as books or academic journal articles (including the readings provided with your course materials). The others may be lighter sources such as news and magazine articles (or their online equivalent).

As a guideline, use at least four academic sources, in addition to your course materials and lighter sources such as news and magazine articles (or their online equivalent).

## CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT:

### 1. Participation in Online Discussion Forum

Before beginning your first online discussion, please see the grading grid (rubric) on the “online discussion grading guide and indicative 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. Short Essay

- Balanced coverage of the main points, nuances, and arguments, using a variety of theological sources
- Depth of contextual insight; well-developed articulation of why this issue matters, pastorally and practically
- Overall Presentation: readability and style with accurate use of English and grammar; correct footnote and bibliographical conventions

### 3. Research Essay

- Essay fulfils the requirements of the question
- Critical engagement with the theological issues raised through the appropriate use of Scripture, experience, reason and tradition together with a good grasp of the relationship between culture and theology

- Good evidence of being able to argue for a position clearly, of thoroughly understanding the opposite viewpoint, and of being able to critically evaluate and compare different positions
- Essay is coherent and exhibits a clear and original voice
- Overall Presentation: readability and style with accurate use of English and grammar, and correct footnote and bibliographical conventions

### LEARNING HOURS:

Course materials, additional readings, and reflections	75 hours
Participation in online discussion forum	15 hours
Short essay	20 hours
Research essay	40 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

### TEXTBOOKS:

#### Required text:

#### Either

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998,

#### Or

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

**This is available as an E-book from the Laidlaw Library.**

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

#### General Theology and Reference.

These texts will be helpful for any other theology studies you do.

Alexander, T. Desmond. and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.

Dyrness, William A. and Veli-Matti Karkkainen, eds. *Global Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2008.

Ferguson, Sinclair B. and David F. Wright, eds. *New Dictionary of Theology*. Leicester: IVP, 1988.

Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

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

Jenson, Robert W. *Systematic Theology Vol. 1, The Triune God*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

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Kristiansen, Ståle Johannes and Svein Rise, eds. *Key Theological Thinkers: From Modern to Postmodern*. Farnham, Surrey, UK; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2013. **E-book.**

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- Rayment-Pickard, Hugh. *50 Key Concepts in Theology*. London, UK: Andrews UK Ltd, 2007. **E-book.**

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- Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. New York: Crossroad, 2002.
- Long, D Stephen, and George Kalantzis, eds. *The Sovereignty of God Debate*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009.
- Pinnock, Clark H. *Most Moved Mover: a Theology of God's Openness*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2001.
- Schweitzer, William. *God is a Communicative Being: Divine Communicativeness and Harmony in the Theology of Jonathan Edwards*. London, UK: Continuum International Publishing, 2012. **E-book.**
- Wright, N. T. *Evil and the Justice of God*. London, UK: SPCK, 2006. **E-book.**

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- Buxton, Graham. *The Trinity, Creation and Pastoral Ministry: Imaging the Perichoretic God*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2005.
- Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality and the Self: An Essay on the Trinity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
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