

Syllabus for
THE 444—Contemporary Theology
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of mid-19th century trends in theological thought from Schleiermacher to modern theologians, with special reference to theological options of the present day.

Prerequisite: None

II. COURSE GOALS

The major goals of this course will enable the students to do the following:

- A. Obtain an overview of major sections the Christian Church in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- B. Obtain insight into contemporary theological trends and subjects.
- C. Develop the ability to effectively communicate theological ideas.
- D. Form an understanding of a broad range of theological issues in the twentieth century and thereby enable the student to intelligently “dig deeper” after the close of the semester.
- E. Acquire critical-thinking skills useful for future academic and vocational pursuits.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Identify through classroom discussion the principle tenets of major theological movements in the twentieth century, including Roman Catholic Modernism, Neo-orthodoxy, radical theology, liberation theology, Pentecostalism, and Evangelical theology.
- B. Critically explain through discussion, exams, and assigned research projects the work of major theologians in the twentieth century.
- C. Demonstrate the ability to relate Trinitarian theology to major Christian doctrines and beliefs through examinations and/or written work.
- D. Demonstrate through classroom discussion and essay exams a comprehensive grasp of the relationship between theological and philosophical ideas in contemporary debate.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

Textbooks

Grenz, Stanley and Roger Olson. *Who Needs Theology?* Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
ISBN 978-08308-1878-5

Higgins, G. C. *Wrestling with the Questions*. New York: Fortress Press, 2012.
ISBN 978-08006-6379-7

Veith, Gene E. *Postmodern Times*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994.
ISBN 978-08910-7768-8

B. Recommended Materials

Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*. New York: Harper & Row, 1959.

Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson. *Twentieth-Century Theology; God and the World in a Transitional Age*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1992.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *Theology of Hope: On the Ground and the Implications of a Christian Eschatology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity*. Trans. William V. Dych. New York: Crossroad, 1995.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
4. Final Exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding ePortfolio requirements. Students should consult the ePortfolio handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures
 Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course

- a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
- b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.

2. Attendance Policy

a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows:

- (1.) If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
- (2.) If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
- (3.) If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.

b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.)**
 Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.

c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Requirements:

| | | |
|----|---------------------|-----|
| a. | Reading Reflections | 15% |
| b. | Participation | 15% |
| c. | Midterm Exam | 15% |
| d. | Final Exam | 25% |
| e. | Research Paper | 30% |

| | | |
|-------|--|------|
| Total | | 100% |
|-------|--|------|

2. Grade Scale:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |
| 0-59 | F |

3. ePortfolio Requirements: none

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

| <u>WEEK</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | Introduction to Course & Nineteenth-Century Theology |
| 2 | Karl Barth |
| 3 | Karl Barth |
| 4 | H. Richard and Reinhold Niebuhr |
| 5 | Paul Tillich |
| 6 | Paul Tillich |
| 7 | Dietrich Bonhoeffer |
| 8 | Jürgen Moltmann |
| 9 | Jürgen Moltmann |
| 10 | Moltmann & Pannenberg |
| 11 | Black Liberation Theology & Cone |
| 12 | Liberation Theology & Gutiérrez |
| 13 | Liberation Theology & Gutiérrez |
| 14 | Karl Rahner |
| 15 | Karl Rahner |
| 16 | Evangelical Theology |

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

THE 444—Contemporary Theology Spring 2015

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

| OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities | | Significant Contribution | Moderate Contribution | Minimal Contribution | No Contribution |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities | | | | |
| 1A | Biblical knowledge | X | | | |
| 1B | Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit | | X | | |
| 1C | Evangelistic capability | X | | | |
| 1D | Ethical behavior | | X | | |
| 2 | Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities | | | | |
| 2A | Critical Thinking | X | | | |
| 2B | Information Literacy | | X | | |
| 2C | Global & historical perspectives | X | | | |
| 2D | Aesthetic appreciation | | X | | |
| 2E | Intellectual creativity | X | | | |
| 3 | Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities | | | | |
| 3A | Healthy lifestyle | | | | X |
| 3B | Physically-disciplined lifestyle | | | X | |
| 4 | Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities | | | | |
| 4A | Communication skills | X | | | |
| 4B | Interpersonal skills | X | | | |
| 4C | Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences | X | | | |
| 4D | Responsible citizenship | | X | | |
| 4E | Leadership capacity | | X | | |