

A Syllabus for
THE 313—Systematic Theology I
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2013

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the idea of theology, the existence and character of God, the doctrine of the Scriptures, and Christology.
Prerequisites: none

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Obtain an overview of major sections of the teaching of the Christian Church.
- B. Demonstrate the abiding value of the historic, orthodox Christian faith for contemporary Christianity.
- C. Develop the ability to effectively communicate theological ideas.
- D. Form an understanding of a broad range of doctrines, issues and ideas integral for a reflective study of Christianity and thereby enable the student to engage in higher order thinking to a greater degree after 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. Define theology and explain its relation to ethics, religion, and philosophy.
- B. Define and explain theism, general and specific revelation, and various aspects of the Christian understanding of the Triune God.
- C. Define and explain the various sources of Christian theology, including Scripture, tradition, reason and experience.
- D. Explain central themes of modern Christological debates.
- E. Explain Trinitarian Christian approaches to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

I. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials
 - 1. Textbooks

McGrath, Allister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Fifth Ed. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-4443-3514-9

McGrath, Allister E. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Fourth Ed. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-470-65484-2

2. Other: None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Lamp, Jeffery S. *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department*. ORU Bookstore, 2011.

2. Other: None

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 other's materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students or assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, word, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.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. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
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 the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the student's majors
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an 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 affect the grade. The syllabus attendance policy is included later in this section.

1. Completion of a Course

- a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment.
- b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. Incompletes

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.

3. Examinations and Other Assignments

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
- b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
- d. **All exams will be given as scheduled.** It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into

consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.

4. Attendance

- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for the three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 3 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 5 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
- b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, for example, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Any illnesses, emergencies, and trips are included in exempt. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- 1. Evaluation Procedure
 - a. Course Final Grade: the final grade for the course will be acquired as follows:

(1)	Reading Questions	20%
(2)	Unit Tests	40%
(3)	Class Presentation	10%
(4)	Final Exam	30%
TOTAL POINTS		100%
 - b. Grading Scale: **A** = 90+; **B** = 80+; **C** = 70+; **D** = 60+; **F** = 59
- 2. Whole Person Assessment Requirement: None
- 3. Description of Assessments.
 - a. **Reading Questions.** Students will answer the questions at the end of the chapters of McGrath, *Christian Theology* and selections from McGrath, *The Christian Theology Reader*. The reading questions will be submitted on a weekly basis.

- b. **Unit Tests.** Two unit tests will be administered at the end of each of the first two units. These tests will be comprised of objective and short essay questions. Students should be prepared to identify the key names, words, and phrases at the end of the chapters of McGrath, *Christian Theology*.
- c. **Class Presentation.** Each student will make a presentation in class on how his or her thinking has changed during the course.
- d. **Final Examination.** The final exam will ask the student to write an essay constructing his or her own theological position on the doctrines of God and the Trinity.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Intro—Me—A Theologian?

UNIT ONE - HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

Week 1—Patristic Period

Week 2—Middle Ages and Renaissance

Week 3—Reformation and Post-Reformation Period

Week 4—Modern Period to the Present

*Unit 1 Test (chapters 1-4)

UNIT TWO - SOURCES AND METHODS

Week 5—Preliminaries

Week 6—Sources of Theology

Week 7—Knowledge of God: Natural and Revealed

Week 8—Philosophy and Theology: Introducing a Dialogue

*Unit 2 Test (chapters 5-8)

UNIT THREE - CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

Week 9—Theological Reflection in Community

Week 10— The Doctrine of God

Week 11— The Doctrine of God (cont.)

Week 12— The Doctrine of the Trinity

Week 13— The Doctrine of the Trinity (cont.)

Week 14—Class Presentations

Week 15—Class Presentations

Week 16—Final Examination

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
THE 313—Systematic Theology I
Spring 2012

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
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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	