

Syllabus for
GTHE 518—Introduction to Theology
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces the discipline of systematic theology and provides a comprehensive overview of Christian doctrine. (Designed for non-Master of Divinity students who require an introduction to the field of study.)

Prerequisites: None

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Obtain an overview of Systematic Theology as a subject.
- B. Cultivate an ecumenical approach to the Christian faith.
- C. Learn to correlate biblical scholarship with the challenge of contemporary relevance in Christian ministry today.
- D. Develop deepened theological insight and the ability to evaluate the biblical nature of contemporary faith.
- E. Acquire an overview of the role of differing world views on Christian thinking.

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. Clearly articulate a basic Christian theology through an inclusive personal catechism reflecting primary Christian beliefs.
- B. Sketch and discuss the development of Christian doctrine through the centuries.
- C. Practically relate the doctrines of the Church to the specific disciplines represented in their respective majors.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

- 1. Textbooks
 - Erickson, M. J. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001. ISBN: 978-0801-02250-0
 - Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0830-83850-9
- 2. Other
 - Class Notes

- B. Optional Materials
 - 1. Textbooks
None
 - 2. Instructor's Notes

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, 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 on assignments.¶ Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, 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 Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA 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. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures
 - 1. **Completion of Assignments**
Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is

published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are 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 is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. 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 academic committee by written petition that student's 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 are 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 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 academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The Official Attendance Policy for the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry is as follows:

- a. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **8** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **12** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **8** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If the class meets once a week, then the missing of **3** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **5** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**.
- b. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**

- c. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
 - d. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
 - e. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
 - f. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- 1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Grading:

Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Catechism	30%
Final Exam	30%
 - b. Grading scale:
 - A=90-100%
 - B=80-89%
 - C=70-79%
 - D=60-69%
 - F=59% and below
- 2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
 - a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
 - b. WPA requirements for this course:
 - None
- 3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
 - a. Students will be responsible for materials posted on the D2L site. These can be studied either on site or printed at the student's convenience.
 - b. Students are required to complete reading assignments before each class, arriving prepared to be quizzed either orally or in written form.
 - c. Requirements for the completion of incompletes are not necessarily the same as the regular course requirements.
 - d. Two examinations are given—a midterm and a comprehensive final.
 - e. One catechism paper or class project is required. The paper is to be electronically submitted via the Dropbox feature on the D2L site.
 - f. Late exams are subject to a penalty of one letter grade.
 - g. The syllabus, accompanied by any revisions, constitutes the official class schedule.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR (Dated schedule will be posted on D2L Site)

Week Topic

- 1 Introduction (only one class for week)
- 2 Introduction to Theology
- 3 God's Revelation in Nature
- 4 God's Revelation in Scripture
- 5 God's Nature
- 6 God's Creation
- 7 God's Image
- 8 God's Creation Fallen
- Midterm Exam**
- 9 God's Solution
- 10 God's Gift
- 11 God's Spirit
- 12 God's Grace
- 13 God's Holiness
- Catechism Due**
- 14 God's Church
- 15 God's Promise
- Final Exam** (university schedule)

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

M. A. Christian Counseling

GTHE 518 Introduction to Theology

Dr. James Breckenridge, Instructor

Fall 2015

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M.A. Christian Counseling degree 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.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
Theology/Philosophy of Counseling				
Develop a cohesive theology of counseling with theological reflection on the counseling process, emphasizing Spirit-directed change.	X			
Assessment Techniques				
Exhibit skill in selecting, administering, scoring, interpreting, and reporting the results from various assessment instruments.				X
Clinical/Theoretical Diagnostic Appraisal				
Demonstrate the ability to interpret case specific information by translating it into accurate diagnostic appraisals.				X
Treatment Plans in Response to Diagnosis				
Display the ability to develop relevant treatment plans in response to specific diagnoses, and the skill to implement them in the context of a therapeutic relationship.			X	
Research Skills and Methodologies				
Demonstrate basic research skills and methodologies through critiquing research findings and evaluating ESTs.				X
Professional Code of Ethics				
Demonstrate knowledge of professional codes of ethics and the ability to apply those codes to ethical dilemmas.			X	