

Syllabus for
THE 299—Introduction to Theology
3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2017

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the idea of theology, the existence and character of God, the doctrine of the Scriptures, Christology, the Holy Spirit, theological anthropology, and the doctrine of salvation.
Prerequisite: None

II. COURSE GOALS

The instructional goals of this course are the following:

- A. To examine the key figures and developments of Christian theology during the patristic, medieval, Reformation, and modern periods.
- B. To define theology and explore foundational concepts of Christian theology, such as faith, salvation, truth, orthodoxy/heresy, and the relation of Christianity and culture.
- C. To discuss the functions of Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience as the sources of Christian theology.
- D. To explain the idea of revelation and delineate models of revelation, the scope and limits of natural theology, and interaction of the natural sciences and Christian theology.
- E. To investigate the dialogue and debate between philosophy and theology, proofs for the existence of God, and the nature of theological language.
- F. To increase the global competency of students.

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 the most influential figures and developments in the history of Christian theology.
- B. Describe the sources of Christian theology, i.e., Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.
- C. Explain the extent to which the attributes of God are revealed in the natural order.
- D. Appraise the validity of the classic proofs for the existence of God.
- E. Assess the level of students' global competency.

III. TEXTBOOKS

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

McGrath, Allister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Sixth Ed. Malden MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2017. ISBN 9781118869574 (pbk); ISBN 9781118869567 (epub)

McGrath, Allister E. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Fifth Ed. Malden MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2017. ISBN: 9781118874387 (pbk); ISBN 978111884370 (epub)

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

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

IV. 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 the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' 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 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. 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 a three-semester hour class:
 - (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, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. 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. **Four tardies will equal one absence.**

C. C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedure

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

(1) Chapter Quizzes	(20%)
(2) Unit Tests	(40%)
(3) Learning Activities	(10%)
(3) Class Presentation	(10%)
(4) Final Exam	(20%)
TOTAL	<u>100%</u>

b. Grading Scale: **A**= 90+; **B**=80+; **C**=70+; **D**=60+; **F**=59 & below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirement: None

3. Description of Assessments.

- a. **Chapter Quizzes.** A five-question true/false quiz will be administered on d2l for each chapter of McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. These quizzes will be open-book. The quizzes will assess student knowledge of key theologians and theological terms, figures, events, and movements.
- b. **Unit Tests.** Two unit tests will be administered at the end of each of the first two units. These closed-book tests will be comprised of objective and short essay questions based on the two required texts by

McGrath, lectures, and class activities. These tests will assess student comprehension and analysis of the history, methods, sources, and perennial issues of systematic theology.

- c. **Learning Activities.** Students will engage in group discussions, case studies, and debates during class sessions.
- d. **Class Presentation.** Each student will make a presentation in class on how his or her thinking has changed during the course. Presentations will be assessed by means of peer evaluation.
- e. **Final Examination.** The final exam will consist of objective questions covering both of the McGrath texts and a long essay.

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Me, a Theologian!
2	Patristic Period
3	Middle Ages and Renaissance
4	Age of the Reformation
5	Case Study: Galileo
6	Preliminaries
7	Sources of Theology
8	Knowledge of God
9	Case Study: Barth vs Brunner Debate
10	Philosophy and Theology
11	Class Presentations
12	Class Presentations
13	Class Presentations
14	Class Presentations
15	Class Presentations
16	Final Examination

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
THE 299—Introduction to Theology
Fall 2017

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

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	Evangelistic capability		X		
2B	Ethical behavior		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		