

Syllabus for
LTHE 299—Introduction to Theology
3.0 Credit Hours
Online Learning

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 purpose of this course is 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 global Christianity.
- C. Develop the ability to effectively communicate theological ideas to various cultures and communities.
- 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 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 class lectures, readings, research and class discussion, the successful student will be able to do the following:

- A. Define theology and explain its relation to ethics, religion, philosophy, and various cultures and societies.
- 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.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

- A. Required Materials
 - 1. Textbooks

Kreeft, Peter. *Christianity for Modern Pagans*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1993. ISBN 0-89870-452-9

Thorpe, Christine L. *The Voice of the Spirit, Vol. 3: Studies in Christology and Pneumatology*. Acton, MA: Copley Publ., Co., 2013. ISBN 978-1-58152-948-7

Thorpe, Robert S. *The Voice of the Spirit, Vol. 2: Biblical Theology for the 21st Century*. Acton, MA: Copley Publishing Co., 2013. ISBN 978-1-58152-947-0

2. Other
None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Donald K. McKim, *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. ISBN: 0664255116

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

2. Other
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. 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.

2. 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

1. 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.**
 - a. **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.**
 - 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.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Discussions (7 x 10 each)	70
Writing Assignments (4 x 30 points each)	120
Quizzes (3 x 30 points)	90
Final Exam	70
Total	350

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: None.
3. Grade Scale:
90+ = A; 80+ =B; 70+ = C; 60+ = D; 59- =F
(see handout, "Grading Criteria for Theological Courses")

VII. COURSE READING CALENDAR

Week 1

Reading: Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2 of *The Voice of the Spirit: Biblical Theology* by R.S. Thorpe

Week 2

Reading: Chapters 3 and 4 of *The Voice of the Spirit: Biblical Theology* by R. S. Thorpe.

Week 3

Reading: Chapters 1 and 2 of *The Voice of the Spirit: Studies in Christology and Pneumatology* by C. L. Thorpe

Week 4

Reading: Chapters 3 and 4 of *The Voice of the Spirit: Studies in Christology and Pneumatology* by C. L. Thorpe

Week 5

Reading: Chapter 5 of *The Voice of the Spirit: Studies in Christology and Pneumatology* by C. L. Thorpe
Read the Preface and PART 1, chapters 1 and 2 of *Christianity for Modern Pagans* by Peter Kreeft

Week 6

Reading: PART 2, chapters 3-12, and PART 3, chapters 13 and 14, and PART 4, chapters 15-18 of *Christianity for Modern Pagans* by P. Kreeft

Week 7

Reading: PART 5, chapters 19-24 and PART 6, chapter 25 and PART 7, chapters 26-28 of *Christianity for Modern Pagans* by P. Kreeft

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
LTHE 299—Introduction to Theology
Online Learning

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		