

Christian Theology

THEO 100

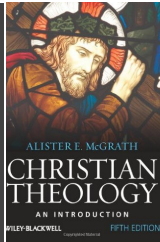
Fall 2016

Thr 4:15-6:45pm

Loyola University Chicago

Dr. James S. Mastaler

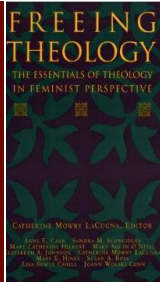
Christian Theology An Introduction



Alister E. McGrath

2011: Wiley-Blackwell
Fifth Edition
(Required)

Freeing Theology The Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective

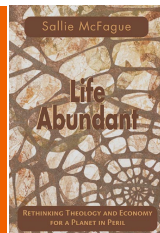


Catherine Mowry LaCugna, ed.

1993: Harper One
(Recommended)

Life Abundant

Rethinking Theology and
Economy for a planet in
Peril

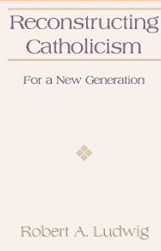


Sallie McFague

2001: Univ. of California Press
(Recommended)

Reconstructing Catholicism For a New Generation

Robert A. Ludwig
2000: Wipf & Stock Pubs.
(Recommended)



Christian Theology

Course Description

This is a survey course that introduces students to the sacred texts, beliefs, and practices of Christian faith traditions. Students will become acquainted with a great number of primary and secondary sources that are central to the field of Christian theological inquiry and the readings explored during the course cover ideas that extend across centuries of Christian religious heritage, from the ancient and patristic period through to the modern and contemporary periods. As such, some attention will be given to the historical social contexts out of which these texts have emerged as well as to the contemporary social context in which issues like social justice and ecological concern are an increasingly important consideration. A rich diversity of thought and a variety of interpretations and approaches to moral issues are presented in the material of this course, and students will develop their critical thinking skills by learning to listen to the ideas of others while considering perspectives that are sometimes quite different from their own before drawing their own informed conclusions about complex theological topics.



You are encouraged to see me without an appointment during my office hours or you may arrange an appointment by seeing me before or after class.

Attendance, Participation, and Incomplete Work

One of the most important aspects of this course is your critical engagement with the lectures, readings, films, and conversations you have with your peers inside the classroom. This means that it is especially important to come to class and to come prepared to participate actively in discussion. Your attendance and readiness is expected.

Absences for University business such as academic trips and athletic travel, religious observances, or illnesses ought not to count against the student's successful completion of course requirements provided you inform the instructor beforehand and offer proper documentation (like a physician or athletic department notification). Students who miss a class session for any reason are responsible for all assignments and material covered during class. Missed exams and presentations typically cannot be made up unless under the conditions noted above.

Assignments are due in class at the beginning of the session noted and in paper copy. Late essays (including electronic submissions) will lose 10% for each day late and will not be accepted after a week and a grade of 0 will be recorded.

Intellectual Honesty & Plagiarism

Plagiarism is regarded as a serious violation of honesty and a grade of "0" will be recorded for any assignments found plagiarized. Please review the official University policy on standards and consequences:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me and also contact Services for Students with Disabilities (Sullivan Center Suite 260) as soon as possible to arrange appropriate accommodations.



Learning Outcomes

By successfully passing this course, students will:

- Increase their factual knowledge of the sources, methods, and terminology central to the academic study of Christian theology
- Become familiar with the fundamental principles, major historical periods, thinkers, and writings that comprise major streams of thought and research in Christian theology
- Develop skills in expressing themselves orally and in writing
- Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view—especially those associated with religious texts and traditions in Christian theology that span across generations and historical periods
- Learn to apply course material, often from different historical and social contexts, to improve critical thinking, problems solving, and decision-making on contemporary moral issues

Classroom Decorum

A Learning Community

The goal of our time together in this course is for each of us to seek greater understanding.

While this requires individual effort, it also requires the collaboration and cooperation of your classmates and colleagues. It is each person's responsibility to create the intentional, free, open and honest intellectual space necessary in this pursuit. We each deserve to feel comfortable expressing our thoughts and we owe it to each other to express them with increasing clarity, greater understanding and respect for new or different perspectives.

Every individual shares this responsibility with every other individual, including your instructor.

No particular ideological, religious or moral viewpoint is expected from you—only a willingness to engage each other and this course's content honestly, critically and constructively.

Lectures, films, small and large-group discussions, interactive participatory learning, and written essays constitute this course's format

Your full engagement is essential to the overall success of this course

Course Evaluation

Accountability in Learning

A (94.0-100), A- (90.0-93.9), B+ (87.0-89.9), B (83.0-86.9), B- (80.0-82.9), C+ (77.0-79.9), C (73.0-76.9), C- (70.0-72.9), D+ (67.0-69.9), D (60.0-66.9), F (0-59.9)

Research Essay (25 points)

A 3-5 page writing assignment you will choose at the beginning of the semester, in tandem with your panel assignment and in consultation with your instructor, that is to be relevant to a key theme, thinker, or major piece of writing from the time period associated with your presentation.

Collaborative Panel (10 points)

Working alongside a small team of your fellow students, your group will present the findings of your research essays in a way that is creative and engaging. Individuals present for 5 minutes each but presentations are to be integrative in nature and should build on the course materials and themes.

Theology Matters (5 points)

Share and summarize in 3-5 minutes a news article that is germane to the course.

Exams 1 & 2 (25 points each)

Two exams will assess your fundamental knowledge of course material covered in lectures, class discussions, films, and assigned readings. This will include a short-answer and essay-based format but also a variety of other question types.

Course Finale (10 points)

An opportunity to creatively apply your knowledge and critical self-awareness to an emerging moral problem.

Course Plan

Reading Schedule & Rubrics Available Online

01 September	Course Introduction
08 September	Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion
15 September	Hebrew Bible and Pre-Christian Contexts
22 September	The Patristic Period; Panels/essays (1)
29 September	The Medieval Period; Panels/essays (2)
06 October	The Medieval Period continued; Panels/essays (3)
13 October	Exam 1
20 October	<i>Luther</i> film
27 October	Reformation; Panels/essays (4)
03 November	Modern Theology; Panels/essays (5)
10 November	Modern Theology continued; Panels/essays (6)
17 November	Moral Theology - Christian Ethics
24 November	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday Break
01 December	Exam 2 ; Christian Theology and World Religions
08 December	Religion and Ecology; <i>Journey of the Universe</i> film
15 December	Course Finale 4:15-6:45pm

Every class dynamic is different and unique. This course plan is intended to guide our time together over the semester. It is subject to modification as may be necessary, in order to adjust to the rhythm and particular needs of this group.

