



**Course Number & Title** – THE105 Prelude to Biblical & Theological Studies

**Department** – Bible & Theology

**Contacting Your Professor**

1. To contact your professor, select “Inbox” from the global navigation bar on the left-hand side of your screen. After selecting “Inbox,” click the pencil in the top right of your screen to begin your message. Type in your professor's name and your message before sending.

**Delivery** – Online

**Course Description** – This course introduces students to theological and biblical thinking and studies. The course focuses on issues of methodology and approach (historically referred to as prolegomena). The doctrine of Scripture (bibliology) also receives attention. Students are introduced to major schools of theology and biblical interpretation both of the past and also the present. (3 credits)

**Course Prerequisite(s)** – None

**Student Learning Outcomes** – As a result of this course the student will do the following:

1. Apply a basic methodology for biblical and theological thinking and research.
2. Summarize the core beliefs of Christian orthodoxy.
3. Explain the purpose and nature of prayer.
4. Identify the biblical basis for Christian ethics.
5. Articulate a basic statement of the doctrine of Scripture.
6. Correlate the theological task with the life and mission of the Church.

**Course Requirements**

1. *Textbook(s)* – Book information and a price comparison tool can be found at [lbcbookstore.com](http://lbcbookstore.com).
  - a. Kreider, Glenn R., and Michael J. Szigel. *A Practical Primer on Theological Method: Table Manners for Discussing God, His Works, and His Ways*. Zondervan Academic, 2019. ISBN: 9780310588801
  - b. Holsteen, Nathan D., and Michael J. Szigel. *Exploring Christian Theology, Volume 1: Revelation, Scripture, and the Triune God*. Bethany House Publishers, 2014. ISBN: 9780764211300
  - c. Packer, J.I. *Affirming the Apostles' Creed*. Crossway, 2008. ISBN: 9781433502101

- d. Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone*. IVP Academic, 2003. ISBN: 9780830833016 (This book is available for free in the library's eBook collection, but you may purchase a physical copy from the bookstore or elsewhere if you prefer.)
2. *Materials* — None
  3. *Assignments*
    - a. **Discussion Forums (15%)**: Discussions will take place throughout the course, typically in response to a reading, video, or set of questions provided by the instructor. These discussions are meant to build and enhance the learning community as we interact with each other as a class. As this is the case, discussion posts will not be accepted late. Detailed instructions will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1, 3, 6)
    - b. **Reading Responses (20%)**: Throughout the course, you will respond in a variety of ways to the readings and lectures. These responses may include brief reflection papers, quizzes, or other activities. The goal of these exercises is to provide clear evidence that you have engaged deeply with the required readings and lectures. These responses will require you to recall key concepts from your reading, evaluate theological stances, and reflect on your personal growth as a student of Scripture. Detailed instructions will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1, 2, 4, 6)
    - c. **Memory Assignments (10%)**: Throughout this course, you will memorize key passages from Scripture that relate to the doctrines we will be studying in the course. In addition, you will also memorize the Apostles' Creed. Once you memorize each passage, you will record and upload a video of you reciting the assigned passages from memory. You must recite each passage word-perfect according to a recognized (published) translation to receive credit, and the Apostles' Creed according to the translation given in the instructions. Detailed instructions will be provided in the course. (SLOs 2, 3, 4, 5)
    - d. **Bible Research Skill Builders (15%)**: You will complete a series of assignments in order to become proficient at using biblical research resources required for use in Bible & Theology Department courses. These assignments will ask you to research basic facts and details about the Bible, use reference materials, and become familiar with digital resources. Detailed instructions will be provided in the course. (SLO 1)
    - e. **Key Figures in Christian History Project (15%)**: Throughout this course, you will complete a research project on key figures throughout church history. First, you will perform initial research on five major figures in church history, selected from a list provided in the course. Then, you will write a short summary of each figure's life, using various digital resources and biblical reference materials. Detailed instructions will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1, 6)
    - f. **Doctrinal Statement: Doctrine of Scripture (15%)**: You will prepare a personal statement of your position on major aspects of the Christian doctrine of Scripture, as covered in this course, providing scriptural and theological support. The statement will consist of both your articulation of what you believe about God's revelation, the inspiration of Scripture, and the meaning of biblical inerrancy, with key biblical support. You will also include a discussion of your understanding of how this doctrine is significant for Christian life and ministry. Detailed instructions will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1, 5, 6)

4. *Exams and Quizzes*

- a. **Quizzes (10%):** Throughout the course, you will complete quizzes based on assigned readings and lectures. These quizzes will assess your ability to accurately and thoroughly recall key ideas and doctrinal concepts from the course. Success on these quizzes requires careful attention to the main ideas of the texts and lectures as well as how these ideas might be interconnected with course learning goals. Detailed instructions will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)

5. *Extra Credit*

- a. There are no extra credit opportunities for this course.

**Course Procedures**

1. *Course Practices* – This online course uses readings, discussions, and other resources and activities to aid and measure the learning of its objectives. Work through the weeks in sequential order, completing the learning explorations and assignments. Please take these opportunities to interact with the instructor and fellow students about the course content, the learning experience, and the relationships between the material and one’s own experience.
2. *Participation Policy* – Attendance and participation for this course take the form of completing of all readings and assignments in a timely manner, contributing to discussions with charity, and actively collaborating with fellow students when required.
3. *Grading Policy, Rating Scale, Use of Rubrics, etc.*

<i>Excellent</i>	A	=	94–100	B-	=	80–83	D+	=	67–69	
	A-	=	90–93	C+	=	77–79	<i>Passing</i>	D	=	64–66
	B+	=	87–89	<i>Average</i>	C	=	74–76	D-	=	60–63
<i>Good</i>	B	=	84–86	C-	=	70–73	<i>Failure</i>	F	=	0–59

The weight of each assignment in relation to your final grade is allocated in the following grading categories:

Discussion Forums	15%
Reading Responses	20%
Memory Assignments	10%
Bible Research Skill Builder	15%
Key Figures in Christian History Project	15%
Doctrinal Statement: Doctrine of Scripture	15%
Quizzes	10%

4. *Late Assignment Policy* – Students are expected to submit all assignments by the due date specified. Late work is not accepted. All work, including any make-up work, must be submitted by the last day of the class in order to be counted toward the final grade.
5. *Make-up Policy* – The professor, at their discretion, may allow students to make up missed assignments in the case of extenuating circumstances. In such cases, the professor will assign a revised due date for the missed assignment, and a grade penalty will be assessed. Note that late discussion posts will not be accepted due to the need for timely interaction in discussions.

6. *Ally Center Statement* – The Ally Center is LBC | Capital’s hub for academic services, resources, and accessibility. The academic services include disability services, writing services, and academic mentoring services and are available at no additional cost. To schedule an online or on-campus appointment, or for information regarding resources, locations, and hours of operation, visit [lbc.edu/ally](http://lbc.edu/ally).

a. *Disability Services* – LBC | Capital is committed to creating an educational environment that is inclusive and accessible, in compliance with the guidelines of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students choosing to disclose a disability must contact the Disability Services Office to discuss reasonable accommodations.

After speaking with the student and reviewing documentation, reasonable accommodations will be determined. It is in the student’s best interest to contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible prior to each new term since professors cannot provide accommodations without verification from the DSO and accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. More information and disclosure forms are available at [lbc.edu/ally](http://lbc.edu/ally).

Please note: Students should register with the Disability Services Office each term for which accommodations are desired; accommodations from the prior semester are not automatically carried over.

The Disability Services Office can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5383 or [DSO@lbc.edu](mailto:DSO@lbc.edu). The confidential fax line is 717.560.8261.

b. *Writing Services* – The Writing Services is available to help any LBC | Capital student with writing assignments from any course. Students can schedule a one-on-one appointment with professional personnel or peer mentors at any point in the writing process. Writing Services include: assistance in brainstorming and outlining, development of ideas, critique of partial or full drafts, and/or review of formatting and citations. Appointments are available both on campus and online. A variety of writing resources are available at [lbc.edu/ally](http://lbc.edu/ally).

Writing Services can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at [WritingCenter@lbc.edu](mailto:WritingCenter@lbc.edu).

c. *Academic Mentoring Services* – Academic Mentoring Services (AMS) provides academic services at no cost to any current undergraduate LBC student. Professional personnel and peer mentors come alongside students to assist with major projects, time management, review of course content, test-taking skills, and study strategies. A variety of academic resources are available at [lbc.edu/ally](http://lbc.edu/ally).

Students may make academic mentoring appointments by phone at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at [AMS@lbc.edu](mailto:AMS@lbc.edu).

d. *Contact Information*

Location	Email	Phone
Lancaster	<a href="mailto:AllyCenter@lbc.edu">AllyCenter@lbc.edu</a>	717.569.7071 ext. 5389
Philadelphia	<a href="mailto:AllyPhilly@lbc.edu">AllyPhilly@lbc.edu</a>	215.329.5400 ext. 5753
Washington D.C.	<a href="mailto:AllyDC@lbc.edu">AllyDC@lbc.edu</a>	301.552.1400 ext. 5806
Online	<a href="mailto:AllyCenter@lbc.edu">AllyCenter@lbc.edu</a>	717.569.7071 ext. 5389

7. *Academic Integrity Statement* – As followers of Christ, we need to be fully committed to honesty and truthfulness in all aspects of our lives, including in our academic lives. Therefore, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any way. Students are responsible to familiarize themselves with LBC’s Academic Integrity Policy and adhere to it. It is located in the Student Handbook.
8. *Statement on Self-Care* – College in general is a rich and fulfilling experience, full of opportunities for students. Along with this abundance of opportunities comes the challenge of maintaining a healthy life balance characterized by productive tension, a sensible schedule, and time for rest. Productive tension, at times, can be compounded by unexpected life challenges, causing unproductive levels of stress. This can lead to feelings of sadness, increased anxiety, and an overall lack of focus. For this reason, LBC | Capital strongly encourages students to care for themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually during each academic term and throughout their journeys. Everyone benefits by support in times of struggle so students are also encouraged to seek help promptly by talking with professors, College staff or the Counseling & Career Center (C3) about life challenges as related to academic performance and to seek advice regarding available supports inside and outside of the LBC | Capital community.

### **Course Resources**

1. *Technology Difficulties* – The Help Desk is available to help you with computer and technology problems and questions. Call 717.560.8200 ext. 4357 (HELP), email [help@lbc.edu](mailto:help@lbc.edu), or visit [lbc.edu/helpdesk](http://lbc.edu/helpdesk).
2. *Library Resources* – The library subscribes to numerous databases to provide access to scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, eBooks, newspapers, magazines, and much more. Online resources are accessible anywhere on campus or remotely 24/7 using your LBC username and password. To access these resources, go to [lbc.edu/library](http://lbc.edu/library). The library website also includes links for students to request research assistance:
  - CHAT NOW is for immediate assistance – usually from a non-LBC librarian.
  - ASK US is for information from an LBC librarian within 24 hours (Monday–Friday).
  - SCHEDULE A MEETING is for arranging an appointment with a librarian, either in-person or online.
3. *Program/Content Coordinator* – Bible & Theology: [b&t@lbc.edu](mailto:b&t@lbc.edu)
4. *Bibliography* – None
5. *Extra Resources* – None