



THE 101 - Online

Introduction to Christian Theology

Course Module

Revised: May 4, 2021
SU 1 - 2021 - Online
A. Kukec

THE 101

Intro to Christian Theology

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Mode of Delivery: Online

Course Description:

An introduction to Christian theology understood as the critical and reflective study of God's revelation through the person, life, and teaching of Jesus Christ and of the implications of this revelation. Proceeding from the Catholic intellectual tradition and incorporating perspectives of other Christian traditions, this study aims to present theology as a striving for the harmony of faith and reason. Through critical study and reflection, students are introduced to specific concepts, terminology, and methodologies needed to participate well in on-going theological dialogue. Students have the opportunity to apply and reflect on their knowledge in written work, presentations, service-learning, community service, and/or retreat experiences.

Prerequisite:

N/A

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course students should be able to...

1. Define and explain basic Christian concepts and terminology (such as theology, tradition, mystery, faith, revelation, Trinity, scripture, Incarnation, suffering and evil, the nature of the human person, church, sacraments, morality and social justice) and methodologies used in theological discourse/dialog. (KA 5)
2. Express and articulate an understanding of the above concepts and terminology through critical and reflective writing and/or presentations. (CT 4)
3. Explore and discuss personal and social implications of Christian theology through various activities and assignments. (SRA 1)

Required Textbook:

- Thorsen, Don. *An Exploration of Christian Theology*. Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI. 2020. (ISBN: 978-1-5409-6174-7)
- Copy of *The Bible*, any translation.
- Regular use of Marian Online 2

Evaluation Methods/Instruments:

The following assessment tools will be used to measure outcomes:

1. Online discussions and activities
2. Written assignments
3. Examinations (including both objective and essay components)

Exam 1: 10%: Due Week 3

This exams test students' understanding of the material being read in the textbook and assigned reading materials for weeks 1-3.

Exam 2: 10%: Due week 6.

These exams test students' understanding of the material being read in the textbook and assigned reading materials for weeks 4-7.

Weekly Class Discussions 10%: Due weeks 1-7.

Students are required to post responses to the instructor-led discussions each week. A minimum of one post to the question (150 to 200 words) posed by the instructor with a minimum of two additional responses to other student's posts are required each week. As in face-to-face classroom discussion, students may have differing opinions. These opinions are welcome and students are encouraged to discuss differences in a courteous and respectful manner.

Research Project 25%: Due week 7.

Students select a contemporary issue which they believe Christians should be concerned about and on which they believe Christians should act. This topic might arise out of an issue encountered as part of one's profession or an issue facing larger society. The presentation will include: a definition of the ethics of the issue; how a belief in God informs the issue; what does the Bible have to contribute to our understanding of the question; how does Christ inform your approach to the topic; what models of the church are most relevant, and what can and does the church do in this area? The student will research other outside documents and/or books to prepare a written report 1800 to 2400 words (six to eight pages) will be prepared from the materials citing at least four references from the documents located.

Students must follow the APA format.

Written Assignments 45%

Assignments must be received on specified due dates. Please see New Knowledge Log and Meaningful Musing section below.

Grading Criteria:

A	Excellent	4.0	93-100
A-		3.75	90-92
B+		3.25	87-89
B	Good	3.0	83-86
B-		2.75	80-82
C+		2.25	77-79
C	Satisfactory	2.0	73-76
C-		1.75	70-72
D+		1.25	67-69
D	Lowest Passing	1.0	63-66
D-		.75	60-62
F	Failing	0	59 and below
WD	Withdrew		

I	Incomplete	Your instructor reserves the right to adjust the above grading range. Any changes will be discussed the first night of class.
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University Policies

**For full description for Marian University policies and procedures, please refer to the Academic Bulletin or AGS Handbook.*

Academic Honesty Policy

A policy of academic honesty is consistent with the mission statement of Marian University by ensuring academic integrity and thereby furthering the personal, moral, and intellectual development of the learning community. The intent of this policy is to establish consistency and to heighten the responsibility of the entire university community (faculty, staff and students) by identifying areas that would violate the concept of academic honesty. Little distinction is made between the student who is actually guilty of academic dishonesty and anyone who aids the student (e.g. by providing a copy of a stolen exam or by writing a paper for another student). An instructor and the University may change a student's grade at any time, even after a course has been completed, if the student has violated the Academic Honesty Policy.

The rules and procedures set forth in the current Student Handbook dealing with academic honesty will be followed in this class. Students are expected to have familiarized themselves with these rules and procedures. This applies to cheating, plagiarism, and intentional misrepresentation of the truth. If an assignment is prepared by a student for this class, it is expected that it be the student's own work and that any use of the work of another be properly quoted and cited. The minimum penalty for plagiarism is a failing grade on the work in question.

Disability Statement

Marian University will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. If you feel you need accommodations to fully participate in this course, please contact Lisa Olig, Coordinator of Disability Services and Academic Support at 920-923-8951 or lmolig65@marianuniversity.edu.

Adult Studies - Online attendance

As in the face-to-face environment, Marian Online classes require attendance. 'Attendance' is defined as participation in both the individual assignments and discussions. Learners who do not participate in a given learning session or who fail to complete the learning session's assignment will be 'absent' for said class period.

While engaged in an online course, you will be expected to sign into the Marian Online system regularly, checking for e-mail updates, material uploads, and other course events. You will likewise be expected to respond to all class-related correspondence within 24 hours after it is posted. In extenuating circumstances, such as travel or health-related situations, more time between sign-ins may be approved; however, you will need to notify your instructor ahead of time and request approval.

Classroom and Campus Expectations

Students are encouraged to maximize the learning experience offered through Marian University. Ideal learning takes place in environments where trust, mutual respect and active engagement is valued and observed by all participants.

Students enrolled at Marian University are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a professional setting. Students are expected to be respectful of the learning environment established by the instructor. No student has the right to be disruptive, disrespectful or uncivil in their conduct – including language – in any setting at Marian University (this includes online, Face Book, web-based venues).

A student who is deemed to be inappropriate in the classroom may be asked to leave the class for a session or longer, or may be administratively withdrawn by University officials.

Out of Classroom Workload Expectations

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course for instruction or preparation/studying or course-related activities (including lectures, laboratories, recitations, discussion groups, field work, study, and so on), averaged over the semester, in order to complete the work of the course to achieve an average grade.

This course is a 3-credit course. For every hour of in course/instructional time, a minimum of two hours of out-of-class work is expected. Additional hours are expected of graduate course work depending on the degree outcomes. According to Federal Guidelines from the US Department of Education, a 3-credit course assumes a minimum of 135 hours of course-related activities. The outside of classroom expectations of the students are as follow, for various modes of course:

- A course that meets for three hours each week across a 15-week semester (meets three times for one hour, meets two time for 75 minute session, or meets once for a three hour block) will have a minimum of six hours of outside class-work per week.
- A 7-week course that meets once a week for approximately 4 hours will have a minimum of 15 hours of outside class-work per week.
- An 8-week course that meets once a week for approximately 4 hours will have a minimum of 13 hours of outside class-work per week.
- Online and hybrid courses will have a minimum of 135 hours of combined synchronous or asynchronous course activities across the length of the course.

Academic activities include, but are not limited to reading, writing, studying, research, completing various assignments, and small group work.

At least an equivalent amount of class-related work is required for laboratory, field trip, practicum, workshop, group studio, individual studio, independent study, dissertation, clinical placements, student teaching, and practices. Courses that are more or less than 3 credits use the same calculation of in course/instructional time, a minimum of 45 hours of course-related activities per unit of credit over the duration of the course.

Course Management and Standards

Marian Online:

As often as possible notes, announcements, assignments and other course materials will be posted on Marian Online. Students are encouraged to use this resource. Also, the instructor will also communicate with students via this tool. Students are encouraged to go to the Email function of the website and under *Preferences* forward their Marian Online email to the email address they most frequently check.

If you decide to make copies of notes, presentations, etc., please be environmentally friendly; use scrap paper, run “outline” versions of the Power Point presentations, and only make copies when necessary.

Statement of Values:

This course affords us an opportunity to delve into significant questions about Christian theology. Our collective theological pursuit calls us to respect others’ diverse spiritualities and religious traditions. Accordingly, we will proceed with a standard of respectful dialogue and sensitivity for others’ opinions and viewpoints. The goal of this theology course is not one of conversion or sought-after agreement. Rather, this theology course aims to foster growth in one’s reasoned understanding of the Christian theological tradition.

Method of Course Delivery:

This is a totally online course. Log in at <http://online2.marianuniversity.edu>. If they have difficulty with their username/password, you should direct them to Password Manager. <https://reset.marianuniversity.edu>

Course Requirements:

Expectations

Due to the online and accelerated format of this course, success in the course will depend on: You must log into Marian Online a minimum of 2-3 times weekly for announcements, assignments, course documents, and other communications from the instructor and colleagues; Assignments and exams will be submitted no later than the due date assigned. Late work will not be accepted.

Online Discussions

These will take place on a weekly basis in the online environment used at Marian and will be comprised of questions. These questions will be answered by each student. Subsequently, all students are required to comment in a meaningful manner on their peers’ comments. Use of textbook concepts, quotes from textbook as well as the Bible and other academic and professional sources will be required. Simply saying ‘I agree’ will not be seen as a meaningful comment. If you do ‘agree’, expound on your thoughts and describe what critical thinking is leading you to think this way. All students need to begin by replying to the instructor’s discussion question first. This posting is due on Wednesday night by midnight. The second posting to this question must be posted sometime between Thursday morning and Sunday at midnight. This posting will be comprised of comments on each others’ answers.

Completion of reading assignments

Successful completion of written examinations

Successful completion of all assignments

Assignments must be completed by certain due dates. Failure to submit assignments on time will result in a ten per cent (10%) deduction per day late.

Assignments and Make-Up Assignments:

Each student is responsible for all of their course assignments. Failure to submit course work on time will result in a reduction of 10% per day for each late assignment. Use 12 point font, typed double spaced, one inch margins on the top, bottom, left and right sides of 8 1/2 " by 11" letter size paper for all written assignments. Use the APA 6th Edition Manual for all written work.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Depth of content must be evident.
2. Must be typed (double-spaced)
3. Must be free of typographical, spelling, and grammatical errors.
4. Clarity of content must be evident. These are Bachelor's-level papers and must meet school standards.
5. Please use inclusive language. Not all managers are "he." Nor are all nurses "she."

Critique of Written Assignments:

Use 12 point font (Times New Roman), typed double spaced, one inch margins on the top, bottom, left and right sides of 8 1/2 " by 11" letter size paper for all written assignments. Use the APA style format 6th Edition Manual located at <http://www.marianuniversity.edu/writingcenter/>

All written work will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Possible Number of % Points	Number of % Points Awarded
Content – comprehensiveness, appropriateness, quality - Evidence of critical analysis - Organization and logical development of materials	55	
Adequacy of references Peer reviewed scholarly journals and/or published books only. No anonymous authors	5	
Followed APA 6 th Edition Guidelines	15	
Clarity of communication	10	
Quality of writing, grammar, spelling	15	
TOTAL	100 %	

Course Assignments

New Knowledge Log

Each student will be expected to keep a NEW KNOWLEDGE LOG. The log is to include specific NEW KNOWLEDGE gained from the readings. The student will record in writing new knowledge from the readings covered in the time period preceding the log due date. The NEW KNOWLEDGE is to be recorded (typed) and a brief explanation of (3-5 sentences) is to be given as to why the student found this particular piece of knowledge interesting enough to want to remember. The NEW KNOWLEDGE LOG has 4 parts; each part is to include (5) entries with explanation. Each log part is worth 25 points (2.5%); 4 parts total 100 points (10%). Papers are to be typed according to the specifications described above under Assignments and Make-up Assignments.

New Knowledge Log	Part 1	Due date:	Week 2
New Knowledge Log	Part 2	Due date:	Week 3
New Knowledge Log	Part 3	Due date:	Week 5
New Knowledge Log	Part 4	Due date:	Week 6

Meaningful Musing

Each student will be responsible for (2) Meaningful Musings. From the given list select one (1) Old Testament and one (1) New Testament scripture and meaningfully muse on the questions provided. All papers are to be typed according to the specifications described above under Assignments and Make-up Assignments.

Meaningful Musing 1	(Old Testament)	Due date: Week 4
Meaningful Musing 2	(New Testament)	Due date: Week 7

Meaningful Musing 1 Old Testament

Exodus 3: 1-6 : This is the story of God's call to Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Why do you think God appeared in the form of a burning bush? Why would Moses be frightened? Is Moses' reaction what you would expect of a vigorous leader? Why/why not? Make a modern day application.

Leviticus 19: 1-4: Do you find these rules applicable today? Why/Why not? Make a modern day application.

Numbers 6: 22-27: What do you think this blessing means? Modern day application: Can you think of an occasion when you might use it?

Ruth 2: 8-12: Boaz speaks highly of Ruth's many sacrifices in life, especially as a stranger in a foreign land. Explain how this passage indicates how outsiders should be treated. Describe God's attitude to outsiders. Make a modern day application.

Isaiah 55: 6-11: What does this passage say to you about the power of God's Word? Explain how the Word has had/or could have this effect in your life.

Jeremiah 31: 31-34: What image of God does this passage evoke for you? How do you understand Jeremiah's words in the context of your own life?

Ezekiel 37: 1-14: What similarities do you see between this story and the Christian belief in the resurrection of the dead? Have you ever experienced the restorative power of God in your life? Explain.

Hosea 2: 12-23: The language describes a “seduction” by God, an attempt by God to allure Israel once more, to put the spark back in their relationship. How does this passage speak to you of God seeking you out? Does God ever speak to your heart to attract you?

Proverbs 6: 6-11: The author sends the reader to study an ant. What can be learned from the behavior of ants? Why is this perspective important for what God wills for human beings?

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8: This is the famous poem on the diversity of seasons in human existence. How do you fit this poem into the author’s skeptical view of life? Do you find it uplifting or troubling? Explain.

Sirach 30: 14-17: How does Sirach’s advice concerning wealth and health compare with your own values? Do you agree or disagree? Is his advice meaningful to the young as well as the aged?

Meaningful Musing 2

New Testament

Matthew 5: 1-12 The Beatitudes: How do you understand them: as impossible ideals, as goals to be achieved, as wishful blessings upon those who suffer, or as hallmarks of God’s Kingdom? Why?

Luke 15: 11-32: Read this scripture several times. Each time place yourself in the position of a different character in the story (the prodigal, the elder son, the father). How does each perspective change your understanding of the story? Explain.

Romans 7: 14-25: Who is the “I” in this passage? Is it Paul or is Paul speaking for all of humanity? Do Paul’s words confirm at times your own experience of conflict and inability to make the right choices?

1 Corinthians 13:1-13: This passage is often used at wedding ceremonies. How do you apply it to your own life, whether you are married or not?

2 Corinthians 4:7-10: Paul uses the image of clay jars to describe the fragility of being an apostle of Jesus Christ. Have you ever had to suffer because of your faith? Does Paul think that fragility implies the inability to flourish as an apostle of Jesus Christ? Explain.

Galatians 5:22-26: What does Paul mean by “fruit of the Spirit”? What types of actions oppose the work of the Spirit and what types promote the work of the Spirit? Explain fully.

Philippians 4:4-7: Why does Paul advise his readers to “rejoice in the Lord always”? Do you find it easy to follow Paul’s recommendation? How might you better conform to Paul’s vision? Be specific.

Colossians 1:15-20: This is an early Christian hymn of praise to Christ, the creator of all. What image of Christ emerges from this reading for you? What powers are attributed to Christ? Does this image conform to Christ as you have come to know him?

1 Timothy 4:11-16: How would you feel about this advice addressed to you? Would you find it encouraging? Challenging? Upsetting? Is the advice still applicable today? Explain.

James 2:14-26: This is the classic NT statement about the interrelationship between faith and good works. Do you find it a helpful measure of your own faith? If so, why? If not, why not?

GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR ASSIGNED READINGS TO HELP YOU READ AND REFLECT CRITICALLY:

1. What new information did you learn?
2. What did you find particularly helpful?
3. What were major themes?
4. What made you think about something differently?
5. What are the implications for you? For others? For the world?
6. What one piece of information is important enough for you to want to share it with a friend?

	Content covered	Assignments	Due date
Week 1 05-10-21	Questions for Introductions Ch. 1 – Theology Ch. 2 - Revelation Ch. 3 – Authority Ch. 4 – Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Questions for Introductions • Read Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 • Assignment 1 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 1 and 2 • Assignment 2 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 3 and 4 • Discussion question and two responses 	Day 7 week 1 11:59 p.m. CST,
Week 2 05-17-21	Ch. 6 – Who is God? Ch. 7 – The Trinity Ch. 8 – Knowing God Ch. 12 – The Image of God Ch. 13 – The Human Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13. • Assignment 1 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 6,7, and 8 • Assignment #2 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 12 and 13 • Discussion question and post two responses • New Knowledge Log 1 	11:59 p.m. CST, Day 7 week 2
Week 3 05-24-21	Ch. 10 – Creation Ch. 11 – Providence & Evil Ch. 14 – What is Sin? Ch. 15 – The Nature of Sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 10, 11, 14, and 15. • Exam 1 • Assignment #1 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 10 and 11 • Assignment #2 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 14 and 15 • Discussion question and post two responses • New Knowledge Log 2 	11:59 p.m. CST, Day 7 week 3

Week 4 05-31-21	Ch. 16 – Who is Jesus Christ? Ch. 17 – The Incarnation Ch. 18 – The Works of Jesus Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 16, 17, and 18. • Assignment #1 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 16, 17 and 18. • Discussion question and post two responses • Work on research project • Meaningful Musing 1 	11:59 p.m. CST, Day 7 week 4
Week 5 06-07-21	Ch. 19 – Who is the Holy Spirit? Ch. 20 – The Works of the Holy Spirit Ch. 22 – What is Salvation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 19, 20, and 22. • Assignment #1 0 Complete study guide for Chapters 19, 20 and 22 • Discussion question and post two responses • Work on research project • New Knowledge Log 3 	11:59 p.m. CST, Day 7 week 5
Week 6 06-14-21	Ch. 24 – Christian Spirituality Ch. 25 – The Church Ch. 26 – Ministry Ch. 27 – The Means of Grace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 24, 25, 26, & 27. • Assignment #1 – Complete the study guide for Chapters 24, 25, 26 and 27. • Discussion question and post two responses • Work on research project • New Knowledge Log 4 	11:59 p.m. CST, Day 7 week 6
Week 7 06-21-21	Ch. 28 – Eschatology Ch. 30 – Heaven and Hell Christianity Among the Religions of the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 29 & 30 • Read Christianity Among the Religions of the World • Research Paper due • Exam 2 due • Meaningful Musing 2 	11:59 p.m. CST, Day 7 week 7

Assignment	A's	B's	C's	D's	F
Application Assignments	Information clearly supports main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples. No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. Meets minimum page requirements.	Information supports main topic. It includes some supporting details and/or examples. Some grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. Meets minimum page requirements.	Support of main topic is weak. Few or no details and/or examples provided. Some grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Information does not support main topic. No supporting details or examples provided.	Assignment not completed
Chapter Reflections	Reflection relates to chapters presented and clearly adds value to discussion while engaging others.	Reflection relates to chapter presented and adds some value to discussion.	Reflection does not relate to the chapter. Minimal value-added to discussion.	Reflection does not add to the discussion.	No reflection posted.
Exams	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	59 or less
Research Paper	Information clearly supports main topic. It includes much supporting research and examples. No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. Meets minimum page requirements. Format of paper is in correct APA format. Minimum number of sources are cited.	Information supports main topic. It includes some supporting research and examples. Some grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. Meets minimum page requirements. Format of paper is in correct APA format. Minimum number of sources are cited.	Support of main topic is weak. Little or no research provided. Some grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Information does not support main topic. No supporting research provided.	Assignment not completed
Weekly Discussions (participation)	Minimum required posts met. Content of responses relate to topic presented and clearly add value to discussion while engaging others.	Minimum required posts met. Content of responses relate to topic presented and add some value to discussion.	Minimum required posts met. Content of responses does not relate to topic. Minimal value-added to discussion.	Minimum required posts not met and/or responses do not add to discussion.	No discussion items posted.