



TM366-2A *Basic Christian Doctrine* Syllabus
Theology and Ministry Department

Course Information:

3 Credit Hours
Online

Summer II 2022
Asynchronous

Instructor Information:

Roy Millhouse, Ph.D.
Kelsey 105
620-278-4274
rmillhouse@sterling.edu

Preferred Method of Communication: Canvas Announcements and Sterling College email. Please regularly check your SC email. Canvas Announcements should forward to your email.

Office Hours: If you would like to meet via Zoom (or in-person if you are local), please contact me via email.

Required Textbooks:

Treier, Daniel J. *Introducing Evangelical Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019). ISBN 978-0801097690.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course considers the major tenets of the Christian faith, their biblical basis, and present relevance to life. Topics such as God, revelation, angels, humanity, sin, Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, the Church, the sacraments, and the future are studied. Prerequisites: Both TM102-103 or two of TM171-174, with a grade of at least C-, or instructor approval.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, you will:

1. Use the terminology of the academic study of theology to speak precisely about different theological viewpoints.

2. Understand key debates in theology and identify the side of the discussion with which you agree.
3. Construct basic theological arguments using the four types of theological evidence.
4. Apply theological concepts to various practical issues in society, politics, ethics, and spirituality to better appreciate the broad significance of religious beliefs.

Course Objective	KNW, SKL, or VAL	Activities	Assessments
1	KNW, SKL	Course readings	Reading quizzes, I Believe assignments, Applied Theology discussions
2	KNW, VAL	Course discussion and readings	Quizzes, Review Assignments, I Believe assignments
3	KNW, SKL, VAL	Using theological evidence quiz and course discussion	I Believe assignments; Applied Theology discussions
4	KNW, SKL, VAL	Course discussions and readings	Applied Theology discussions

GRADING POLICY/ASSESSMENT METHODS

The following activities are graded. For specific details on each assignment, see Canvas.

- a) **Discussions:** Most modules include at least one discussion post that provides you a chance to explore ideas with your peers.
- b) **Using Theological Evidence Quiz:** week 1 includes a quiz meant to help you learn how to use the four sources of theology: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. You may retake **this** quiz to ensure you reach the necessary competency.
- c) **Applied Theology Discussions:** Each module includes applied theology discussions that introduce you to theological debates and allow you to consider the implications of theological ideas in areas like politics, gender roles, interreligious dialogue, and environmental care. You will read a survey of different perspectives and come to an informed conclusion on these debates.
- d) **Reading Quizzes:** You have a reading quiz for each module designed to ensure that you have mastered the terminology and concepts you need to engage in other assignments.
- e) **I Believe Assignment:** Broken into four parts, the I Believe assignment requires you to develop a personal statement of faith on four different Christian doctrines (a list of possible doctrines accompanies each section of the paper). You must use technical vocabulary and evidence to demonstrate your position, but you are expected and encouraged to share **your** beliefs (or lack thereof). You will not be penalized on this portion of the class for your religious perspective, only for poor arguments and writing or the misuse of key concepts.
- f) **Review Exercises:** You will complete review exercises in modules 3, 5, and 7 to help you retain content mastered in earlier weeks.

Your grade derives from the number of total points you earn. Please note that these point totals represent the threshold between grades; **I do not “round” scores**. Also, note that there are no extra credit opportunities

Scale:

A 94-100.99%	C 74-76.99%
A- 90-93.99%	C- 70-73.99%

B+ 87-89.99%	D+ 67-69.99%
B 84-86.99%	D 64-66.99%
B- 80-83.99%	D- 60-63.99%
C+ 77-79.99%	F 59% and lower

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR POLICIES

The online learning environment includes technology, information, and people. Students should demonstrate professionalism and integrity regarding all components of the learning environment. Given that students and instructors may be from anywhere in the world, learners should consider differences in time zones if a personal conversation is ever required.

Treating Other Students with Respect

Students should avoid inflammatory or offensive comments—which undermine the objective of a positive learning experience—in communicating with their peers. Most students want to get the most from their online courses, which means that they expect their peers’ cooperation on collaborative assignments and thoughtful participation in discussion forums.

Treating Instructors with Respect

Students can show respect to instructors by reading all announcements and emails promptly, communicating in a timely fashion about problems (technological or other), and following directions.

Respect for All Parties Who Collaborate with the Institution to Create Learning Experiences

Service, observation, and clinical practice are essential components of Sterling College Online programs. The organizations and employers who cooperate with Sterling College to help students succeed do so out of kindness and social responsibility; they are not *required* to participate in Sterling College Online learning experiences. However, Sterling College values the cooperation of all parties who help students learn and grow by providing observatory and hands-on experience. Students should likewise respect the contributions of such parties.

Respecting Laws Regarding Technology and Information

Students may not use or reproduce any technology or course component for financial purposes or to defame the institution or individuals. Online learners should use technology for the sole purpose of learning and sharing course-related information with others in the learning community.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Weekly participation is recorded in the “Attendance” section of mysterling (not Canvas).

Attendance is a matter of course participation. Weekly student participation is fulfilled by the following criteria:

- Substantive discussion board participation
- Substantive assignment submissions. Your submissions must show interaction with course materials. Basic logins/views do not count as assignment participation or submissions.

Please note: any student not participating regularly may be administratively withdrawn from the course.

LATE WORK

Late work is ***not*** accepted.

COMMUNICATION

I will post announcements in Canvas for information meant for the entire class. Please make sure you check these regularly. If I need to communicate with you individually, I will do so via your Sterling College email (any emails sent through Canvas will display in your SC email inbox).

COURSE OUTLINE/WEEKLY SCHEDULE

See Canvas for the current version of this schedule and more specific details. *Reading assignments are in bold and require reading reports.*

Week	Lesson Topics	Reading Assignments/Books Covered
1	Theological Method	Treier, <i>Introducing Evangelical Theology</i> , Introduction and chapters 1 and 2.
2	Trinity and Doctrine of God	Treier, <i>Introducing Evangelical Theology</i> , chapters 4 and 5.
3	Creation and Theological Anthropology	Treier, <i>Introducing Evangelical Theology</i> , chapters 6 and 7.
4	Christology and Atonement	Treier, <i>Introducing Evangelical Theology</i> , chapters 8 and 9.
5	The Doctrines of Sin and Salvation	Treier, <i>Introducing Evangelical Theology</i> , chapters 10 and 11.
6	The Holy Spirit and Scripture	Treier, <i>Introducing Evangelical Theology</i> , chapters 12 and 13.
7	The Church and Eschatology	Treier, <i>Introducing Evangelical Theology</i> , chapters 14 and 15.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Sterling College faculty and students form an academic community committed to the Biblical principles of justice and honesty and the core values of faith, calling, learning, integrity, service, and community. With this in mind, the policy in the current Academic Catalog will be followed for this class.

I take plagiarism seriously, and so should you. Your integrity can be your greatest strength, even in difficult situations where the cost is high. If I suspect that you have plagiarized any assignment, even a minor one, I will investigate it. Note that I report plagiarism to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. See the SC catalog for a detailed discussion of academic integrity at Sterling College.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT OFFICE

The Academic Support Office strives to challenge students from all types of academic journeys through academic mentoring with directors and SC peers. Mentoring topics include time management, study skills, testing anxiety, and more. Students struggling with certain subjects may find aid through the on-campus tutoring program (scheduled by appointment only) and 24/7 professional help via the online Tutor.com platform accessible through Canvas. The office facilitates

CLEP, Accuplacer, and other SC exam proctoring. Students may contact the Academic Support Office at academicsupport@sterling.edu, or call 620-278-4463, to schedule an appointment.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Sterling College does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. The policy in the current Academic Catalog is in effect for this class.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student with a disability who may need classroom accommodations in this course should contact the Academic Support Office, located in Mabee Library. Students may email academicsupport@sterling.edu, call 620-278-4463, or stop by the office. The office serves students with a wide range of documented physical and learning disabilities.

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Sterling College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of sexual misconduct and discrimination. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. Harassment is not acceptable. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

- *Sterling College, Title IX Coordinator Richard Webb, Kelsey Hall #304, or call 620 204-0025 or email titleIX@sterling.edu; <https://www.sterling.edu/title-ix>*
- *Sterling College, Counseling Services, (620) 278-4297*
- *Sterling College, Campus Pastor, Jose Carillo, (620) 278-4341*
- *The City of Sterling, Police Department (620) 278-2100*
- *24-hour Crisis Hotline (800) 701-3630*
- *Sexual Assault Victim Advocate, (620) 278-4232*
- *Rice County Hospital (620) 257-5173*
- *Title IX Education Brochure:*
<https://www.sterling.edu/sites/default/files/Title%20IX%20Informational%20Brochure%202021-22%20FINAL.pdf>