

TH440 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY

Course: TH440 D/ND Contemporary Theology
Credits: 2 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2023 – Cycle 5
Dates: March 13 – May 5
Time: Wednesday 8:00 – 10:00 am
Place: EED 118
Professor: Dr. Thomas S. Baurain
Contact: thomas.baurain@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

A survey and biblical analysis of a broad range of theological issues relevant to local church ministry in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Classical liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, and neo-evangelicalism are studied as a backdrop to a more detailed evaluation of more recent theological systems, movements, and issues that impact the church in both American and international contexts. (Prerequisite: BI115)

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person. Online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Identify and define the nature of theology (PLO 1, 5) (A 1, 2, 3)
2. Compare biblical theology with other religious theologies (PLO 1, 2, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).
3. Identify non-evangelical theologies and systems of thought (PLO 1, 2, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Be able to briefly explain the theological emphasis of key twentieth Century theologians (PLO 1, 2, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).
2. Restate the specific weaknesses and strengths of the major non-evangelical theologies of twentieth-and twenty-first century Christendom (PLO 1, 2, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)..
3. Grow in appreciation for the role of the Bible in developing theology (PLO 1, 2, 5) (A 1, 2, 3).
4. Gain experience analyzing contemporary theological expressions of early Twenty-first century America (PLO 1, 2, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

III. REQUIRED MATERIAL

A. Bible

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases and thought for thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version

B. Other Textbooks

Smith, David L. *Theologies of the 21st Century: Trends in Contemporary Theology*. Wipf and Stock, 2014. (ISBN: 9781625648648) [Retail: \$48.00 paper; \$34.16 Amazon; Available as kindle version for \$9.99]

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

- #1: Reading of the textbook (about 360 pages total)**
- #2: Reading Reflections (1-2 pages per paper, 7 reflections)**
- #3: Discussion Questions (one page per question)**
- #4: Class Lectures (either attend in person or summarize the video in a paragraph)**
- #5: Additional reading & research (400 pages total)**
- #6: Final Project/Research Paper (15 page paper or the equivalent)**

The assignments are described, detailed, and weighted in Canvas. The final grade is determined according to the grading scale in the Calvary University catalog.

V. CLASS LECTURES (subject to change) [Generally following the textbook]

Week 1	Introduction, Hermeneutics, Biblical Theology, Historical Backgrounds
Week 2	Section A: Foundations of Contemporary Theologies
Week 3	Section B: Liberal Theologies
Week 4	Section C: Liberation Theologies
Week 5	Section D: Evangelical Theologies
Week 6	Section E: Charismatic Theologies
Week 7	Section F: Postmodern Theologies
Week 8	Section G: Indigenous Theologies

VI. OTHER POLICY

A. Paper Formatting: All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

B. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade.

C. Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

D. Learning Aid: The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

E. Late Work Policy: Late work will be accepted with a reduction of 10%. If no work is turned in for an assignment, the grade is automatically zero.

VII. Expectations of Online Students

Watch the video of the lecture in Canvas and post a summary of the lecture contents after you have watched the video. This should be completed during the week following the posting of the class. Late posting will be penalized as above. Failure to post a response will count as a zero.

Do not allow yourself to fall behind. Complete each assignment on time.

VIII. Expectations of Resident Students

Attend class.

Be on time for class. Coming in late is disruptive.

Have access to a Bible during class.

Be courteous and respectful in class to the professor and all students.

Turn in all assignments on time. Late policy applies here.