

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. Joshua Paxton
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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.

COURSE 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).

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to live and serve in the Church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview

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).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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

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]

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Read the course textbook, *Theologies of the 21st Century*. There is a schedule of readings due each week in “Modules” in Canvas. This assignment will be submitted along with the reading reflections below.

Assignment 2: Each week the student will write a 2-page reflection paper on the reading for that week. Additional instructions may be found in Canvas.

Assignment 3: Each week the student will respond to a Discussion Question in Canvas.

Assignment 4: Participation in class discussion. The student will be graded on their participation in class. Online students will need to write a one-paragraph summary of class to receive credit.

Assignment 5: Additional reading & research (400 pages total), additional instructions are in Canvas.

Assignment 6: Final Project/Research Paper (15-page paper or the equivalent). Each student will submit a final project/research paper of about 15 pages, double-spaced, Turabian format. The project may be a formal research paper on a contemporary theology topic; a set of lesson plans teaching a series for Sunday School or home Bible study; a series of sermons dealing with a contemporary issue facing the church; a video dealing with such an issue; or . . . be creative.

Grading:

	Points
1. Read the Course Textbook (included in reflection)	
2. Reading Reflections.....	200
3. Discussion Questions.....	200
4. Participation.....	200
5. Additional Reading & Research.....	200
6. Final Project/Research Paper.....	200
Total.....	1000

“See Grading Scale in the University Catalog”

METHODS

- A. In-class methods:** listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, writing, and taking tests.
- B. Out-of-class methods:** reading, writing, research, and studying for tests.
- C.** 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.
- D.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary’s website.
- E. Late Assignments:** Assignments will be lowered **25%** if not turned on in on the due date. Assignments that are more than one week late will be assigned a zero (0) grade unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor.
- F. 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. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via “Turn-It-In”. This program automatically gives the students work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.

- G. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support
- H.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, 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.
- I. Attendance Policy** – Calvary has no official attendance policy, the attendance policy of the professor is as follows.
- a. Students have one unexcused absence per cycle.
 - i. For In-class students - attendance is tracked by being in class.
 - ii. For online students - attendance is tracked through involvement in discussions and submitting assignments.
 - b. For each unexcused absence after the first the student's final grade will be deducted by one letter grade per absence.
 - c. Occasionally situations arise which may result in a student missing class, in this event the student should contact the professor **prior** to the class period to request an excused absence.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

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

SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR TH440 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY

Carson, D. A. *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church*. Zondervan, 2005.

Clayton, Philip. *Transforming Christian Theology for Church and Society*. Fortress Press, 2010.

Dockery, David S., ed. *The Challenge of Postmodernism*, 2nd ed. Baker Academic, 2001.

- Erickson, Millard. *The New Evangelical Theology*. Fleming H. Revell Company, 1968.
- Erickson, Millard J. *The Evangelical Left*. Baker Books, 1997.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith*. Baker Books, 1998.
- Falwell, Jerry., ed. *The Fundamentalist Phenomenon: The Resurgence of Conservative Christianity*. Doubleday, 1981.
- Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson. *20th Century Theology: God & the World in a Transitional Age*. InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era*, 2nd ed. Baker Academic, 2006.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Eerdmans, 1996.
- Hankins, Barry. *American Evangelicals: A Contemporary History of a Mainstream Religious Movement*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008.
- Hunter, James Davison. *Evangelicalism: The Coming Generation*. The University of Chicago Press, 1987.
- Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. Eerdmans, 1923.
- Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*, 2nd ed. Oxford, 2006.
- Naselli, Andrew David and Collin Hansen, gen. eds. *Four Views on the Spectrum of Evangelicalism*. Zondervan, 2011.
- Nunez C., Emilio A. *Liberation Theology*. Moody Press, 1985.
- Oakland, Roger. *Faith Undone: The Emerging Church*. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2007.
- Olson, Roger E. *Arminian Theology: Myths and Realities*. IVP Academic, 2006.
- Ramm, Bernard. *After Fundamentalism: The Future of Evangelical Theology*. Harper & Row, 1983.
- Smith, David L. *A Handbook of Contemporary Theology*. Baker Books, 1992.
- Smith, David L. *Theologies of the 21st Century: Trends in Contemporary Theology*. Wipf & Stock, 2014.
- Vance, Laurence M. *The Other Side of Calvinism*, rev. ed. Vance Publications, 1999.

Veith, Gene Edward, Jr. *Postmodern Times*. Crossway Books, 1994.

Webber, Robert, gen. ed. *Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches*. Zondervan, 2007.

Yungen, Ray. *A Time of Departing*, 2nd ed. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2006.