

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

TH-1103 Survey of Contemporary Theology, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

This course introduces a variety of approaches to the development of contextual theology including theologies of liberation, feminist theology, and other non-Western theological formulations. Emphasis is placed on the evaluation of approaches and the identification of strengths and weaknesses. Perspectives on the similarities between contextual and western theologies will also be addressed.

Prerequisite: GSU-1107 Foundations of Learning; can be taken concurrently.

### Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Recall key figures, events, confessions, and works in the Modern period
2. Describe why certain figures were, events, and works were important and how they shaped Christian thought
3. Determine the major theological developments in the Modern period
4. Apply what was learned from previous theological developments and controversies so that errors are not repeated and right teaching is upheld

### Content Expectations

#### Required Textbooks:

McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. 2nd edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. ISBN: 978-0470672860 [McGrath]

Bawulski, Shawn and Stephen R. Holmes. *Christian Theology: The Classics*. London: Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 978-0415501873 [Bawulski and Holmes]

#### Articles (included in the course, ordered starting with the week they are to be read):

Ford, David F. and Rachel Muers. "Introduction to Modern Christian Theology" in *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology Since 1918*. 3rd edition. Ford (editor), Muers (contributor). Hoboken: Blackwell, 2005.

Hodgson, Peter. "Liberal Theology," in *Expository Times* 122 (2010): 4–10.

Galli, Mark. "Neo-Orthodoxy: Karl Barth" in *Christian History* 65 (2000).

Kerr, Fergus. "Catholic Theology" in *Expository Times* 122 (2011): 365–373.

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- Papanikolaou, Aristotle. "Orthodox Theology," pgs 358–360 in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Cambridge UP, 2011.
- Holcomb, Justin. "Second Vatican Council," pgs 141-149 in *Know the Creeds*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.
- Daniel, Patricia. "Feminism," pgs 434–448 in *The Blackwell Companion to Modern Theology*. Hoboken: Blackwell, 2004.
- Reddie, Anthony. "Black Theology," pgs 598–609 in *The Routledge Companion to Modern Christian Thought*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Bradstock, Andrew. "Liberation Theology," pgs 560–572 in *The Routledge Companion to Modern Christian Thought*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Yong, Amos. "Pentecostal and Charismatic Theology," pgs 636–646  
in *The Routledge Companion to Modern Christian Thought*. London: Routledge, 2013..
- Taylor, James E. "The New Atheists" in *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- Hector, Kevin. "Postliberal Hermeneutics: Narrative, Community, and the Meaning of Scripture" in *Expository Times* 122 (2010): 105–116.
- Jenkins, Philip. "The Christian Revolution," pgs 1–17 in *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Oxford, 2007.
- Tienou, Tite. "Evangelical theology in African contexts," pgs 213–224 in *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology*. Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Chan, Simon. "Evangelical theology in Asian contexts," pgs 225–240 in *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology*. Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Holmes, Stephen. "British (and European) evangelical theologies," pgs 241–258 in *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology*. Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Padilla, C. René. "Evangelical theology in Latin American contexts," pgs 259–273 in *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology*. Cambridge UP, 2007.

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- George, Timothy. "Evangelical theology in North American contexts," pgs 275–292 in *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology*. Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Pardue, Stephen. "What hath Wheaton to do with Nairobi? Toward Catholic and Evangelical Theology" in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 58 (2015): 757–770.
- Larsen, Timothy. "Defining and locating evangelicalism," pgs 1–14 in *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology*. Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Holcomb, Justin. "Modern Confessions" and "Conclusion," pgs 151–165 in *Know the Creeds*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
- Bacote, Vincent. "Beyond 'Faithful Presence': Abraham Kuyper's Legacy for Common Grace and Cultural Development." *Journal of Markets and Morality* 16 (2013), pp. 195-205. Print.  
[Bacote]
- Benson, Christopher. "Faithful Presence." *Christianity Today*. May 2010. Vol. 54, No. 5, pg 33. Print. [Benson]
- Logan, Dave, King, John, and Halee Fischer-Wright. *Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization*. New York: Harper, 2008, pp. 3-10. Print.  
[Logan]
- Katzenbach, Jon R., Steffen, Ilona, and Caroline Kronley. "Cultural Change that Sticks". Harvard Business Review. July-August 2012. Print. [Katzenbach]

**AV Clips and/or Online Media (hyperlinks provided in the course)\*:**

- Video on Modern Theology by David Ford
- Videos on Schleiermacher
- Video on Ritschl
- Video on Bultmann
- Video on Karl Barth and Contemporary Theology
- Video on Karl Barth Parts 1 and 2
- Video on Nouvelle Theologie
- Video on Balthasar Parts 1 and 2
- Video on Feminist Theology
- Video on Bonhoeffer
- Video on Moltmann
- Video on Pannenberg Parts 1 and 2

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Video on Frei

Video on Hauerwas

Video on Evangelicalism

**\*Note: Playing Blackboard Media on a Mac** - If you are a Mac user, you may have trouble streaming the video or audio content within this course due to its file format. There is a simple fix for this problem. Simply download the [Flip4Mac](#) software and you will be able to play the files. Please email Distance Learning if the software does not solve the problem as this might indicate a different technical issue.

### Assignments

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: reading /watching/listening to weekly expectations and discussion boards. **Class Participation** accounts for 30% of the final course grade.
  - a. **Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video reviews, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly expectations prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.
  - b. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Unless otherwise directed, post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CST). Then read and respond to **at least TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CST).
2. **PAPERS:** There will be seven (7) paper assignments in this course, as described below:
  - a. **Papers #1-5:** Write five one-page double-space reading reflection papers where you will describe:
    - 1) What you learned or what was new for the week.
    - 2) What was unclear or confusing.
    - 3) If your thinking changed. If so, what changed and why? If not, why?Due Weeks 1-5
  - b. **Paper #6:** Write a two-to-three page double-spaced paper on the following:
    - 1) Choose a contemporary theologian of interest.

- 2) Describe and explain the context of their theology. Where did they grow up? Where were they educated? Who and what influenced them? What were one or two of their major works or major theological themes? The goal is to understand and articulate the surrounding context of that theologian's theology and how it contributed to their development.

Due Week 6

- c. **Paper #7:** Choose a significant contemporary theological issue (e.g., Feminist theology) and write a six-to-eight page double-spaced paper that:
  - 1) Clearly describes the approach to theology and Scripture.
  - 2) Identifies and describes its strengths and weaknesses in relation to Scripture and the theological tradition.
  - 3) Identifies and describes the similarities and differences with evangelical theology.

Due Week 7

3. **QUIZZES:** You will have eight (8) quizzes on the reading. They consist of ten (10) multiple-choice questions. They are closed book, but you are allowed to use one handwritten (not typed) 8"x11" page of notes (not double-sided). You will have 45 minutes to take each quiz.
4. **FINAL EXAM:** The Final Exam will be cumulative and will be multiple-choice, matching, and have possible essay questions. It is closed book, but you are allowed to use one handwritten (not typed) 8"x11" page of notes (not double-sided). You will have two (2) hours to take the Final Exam.

### Writing Style

Undergraduate students at Moody Bible Institute are to follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) style for all written assignments. Your instructor may waive this requirement for specific assignments such as discussion boards, blogs, emails, and the like, but if not stated otherwise, follow MLA guidelines. Assignments not in proper MLA format may be returned with a request to redo the assignment and could be subject to a late penalty.

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**At a minimum**, all assignments submitted as a document are to be in a standard 12-point font (limited to Time New Roman, Arial, Calibri, Cambria, Century Schoolbook fonts), 8½ x 11 page size, and double-spaced and are to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx). Papers that cite other works should include a Works Cited page.

Students should follow the latest version of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (currently the 7<sup>th</sup> edition) or use the OWL website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> .

**Assessments**

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Class Participation	30%
Papers #1-5	5%
Paper #6	10%
Paper #7	20%
Quizzes (8)	20%
Final Exam	15%
	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

**Course Resources**

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at [my.moody.edu](http://my.moody.edu). If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>. Here are additional tutorials on how to use the Crowell Library and do digital research: <http://libguides.moody.edu/aecontent.php?pid=245942&sid=5129214>.

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at bible.org.

The final resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U from various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Duke, Yale and the like have posted content related to biblical and theological studies.

**Course Copyright Statement**

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**ADA Compliance Statement**

Moody Bible Institute complies with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by providing appropriate accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. We value diversity and inclusion and recognize disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive. If you anticipate barriers related to the format, requirements, or assessment of this course, you are invited to address the professor with your concerns; additionally, you are encouraged to contact Gayla Gates, our disability services provider, at the Student Resource Center to discuss possible environmental modifications or adaptations. Please note, accommodations are not retroactive, therefore we encourage you to contact our service provider within the first two weeks of the semester. Contact Gayla Gates at [ggates@moody.edu](mailto:ggates@moody.edu) or 312-329-2177.

### Course Bibliography

Ford, David. *The Modern Theologians*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Editor. Hoboken: Blackwell, 2005.

Jones, Gareth). *The Blackwell Companion to Modern Theology*. Editor. Hoboken: Blackwell, 2004.

Meister, Chad and James Beilby. *The Routledge Companion to Modern Christian Thought*. Editors. London: Routledge, 2013.

Schwarz, Hans. *Theology in a Global Context: The Last Two Hundred Years*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.