



TH4404 Theological Thought

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

TH4404 Theological Thought, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course leads you through the development of responsible theological thought in relation to issues and concerns in society and the church. Emphasis is placed on the evaluation of specified issues and concerns through reflection on multiple theological themes. Methods for analyzing and defending various positions of the church are also introduced.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to...

1. Describe the concepts of theological thought and thinking theologically.
2. Develop responsible theological thought relative to issues and concerns in society and the church.
3. Utilize sound methods for thinking theologically and developing theological thought.
4. Investigate relationships between church doctrine and Christian practice.

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Textbooks:

- Wax, Trevin. *Holy Subversion: Allegiance to Christ in an Age of Rivals*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. Print. ISBN: 9781433507021 [Wax]
- Torrey, R. A. *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. 2nd edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002. Print. ISBN: 9780917006227 [Torrey]

Audio/Videos:

- Course Introduction Video
- “What is Worship” Video
- “John Stott on Principles for Whole Life Discipleship” Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vs64yiwOulc> [Stott]
- “The Pauline Ethical Structure: Indicative & Imperative/Narrated Keynote [Pauline Ethics]
- “The Cost of Following Jesus (Francis Chan)” Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KylEUY3e3II> [Chan]

PDFs:

- Theological Thought: A Primer, Chapter 1.
- “*tammam*” (2522) from Harris, Laird, Gleason Archer, Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody P, 1980. Print. [“*tammam*”]
- Reading & Study Guide: Theological Integrity and Truth

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- Guinness, Os. “But Not Through Me” from *Time for Truth: Living Free in a World of Lies, Spin and Hype*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000. 9–19. Print. [Guinness, A]
- á Kempis, Thomas. *The Imitation of Christ*. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing, 1949 (pp. 1–15). [á Kempis]
- Calvin, John. *On the Christian Life*. Grand Rapids: Christian Classics Ethereal Library. N.d. (chapters 1–3, pp. 6–27). [Calvin]
- Samra, James. “Biblical View of Discipleship.” *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 160 (April–June 2003): 219–234. [Samra]
- Reading & Study Guide: *Practicing Theological Thought*
- Small, Dwight Harvey. “Modeling the Image of God.” in *Christian: Celebrate Your Sexuality*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1974 (104–125). [Small]
- Ware, Bruce A. “Male and Female Complementarity and the Image of God.” *The Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. 7/1 (Spring 2002): 14–23. [Ware]
- “The Form of Solemnization of Matrimony” from *The Book of Common Prayer of 1662*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, N.d. (301–311).
- Allberry, Sam. “You May Now Serve The Bride.” *The Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. 20/1 (Spring 2015): 48–58. [Allberry]
- Guinness, Os. “Money—Medium of Exchange or Mammon?” in *Doing Well and Doing Good: Money, Giving, and Caring in a Free Society*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001 (35–51). [Guinness B]
- Patterson, Ben. “Worship as Performance” from *Leadership 2/3* (Summer 1981): 49–54. [Patterson]
- Peterson, Eugene. “Worship” from *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. 2nd edition. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000 (Chapter 4, 47–57). [Peterson]

Assignments

Guideline for the Discussion Board: Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates’ initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).

Standard for Written Papers: All papers must be in Turabian style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman font on double-spaced lines with 1” margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

Journal Entries: In Weeks 1, 6, 7, and 8 you will be asked to **Journal**. These are *reflective* assignments that require no research or outside study (unless, of course, you find it necessary to do some outside reading to go along with your thought and reflection) and are seen only by your instructor. In each of these assignments you are given a prompt or question to which you are to respond. Your reflections, of course, should be thoughtful and substantive. They should also be written in a cogent and conscientious way. Apart from that, you are free to explore the prompt or question within the parameters that it supplies.

You will note in Week 1, in addition to the Journal assignment, you are asked to Journal twice as part of the Study Guide assignment. That assignment is embedded in the *Study & Reading Guide: Theological Integrity & Truth*. You will find the two Journal assignments easily as you work through the Study Guide.

Journal Entry 1 Reflecting on Theological Thought: In light of your reading, reflect on the importance of thinking theologically as a discipline or habit of the Christian life. Think about how theological thought informs the Christian life and why it should be a central concern for Christians. Post your thoughts [250–500 words] as a Journal entry.

Journal Entry 2 God’s View of Success: Based on all that you have studied this week, reflect on what you believe to be a Biblical view of success.

Journal Entry 3 Thinking About Worship: Journal about your views on worship, particularly corporate worship. Include in your piece how the things you have written, read and thought about this week have impacted your view of worship.

Journal Entry 4 The Christian Heart & Mind: After careful and thoughtful reflection, share your thoughts and ideas about the importance of the Pauline ethical structure to an understanding of the Christian life lived out in the daily routine of life.

Consult your Course Schedule for the Journal assignments for Weeks 6, 7 and 8.

Assignment 1-1 Theological Thought & Practicing Doctrine: Having already read the material in *Theological Thought: A Primer*, chapter 1, and **in light of** your reading there, make at least 10 (ten) pertinent observations from chapter 1 (especially pp. 19–27) in Wax, listing and submitting them as an MS Word document.

A Pertinent Observation is a remark or comment (usually around 30–60 words) that you make, having reflected conscientiously on your reading and that you note is of particular significance. Pertinent observations are always written in complete sentences. They should always be made within the context of the concepts and ideas basic to the assignment and should be relevant to those concepts and ideas.

As a result, your Pertinent Observations are *integrative* in nature. That is, while your observations will be made on the reading in Wax, they should be made in light of, according to, and informed by your reading of *Theological Thought: A Primer*.

In this particular assignment, we want to establish a foundation for theological thought, and we want to consider some of the practical ramifications of the very idea of theological thought. So, as you make your observations, keep this particular context in mind.

Assignment 1-2 Integrity and Truth: Work through the Study Guide, *Study & Reading Guide: Theological Integrity & Truth* (PDF). You should read the material the Study Guide asks you to read and

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you should respond to the prompts and questions as indicated in the Study Guide. [You will provide your responses to the prompts and questions in the **Study Guide** on the *Study Guide Response* that you create using the Study Guide Response Template]

Use the *A Study Guide Response Template* as a model or a pattern for your submitted work. You will note that the template is **NOT** a form to be filled in. Use it only as an example as to how to set up your submission.

You will note, also, that the Study Guide asks you to post TWO of your responses to your **Journal**. These posts need only appear in your **Journal**. There is no need to duplicate them in the *Study Guide Response*.

Once you have completed the tasks asked of you and have submitted the assignments—and only then—proceed to DB #1 assignment.

Assignment 2-1 God, Salvation, & Scripture: Compose a 2-3-page paper that expresses your thoughts and reflections on the significance of our 3-fold context of God, Salvation, and Scripture as a context for engaging in responsible theological thought.

Assignment 3-1 Study Guide Practicing Theological Thought: The Study Guide, *Practicing Theological Thought*, outlines a guided exercise that provides you with an opportunity to practice theological thought according to the guidelines we have considered and discussed this week. While these are guidelines and not method, *per se*, they do represent the guidelines we will use throughout the remainder of the course. So, this assignment is an opportunity to begin to use these guidelines to provide some initial structure for your theological thinking.

To begin with, read through the entire Study Guide to get the big picture and to get a feel for what you will need to submit. The bullet-pointed list at the beginning of the study guide indicates those items you will submit. These items will be more fully explained as you work through the Study Guide.

After you have read through the Study Guide from beginning to end, begin your work. The order of your work will be important and is indicated in the Study Guide. The Study Guide will walk you through the process with clear instructions. If you have questions, be sure to contact your instructor in a timely manner.

Assignment 4-1 A Theology of Human Sexuality: Using the guidelines that we discussed and practiced in Week 3, and using your reading for the week as a starting point, compose your theology of human sexuality and gender (900–1200 words). Be sure to include in your theology the centrality of gender and God’s design in human sexuality. Your paper should demonstrate responsible thinking and sound reasoning based on your reading, your reflection on the topic and your understanding of Scripture. Your paper should also exhibit clear indications that you followed the guidelines that were introduced in Week 3.

Assignment 5-1 Study Guide Genesis 2:18-25: Complete the Study Guide on Genesis 2:18–25 and submit it by Thursday, 12:00 AM (CT).

Assignment 5-2 Study Guide Ephesians 5:21-23: Complete the Study Guide on Ephesians 5:21–33 and submit it by Thursday, 12:00 AM (CT).

Assignment 5-3 A Theology of Marriage and The Marriage Relationship: Using the guidelines that we introduced in Week 3, compose your theology of marriage and the marriage relationship (900–1200 words). Your theology should be informed, of course, by your study of both Genesis 2:18–25 and Ephesians 5:21–33. As part of this assignment, and according to our guidelines, your theology should also be informed by *at least* THREE (3) other primary and/or secondary passages that you find on your own.

Your paper should demonstrate responsible thinking and sound reasoning based on your reading, your reflection on the topic and your understanding of Scripture. Your paper should also exhibit clear indications that you followed the guidelines that were introduced in Week 3.

Assignment 6-1 A Theology of Money & Stuff: Using the guidelines that we discussed and practiced in Week 3, and using your reading for the week as a starting point, compose your theology of money (900–1200 words).

Your paper should demonstrate responsible thinking and sound reasoning based on your reading, your reflection on the topic and your understanding of Scripture. Your paper should also exhibit clear indications that you followed the guidelines that were introduced in Week 3.

Assignment 7-1 A Theology of Worship: Using the guidelines we introduced in Week 3, compose a theology of worship (900–1200 words). Your theology should be based on the Scripture passages you have chosen and should be informed by the perspectives of Patterson and Peterson as well as the other resources you have chosen.

Your paper should demonstrate responsible thinking and sound reasoning based on your reading, your reflection on the topic and your understanding of Scripture. Your paper should also exhibit clear indications that you followed the guidelines that were introduced in Week 3.

Assignment 7-2 An Order of Service: Create an order of service for a worship service at your church. As part of your assignment, the order of service should be annotated stating clearly 1) what is to happen in each part of the service (sermon, prayer, giving, music, etc.) that you include, 2) how each part of the service nurtures and produces worship and 3) how each part of the service reflects your theology of worship. Please be as creative as you wish but do not lose sight of the goal of your service: to provide an opportunity for the community of faith to engage in corporate worship.

Assignment 8-1 A Theology of the Christ Life & Ethic: Using the guidelines that we discussed and practiced in Week 3, and using your reading and viewing for the week as a starting point, compose your theology of the Christian life (900–1200 words). Be sure to address BOTH the Christian mindset, or values orientation, and Christian behavior, or what the Christian ought to do.

Your paper should demonstrate responsible thinking and sound reasoning based on your reading, your reflection on the topic and your understanding of Scripture. Your paper should also exhibit clear indications that you followed the guidelines that were introduced in Week 3.

Assessments

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Discussions (8)	30%
Papers (6)	30%
Journals (4)	20%
Study Guides, Pertinent Observations, & Order of Service (6)	20%
Total:	100%

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. 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:

- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **Overview**" - http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_Overview.wmv
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **References**" - http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_Reference.wmv
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **eBooks**" - http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_eBooks.wmv
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **Articles**" - http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_Articles.wmv

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or www.bible.org. These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars

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 iTunesU from various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Duke, Yale, Covenant Theological Seminary, and others that may benefit in your studies or understanding of this course.

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Course Bibliography

N/A