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Course Description

Theology is the systematic reflection on, and articulation of, the fundamental beliefs we share as followers of Jesus Christ. In this course, students will become grounded in orthodox Christian doctrine and be able to articulate those beliefs through word and deed.

Course Purpose/Philosophy

Theology is not for the religious elite, but for every disciple of Jesus Christ. A study of theology ought to enhance our sense of purpose and mission in this world. It is the call of every believer to know God in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. What we believe about God will inevitably affect the way in which we live. And the way we live is the best indication of what we believe. This course will help students bridge the gap between belief and living.

“The practical goal of theology stands as a warning against the persistent danger of intellectualism. We pursue theology with the goal of understanding our faith in a systematic manner, of course. But constructing a theological system cannot be our ultimate purpose. Instead, we engage in theological reflection so that our lives might be changed. We desire to become stronger and more effective disciples--to connect Christian belief with Christian living. Sound theological reflection will make a difference in how we live.” ~Stanley Grenz

In this course, students will be challenged to discover their own Christian spirituality with respect to their own denominational upbringing and the parental authority that exists within the Christian home. Students will be encouraged to think critically with their mind and reflect inwardly with their spirit. The ultimate goal of this course is to fuel a passion for knowing God in community through the person of Jesus Christ. As we come to know Christ in spirit and in truth, we are changed and made fit for use in the Kingdom of God.

Course Objectives

- a. Learning the importance and purpose of Christian theology (e.g. Christology, pneumatology, eschatology, etc.);
- b. Discovering the connection of personal belief with daily living;
- c. Discerning truth from error; helping to affirm correct doctrine from false teachings;
- d. Experiencing spiritual formation through Scripture reading, reflection, and prayer.

Course Evaluation

- a. 10% Participation/Homework
- b. 10% Journal
- c. 30% Weekly Quizzes
- d. 50% Major Tests & Projects

Text

Grenz, Stanley. *Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*. Grand Rapids: BridgePoint Books, 1998.

Wright, N.T. *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. New York: Harper Collins, 2006.

Supply List:

- a. Note-taking materials (e.g. black or blue pens, highlighters, and spiral notebook)
- b. Composition Journal
- c. Red pen (grading)

Late Work Policy

TWCA policy is that all homework, projects, or any work assigned by the teacher must be turned in on the day that it is due and during the period for the class in which it was assigned. If the work is not turned in when the teacher asks it to be turned in (for example: at the beginning of the period) then the following penalties WILL be assessed:

Minor Assignment (any category that is weighted less than 30%):

1st day late: 50% penalty

2nd day late: a zero will be assessed

Major Assignment (any category that is weighted at 30% or more):

1st day late: 15% penalty

2nd day late: a zero will be assessed

Tests/Quizzes

Tests or quizzes missed as a result of an absence must be made up the day after the absence or as determined by the teacher. If the make up test or quiz is missed, penalties will be assessed according to the above criteria.

Classroom Rules

1. Students should come into class quietly and orderly.
2. Students should respect other students and the instructor, including their time, property, and dignity.
3. Come to class prepared: textbook/workbook, black or blue pen, paper, notebook, etc.
4. Raise your hand and wait to be called on when asking a question or making a comment.
5. Do not talk while teacher or another student is speaking or when working on assignments.
6. Do not get out of your seat without permission.
7. Courtesy and an attitude of service are to be demonstrated at all times.
8. Class begins when the bell rings and is over when the teacher dismisses you.
9. Getting water and going to the restroom are to be done between classes.
10. Assignments should be completed neatly.
11. Assignments should be turned in at the beginning of the class period on the day which it is due.
12. Upon returning from an absence the student is required to get all make up assignments, notes, take tests/quizzes on his own initiative.
13. Assignments or tests/quizzes missed because of an unexcused absence may not be allowed to be made up.
14. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on the assignment.
15. If an assignment is required to be typed it will only be accepted if it meets MLA requirements.

