



TH1280G FOUNDATIONS OF THEOLOGY
2 Credits

Professor Name and Title: Dr. Brian Lidbeck, Ph.D.

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Professor's Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Location / Branch: NBC | GR

Semester / Year: Fall 2021

Course Days: Monday **Class Time:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Classroom: 113

Mission Statement:

Northpoint Bible College Grand Rapids Campus exists to create a cost-efficient, educationally and spiritually dynamic community where students are equipped to participate in the continuing work of Jesus through a rigorous curriculum of academic and theological studies, applied learning, and personal spiritual transformation.

Course Description:

An introduction to the discipline and sources of systematic theology, with an emphasis on learning to do theology; an overview of the 16 Fundamentals of the Assemblies of God; the doctrines of general revelation, special revelation, inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture; and the importance of developing a Christian worldview.

Course Objectives:

As a result of this course, the student should be able to:

- Define theology—its source, purpose, process, and relevance.
- Define and explain the various theological disciplines.
- Define and explain the categories within systematic theology.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the distinctive doctrines of the Assemblies of God.
- Recognize and use the specialized language of theological study, both for personal profit and for dialogue with others.
- Effectively use a major systematic theology book.

- Communicate the personal impact and contemporary significance of Christian theology.
- Respectfully and intelligently defend the relevance of the Christian worldview.

Required Textbooks:

The Bible (NASB, NIV, ESV, NET or NRSV preferred).

Cosgrove, Mark P. *Foundations of Christian Thought: Faith, Learning and the Christian Worldview*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0825424342

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0801036439

Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0830818785

Course Outline:

Note: The dates below reflect the date assignments are actually due.

WEEK 1: September 13

Topics: Course Introduction/Various Theological Disciplines
 Lecture Title: Welcome to Foundations of Theology!
 Reading: None
 Assessment: None

WEEK 2: September 20

Topics: Everyone is a Theologian/Not all Theologies are Equal/Defining Theology
 Lecture Title: "What is Theology?"
 Reading: Grenz and Olson Ch. 1-3
 Assessment: Reading Quiz #1

WEEK 3: September 27

Topics: Defending Theology/Theology's Tasks & Traditions/The Theologian's Tools
 Lecture Title: "Loving God with Theology"
 Reading: Grenz and Olson Ch. 4-6
 Assessment: Reading Quiz #2

WEEK 4: October 4

Topics: Constructing Theology in Context/Bringing Theology into Life/An Invitation to Engage in Theology/ Contextualizing Theology/Theology in a Pluralistic World
 Lecture Titles: "Theology in Context"; "Introduction to Pluralism"
 Reading: Grenz and Olson Ch. 7-9; Erickson Ch. 4 *NOT Part 4*

Assessment: Reading Quiz #3

WEEK 5: October 11

Topics: God's Universal Revelation/God's Particular Revelation

Lecture Titles: "General Revelation"; "Special Revelation"

Reading: Erickson Ch. 6-7

Assessment: Reading Quiz #4

WEEK 6: October 18

Topics: Inspiration, Inerrancy and Authority, Reliability of the Scriptures

Lecture Title: "Arriving at the Truth: The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture"

Reading: Erickson Ch. 8-10

Assessment: Reading Quiz #5

WEEK 7: October 25

Topics: Developing a Christian Mind/What is a Worldview?/Worldview Beliefs and Persons

Lecture Titles: "The 16 Fundamental Truths"; "Establishing a Christian Worldview"

Reading: Cosgrove Part 1 Introduction, Ch. 1-2; A/G Fundamental Truths (PDF Document)

Assessment: Reading Quiz #6

Assignment: Read and Critique Sample Research Paper

WEEK 8: November 1

Topics: Faith: The Foundation for Learning/Learning: The Partner of Faith/ Integration of Faith and Learning

Lecture Titles: "Integrating Faith and Learning"; "Tips on Writing a Research Paper"

Reading: Cosgrove Ch. 3-5

Assessment: **Midterm Exam**

WEEK 9: November 8

Topics: Modernism and Postmodernism/How to Write a Research Paper

Lecture: "Premodernism, Modernism, and Postmodernism"

Reading: Erickson Ch. 2: The Possibility of Theology (Modernism/Postmodernism);

Assessment: Reading Quiz #7

WEEK 10: November 15

Topics: Testing Worldviews

Lecture Title: "Framing a Biblical Worldview"

Reading: Cosgrove Ch. 6, Part 2 Introduction

Assessment: Reading Quiz #8

WEEK 11: November 22

Topics: Naturalism/Darwinism/Marxism/Nationalism

Lecture Title: "The 'Isms': Part 1"

Reading: Cosgrove Ch. 7 (Additional articles to be announced)

Assessment: Reading Quiz #9

WEEK 12: November 29

Topics: Secular Humanism/Atheistic Existentialism/Pantheism

Lecture Title: "The 'Isms': Part 2"

Reading: Cosgrove Ch. 8-10

Assignment: **Research Paper Due: A Biblical Worldview**

Assessment: Reading Quiz #10

WEEK 13: December 6

Topics: New Age Movement/Christian Theism/Christianity Meets Life/Evidence for Christian Theism

Lecture Titles: "The New Age"/ "Evidence for Theism"

Reading: Cosgrove Ch. 11-13, Part 3 Introduction

Assessment: Reading Quiz #11

WEEK 14: December 13

Topics: Christian View of Suffering/Living the Christian Worldview in the World/Degrees of Authority of Theological Statements

Lecture Title: "The Problem of Evil"

Reading: Cosgrove Ch. 14-15; Erickson Ch. 3

Assessment: Reading Quiz #12

WEEK 15: December 20

Assessment: **Final Exam**

Methodology:

This course will consist of weekly assignments of individual reading, along with weekly reading assessments; an individual research and writing assignment; and occasional reading of online material (web pages, articles, etc.) intended to supplement and/or summarize the reading material. Class time consists of lectures with visual aids and group discussion.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation:

- Class participation assumes regular attendance and interaction.
- Comments in the classroom should be reflective, relevant, and helpful to the discussion.
- Students are expected to show respect to the instructor and to each other.
- Students must submit assignments on time. A due date will be posted for all assignments and exams. See the Late-Paper Policy below.

Reading Quizzes:

- Students must read the assigned chapters from the textbooks/Bible according to the course schedule.
- Reading assignments will be accompanied by reading quizzes.
- There will be twelve reading quizzes, and the lowest two scores of the twelve will be dropped.

Writing Assignments:

- Research Paper: Students will be assigned a research paper dealing with specific topics from our discussions or from the textbooks. This paper must be four pages of text in length. This does not include front matter or bibliography. Points will be deducted if the paper is less than 3.75 pages or more than 4.5 pages.

*Please adhere to the following guidelines for all research papers:

- Times New Roman font, 12 point.
- 1" margins on all sides of the page.
- Double-spaced (except for long quotes, which should generally be avoided in short papers).
- Turabian's 9th edition manual of style must be used for all citations and for the format of the papers. Each paper must cite no less than five scholarly sources. Citations are to be noted in footnotes and recorded in a bibliography. Failure to document a source is plagiarism and carries serious penalties. Failure to document paraphrases, ideas, or quotations is considered plagiarism.
- For each topic assigned, several sources may be consulted, including the Bible, the textbooks, class notes/discussions, and other reference works. Students should demonstrate meaningful interaction with these sources. The Bible should not be included in the bibliography unless study notes from a specific Bible are used. Follow Turabian guidelines for Scripture references.

Exams:

- Students will be required to successfully complete two exams thoroughly covering the textbooks and the class sessions on the dates indicated in the course schedule. The majority of questions are drawn from the class lectures.
- Exams will be available only during the dates and times indicated in the course schedule.
- Please carefully read all instructions associated with an exam.
- Exams, once begun, will have a time limit.

Grading Procedure:

Reading Quizzes	200 points	25%
Research Paper	200 points	25%
Class Participation	10 points	3%
Mid-term Exam	100 points	22%
Final Exam	100 points	25%
Total Possible:	610 points	

Selected Bibliography:

- Anderson, Tawa J., W. Michael Clark and David K. Naugle. *An Introduction to Christian Worldview: Pursuing God's Perspective in a Pluralistic World*. London: Apollos, 2017.
- Beale, G. K. *The Erosion of Inerrancy in Evangelicalism: Responding to New Challenges to Biblical Authority*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008.
- Clark, David K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Crossway, 2003.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- . *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.
- Geisler, Norman L. and William C. Roach. *Defending Inerrancy: Affirming the Accuracy of Scripture for a New Generation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011.
- Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight and I. Howard Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Elwell, Walter A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1984.
- Grenz, Stanley. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.
- . *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.
- . *What Christians Really Believe and Why*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
- Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1994.
- Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.
- Hayes, John H. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginners Handbook*. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1987.
- Klein, William W., et al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas, TX: Word Publishers, 1993.
- Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Latter New Testament & Its Developments*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.

Mohler, R. Albert Jr., Peter Enns, Michael F. Bird, Kevin J. Vanhoozer, and John R. Franke. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Counterpoints Bible and Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

Moreland, J.P. *Love Your God with All Your Mind*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2012.

Moreland, J.P. and William Lane Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.

Olson, Roger. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Poythress, Vern Sheridan. *Inerrancy and Worldview: Answering Modern Challenges to the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Ryken, Philip Graham and David S. Dockery. *Christian Worldview: A Student's Guide*. Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door*. 5th ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Strobel, Lee. *The Case For Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.

Walsh, Brian J. and J. Richard Middleton. *The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984.

Wilkins, Steve and Mark L. Sanford. *Hidden Worldviews: Eight Cultural Stories That Shape Our Lives*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

(Inclusion of a web site or book does not indicate agreement with everything contained therein.)

The NBC|GR Grading Scale is:

97-100 A+	80-82 B-	63-66 D
93-96 A	77-79 C+	60-62 D-
90-92 A-	73-76 C	59 or below F
87-90 B+	70-72 C-	
83-86 B	67-69 D+	

Policy on Attendance:

Northpoint believes the classroom is a critical part of the learning process; therefore, attendance for all class periods is both expected and necessary. The faculty understands that there may be legitimate reasons

to miss classes and allows personal absences to accommodate sicknesses, emergencies, etc. If absences do occur, students are responsible for acquiring the materials covered in class and any assignments. Excessive absences will be handled as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Extension Policy – Projects and Major Papers:

Extensions may be granted by the course professor for the following four reasons: 1) hospitalization for illness. A doctor's note confirming such is required; 2) extended serious illness that prevents a student from attending class. This requires a doctor's note; 3) funerals or family emergencies granted as an approved absence by the Academic Dean; 4) school-approved activities. Students are to give any doctor's notes to the Registrar upon returning to school. A note of explanation must be provided to the Registrar for an absence incurred for any of the above reasons. The student is to turn in all approved extension work to the professor by the date the professor designates on Populi. Failure to turn in a paper or project by the extended due date will result in a grade of zero for the paper or project.

Late Paper Policy:

When a student does not qualify for an extension, he/she may still turn in a major paper or project up to five days late via Populi; however, a grade penalty will be applied. Professors may exercise their privilege to reject all late submissions for assignments which account for less than 10% of the final grade or which may be part of a series of assignments in which the lowest scores are automatically dropped. All major late papers and projects turned in after the start of the period on the due date will receive an automatic five-point deduction. For each twenty-four-hour period (including Saturdays, Sundays and school breaks) that the paper/project is not turned in, another five points will be deducted. If the paper is not submitted within five twenty-four-hour periods after the due date and time, an automatic score of zero will be entered for the grade with no opportunity to make up the paper.

Policy Concerning Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

Policy on Use of Cell Phones and Wireless Computers in Classes: As a member of the NBC-GR academic community, each student has a responsibility to professors and fellow students. When cell phones ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the educational process. Therefore, NBC-GR prohibits the use by students of cell phones including texts, instant messaging, all social media such as Facebook, etc. Due to federal regulations related the CLERY Act, cell phones are permitted in class in case of a campus emergency. All phones must be on vibrate and need only be checked if every phone vibrates at the same time.

Wireless laptop computers and/or tablet devices are highly recommended for all classes. They must always be kept in silent mode during class sessions and they may be used for academic purposes applicable to that course only. Gaming, surfing the web, utilizing social media, and emailing will be grounds for disciplinary action.

Improper use of these devices may lead also to a charge of "cheating" or academic dishonesty and additional penalties.

A sanction for class disruption or academic dishonesty may be appealed using the appeals process. However, a violation that involves a charge of academic dishonesty must be appealed before the Director of the Grand Rapids Campus. Students have the right to continue attending class while an appeal is in progress.

Policies on Plagiarism and Cheating:

Any material, whether published or unpublished, copied from another writer, must be identified by use of quotation marks, block quotations, and documentation with specific citation of the source. Paraphrased material must likewise be attributed to the original author. As a school, intent on training men and women of integrity for the ministry Northpoint takes plagiarism seriously.

Plagiarism consists of the following categories:

- Use of another's ideas without giving credit
- Quoting material from published or unpublished works, or oral presentation, without giving proper citation
- Paraphrasing material, whether published or unpublished, written or oral, without proper citation
- Copying another student's paper, without that student's permission

Cheating consists of but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- Using unauthorized notes or material when taking an examination
- Copying answers to examination questions, obtaining or helping others to obtain unauthorized copies of examination questions
- Copying another person's class work/assignments and/or homework and submitting it as one's own
- Having another student do one's paper, or any other assignment, in whole or in part and submitting the assignment as one's own work
- Allowing another student to copy one's paper
- Copying another student's paper with or without that student's permission

Any Student found guilty of plagiarism will receive a letter of reprimand (to be placed on their permanent record) and may be subject to, but not necessarily limited to, the following discipline:

- First offense (faculty discipline):
 - Reduction of grade
 - Failure of assignment
- Second offense (academic staff discipline):
 - Receiving an "F" for the course
 - Removal from any extracurricular activities
 - Dismissal for one semester or more

Policies on Assignments:

Responsibility for Information: The student will be responsible for all material presented during a class period he misses, regardless of the reason for the absence. This includes lecture material, assignment instructions or dates, test dates, changes in course requirements, etc. The student should check with a classmate to determine what was missed. Do not expect the professor to keep copies of handouts, study guides, etc.

Out of Class Study Time: The student should expect to devote two hours of individual study for every hour of class attendance.

Missing Exams: If a student must miss an exam due to serious illness or major emergency, he/she must contact the instructor within three days of the missed exam to arrange an alternative. Missing for such reasons as oversleeping, alarm not going off, forgetting, not being prepared, or extending a holiday or weekend will not merit a make-up opportunity. See the NBC-GR Student Handbook.

Reading: Students should expect to invest approximately 250 pages of reading per credit hour, per semester. This includes the primary text, the assignment of additional resources, and reading for research. Thus, for a two-credit course one should expect approximately 500 pages of reading, 750 pages for a three credit course, and 1,000 for a four credit course.

Satisfactory Academic Progress:

The Higher Education Amendment of 1976 mandates institutions of higher education to establish standards of 'satisfactory academic progress' for all students receiving financial aid. Northpoint Bible College will make the following standards applicable to all federal funds awarded to students:

The following Student Federal Aid programs will be subject to the standards: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant [SEOG], Federal Work-Study [FWS], Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students [PLUS].

Please be aware that the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards also affect state grant programs.

To maintain satisfactory academic progress, a student must:

- Complete a program in not more than 150% of the published length
- Obtain a C average or equivalent 2.0 upon completion of 60 or more credits in the Bachelor of Arts program
- Complete 67% of cumulative credits attempted [including repeated and transfer credits]

Students may attempt, including transfer credits, a maximum of 192 credits before financial aid eligibility will be terminated.

The following chart applies to all full and part-time students:

Credits Completed	Cumulative GPA
1-29.5	1.60
30-59.5	1.80
60 and thereafter	2.00

The following chart shows the minimum number of completed credit hours to maintain 67% satisfactory academic progress for full-time students:

Years Completed	1	2	3	4	5	6
Credits Accrued	20	40	64	86	108	128

Students attending on a $\frac{3}{4}$ time, $\frac{1}{2}$ time, or less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time basis will be prorated accordingly.

This syllabus is provided to students and participants for general guidance and is subject to reasonable modification, with appropriate advance notice. Graphics used in this course are included under the fair use exemption of the U.S. Copyright Law and have been prepared according to the multimedia fair use guidelines and are restricted from further use.

