



History of Christian Thought

REL 2000
Professor Anita Lang

CARTHAGE COLLEGE / SPRING 2022

Office: Lentz Hall 235/241
E-mail: alang1@carthage.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Meeting (class) Room: 225
Meeting (class) Hours: 11:45 to 1:25
Meeting (class) days: Mondays and Fridays

WELCOME TO THE COURSE!

Description: This course surveys major topics in Christian theology using Alister McGrath's *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (6th ed.; Wiley-Blackwell, 2011) as a guide. Preliminary considerations will include defining "theology," surveying the scriptural foundation of Christianity (the Bible), and identifying major sources of theology (e.g., Scripture, Tradition, Reason). Focus then shifts to major periods in the history of Christian theology following chronological order. Along the way, foundational Christian doctrines (e.g., God, Trinity, Sacraments) will be examined both in their respective historical context and as a trajectory through time, with special attention given to their contemporary significance. Consideration will also be given, in various ways, to contemporary debates regarding religion and science, as well as Christianity's interaction with other religions.

The required text for this class

1. McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction. Sixth Edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2017. Student Learning Evaluation/Assessment Activities.*
2. *The Bible New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha.*

Your final course grade will be determined on the following basis:

- Quizzes, 40%
- Midterm exam, 30%
- Final exam, 30%

Learning objectives:

KNOWLEDGE AREA SATISFIED: Theological and Religious Studies Knowledge

LEARNING OUTCOME: Demonstrate an understanding of theological and religious questions and traditions. This area of study promotes critical thinking and informed reflection on theology and religion. Students ought to develop familiarity with the basic content of, and modes of scholarly inquiry into, selected theological and religious systems, including forms of religious ethics, and to develop productive intellectual attitudes to guide them in their search.

COMPETENCIES: The students will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret religious texts, beliefs, and practices using standard scholarly methods and tools.
- Demonstrate knowledge, with attention to historical development, of the central texts, beliefs, ethical understandings, and practices of at least one religious tradition.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the intersections between religion and selected contemporary issues, including ethics, social, political, economic, or cultural issues.
- Evaluate one's own religious perspective and the religious perspectives of others.
- Demonstrate knowledge of central ethical teachings and perspectives of a religious tradition.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be aware of the College's policy regarding Academic Honesty which appears on page 10 in the Carthage College 2013-2014 Catalog and which states that

Academic Honesty Policy Academic honesty is a necessary corollary to academic freedom; each concept presupposes the other. The goals and objectives of Carthage fall within the implicit context of academic honesty. Therefore, Carthage expects academic honesty from all of its members and maintains college-wide honesty guidelines and penalties that must be supported by the whole academic community. The guidelines and penalties are found in the Students' Handbook.

[HTTPS://WWW.CARTHAGE.EDU/ACADEMICS/ADVISING-SUPPORT/LEARNING-ACCESSIBILITY-SERVICES/](https://www.carthage.edu/academics/advising-support/learning-accessibility-services/)

PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING/RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS AT CARTHAGE

1. Students must register with Learning Accessibility Services (LAS) and provide current documentation of a disability from an appropriate professional. This should occur as soon as possible after enrolling at Carthage College.
2. Students meet with LAS to discuss requested accommodations and those are included on their Instructor Accommodations Form. Their Instructor Accommodations Form is emailed to them

and they are responsible for sharing the form with their instructors prior to the start of the semester.

3. Instructors are responsible for implementing assigned accommodations and seeking guidance from LAS if they have questions. Students should inform their instructors a few days prior to test dates if they plan to use the Testing Center. If there is a problem with an accommodation, the student should discuss the problem with the instructor and/or LAS so that a resolution can be achieved.

4. If a student is unable to resolve a problem related to accommodations with the support of LAS, the student and LAS should consult with the department head and, if necessary, the division head. If these steps do not lead to resolution of the problem, LAS and the student will bring the matter to the Office of the Provost.

CONTACT

Diane Schowalter
Director of Learning Accessibility Services
Hedberg Library
262-551-5802
dschowalter1@carthage.edu

Covid-19 Concerns

We understand at any time, this semester may be interrupted by quarantining, self-isolation, illness, or fear of exposure to Covid -19. We will as a class follow the rules that the college has put into practice in order to keep all of us safe. Please be aware we may have to Zoom some classes if the virus gets a foothold at Carthage and know that we will always do what is best for us as a class. There will be sanitation supplies in the classroom and please be prepared to clean your space before and after classes. If we follow these protocols, we should have a safe classroom.

Masks will be worn in the classroom at all times unless otherwise decided by the College, State, or Federal governments, or the CDC. Carthage will follow best practices as set out by the Center for Disease Control. If necessary, your instructor will only unmask at a 6 ft. distance in order to give better instruction, but those instances will be rare. Be advised that your instructor has had both Pfizer vaccine shots and will opt to take the 3rd booster shot when qualified. This is the ultimate protection for your instructor and for you.

If at any time, you have any concerns regarding any of these rules, please feel free to contact your instructor, or any of the staff in the Student Affairs Office.

* Please be patient as we maneuver through the semester post-vaccine of the pandemic.

* Please know that your instructor will be patient with your needs as well.

Tentative Schedule of Classes

Week 1

Feb 4 Introduction to the course

Getting Started / Scripture (pp. 83-99, 104-111)

Week 2

Feb 7 Review (pp. 83-99) / Formation of the Old Testament, Pt 1 (pp.104-111)

Feb 11 111-122 Old Testament, Pt 2

Review the notes from the prev. lecture, read Gen 1,2, and 3 / QUIZ 1

Week 3

Feb 14 Formation of the (Christian) Biblical Canon /

Formation of the New Testament, Pt1 Homework: read (pp. 105-122)

Feb 18 Formation of the New Testament, Pt 2 / QUIZ 2

Week 4

Feb 21 The Modern Quest for the Historical Jesus / Homework: read (pp. 236-245)

Feb 25 The Doctrine of God Homework: read (pp. 175-190) / QUIZ 3

Week 5

February 28 The Person of Christ / Homework: read (pp. 207-226)

March 4 The Person of Christ & Trinity / Homework: (pp. 227-236) / QUIZ 4

Week 6

March 7 The Patristic Period / Homework: read (pp. 5-20)

March 11 The Middle Ages and the Renaissance / Homework: (pp. 21-37)

Week 7 **SPRING RECESS MARCH 14 TO MARCH 18**

Week 8

March 21 The Middle Ages and the Renaissance / Homework: (pp. 21-37)

March 25 Mid Term

Week 9

March 28 The Age of Reformation, Pt 1/ Homework: (pp. 38-56)

April 1 The Age of Reformation, Pt 2 / QUIZ 5

Week 10

April 4 Modern Period, Pt 1/ Homework: (pp. 57-79)

April 8 The Modern Period, Pt 2 / QUIZ 6

Week 11

April 11 The Holy Spirit / Homework: (pp. 280-298)

EASTER BREAK APRIL 15 to 18

Week 12

April 22 Salvation and the Church Homework: (pp. 251-269)

Salvation and the Church, Pt 2 / QUIZ 7

Week 13

April 25 Sacraments Homework: (pp. 381-404)

April 29 Knowledge of God Homework: (pp. 135-151) / QUIZ 8

Week 14

May 2 Christianity and the World Religions: conclusion / Homework: (pp. 405-425)

May 6 The Last Things / Homework: (pp. 426-447) / QUIZ 9

Week 15 May 9 -13 Final Exam Review session.

MAY 13 FINAL EXAM (30% of the course grade)