

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

THEO 104

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the basic tenets of Christianity.

RATIONALE

Unfortunately, the poor, unbalanced teaching of many church leaders and the hypocrisy of professing Christians continues to contribute to the postmodern skepticism of the miraculous and bold claims of Christianity. As a result, there is an increasing need for believers to be acquainted with a general overview of the basic doctrines of Scripture and the concept of the Christian life. The aim of this course is to give a rational and practical overview of Christian doctrine so that the modern mind can understand what Christianity is all about. In contrast to other courses that attempt to defend Christianity against opposing worldviews and religions, this course focuses on familiarizing students with the basic tenets of the Christian faith.

I. PREREQUISITES

None

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click the following link to view the required resources for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)
- D. The Holy Bible

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Compare and contrast the concept of Christianity in today's society with true Christian doctrine and how it pertains to the Christian in today's world.
- B. Choose the correct definition of Christianity and recognize the potential downfalls of false teaching.

- C. Differentiate between the claim that Christianity is a scientific impossibility and the true doctrine of Scripture.
- D. Apply basic concepts of doctrine to a personal walk with Jesus Christ.
- E. Examine the purpose of the spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, fasting, and Bible study, and relate these spiritual disciplines to everyday life.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

Students are required to complete all assigned reading from *Core Christianity* and *Found: God's Will*, as well as all online reading/viewing/listening assigned in the modular Reading & Study folders.

- B. Discussion Board forums (2)

Students will complete forums by posting at least a 250-word thread in response to the instructor's prompt, followed by two 100-word replies in response to classmates' threads. Both the threads and the replies for these forums should adhere to the guidelines provided in the Assignment Instructions folder.

- C. Reflection Paper

In Module 7, students will submit a 4-page reflection paper discussing three of the theological topics covered in the course. The paper should include references to the assigned reading, the lecture material, and any other related, relevant sources that the student may encounter. Each paper should be formatted in a Word document with 12 point, Times New Roman font and one inch margins. Students will be graded on the level of planning and reflection demonstrated through the concepts and conclusions presented in the paper.

- D. Quizzes (6)

Each quiz is closed-book/closed-notes, and consists of multiple-choice and true/false questions covering the information reviewed in the weekly study guides. Students will take these quizzes in Modules/Weeks 1–3 and 5–7.

- E. Exams (2)

Students will take a cumulative midterm exam in Module/Week 4 and a cumulative final exam in Module/Week 8. Both exams consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions covering the information reviewed in the weekly study guides. Although the midterm exam is closed-book and closed-notes, the final exam permits students to use both notes and textbooks; however, the time limit for the final requires that students study the information in advance.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Discussion Board forums		
Threads (2 at 50 pts ea)		100
Replies (2 sets at 50 pts ea)		100
Reflection Paper		200
Quizzes (6 at 50 pts ea)		300
Midterm Exam	(Modules 1–4)	150
Final Exam	(Modules 1–8)	150
	Total	1000

B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact LU Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Heitzig, Skip. *Jesus Up Close*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001.

Little, Paul E. *Know Why You Believe*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1976.

McDowell, Josh. *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. San Bernardino, CA: Campus Crusade for Christ International, 1972.

Riss, Richard. *The Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Fellowship, 1977.

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.

Yancy, Philip. *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

COURSE SCHEDULE

THEO 104

Textbooks: MacArthur, *Found: God's Will* (1977).
Towns, *Core Christianity* (2006).

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Towns: Introduction & ch. 1 5 excerpts, 2 video lectures	Course Requirements Checklist	0
		Contact Information	0
		Quiz 1	50
2	Towns: chs. 2–3 7 excerpts, 1 video lecture	DB Forum 1 (thread)	50
		Quiz 2	50
3	Towns: chs. 4–5 3 excerpts, 1 video lecture	DB Forum 1 (replies)	50
		Quiz 3	50
4	Towns: chs. 6–7 MacArthur: entire text 2 excerpts, 3 articles, 1 video lecture	Midterm Exam	150
5	Towns: chs. 8–9 4 excerpts, 1 video lecture	DB Forum 2 (thread)	50
		Quiz 4	50
6	Towns: chs. 10–11 1 excerpt, 1 audio clip, 1 video lecture	DB Forum 2 (replies)	50
		Quiz 5	50
7	Towns: chs. 12–13 6 excerpts, 1 video lecture	Reflection Paper	200
		Quiz 6	50
8	Review weekly study guides 1 video lecture	Final Exam	150
		TOTAL	1000

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.