

## **Introduction to Theology A Historical Approach**

Theo 133  
Fall 2014  
MWF 9:00-9:50  
Office hours: M-F 10:20-11:20  
Or by appointment

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### **Catalog Course Description:**

An examination of basic affirmations of the Christian faith. Attention is given to the origin and development of key theological concepts. Emphasis is placed upon the contemporary significance of theological reflection.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course aims to familiarize students with the historical religious experience that is the foundation of the Christian faith. That historical experience is recorded in the Old and New Testaments of the Christian Bible. Sound knowledge of Biblical history includes both understanding the major theological themes of the Bible and knowing how those themes relate to the important historical events which the Bible records. Course objectives are:

1. Students will learn the important events and persons of the Biblical history.
2. Students will gain an understanding of the theological concepts that have emerged from, and are a reflection on, the historical experience recorded in the Christian Bible.
3. Students will begin to appreciate the historical nature of the Christian faith and the importance of history in Christian self-understanding.
4. Students will begin to appreciate the Bible as a book with a historical context.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions, homework assignments, and in-class assignments. These activities will comprise 15% of the overall grade. Students are also expected to exhibit *mature comportment*. Passing notes, giggling, chatter, and otherwise disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cell-phones may neither be used nor handled during class. Students who cannot comport themselves appropriately will be asked to leave the classroom. Students asked to leave the classroom on two separate occasions will be dropped from the class.
2. Three exams each weighted equally, which together comprise 85% of the total course grade. Students who miss exams will receive a failing grade unless they have been required to attend a TLU event or unless their absence has been approved by the professor prior to the time of the exam. Mild forms of physical misery (e.g., things like allergy induced sniffles) do not constitute a legitimate reason for missing an exam. Students who unexpectedly miss an exam due to a serious illness must bring a letter signed by a doctor before they will be allowed to make up any exam.

### **Required texts:**

1. A Christian Bible (the *Harper's Study Bible* and the *Oxford Study Bible* are in the bookstore and recommended, but any Christian Bible is acceptable)
2. John Bright, *The History of Israel*.
3. N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus*.

**TLU Competency:**

This course will assist students in achieving the Exploring Faith Traditions competency within the general education program.

**Students with disabilities:**

TLU seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities. If you require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements, it is your responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Services in the Student Life Office and to contact the course instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be made.

**Academic Honesty:**

TLU's policy concerning cheating and plagiarism is found on pages 18-19 of the 2014-2015 *Student Handbook*. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a failing grade on that assignment. The student will also be reported to the Dean of Student Life and Learning, where the incident will be recorded in his or her academic file.

This syllabus is not a contract. It may be modified by the instructor in consultation with the students.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

8/27 Introduction to course

**The Problem of Sin and the Election of Israel**

8/29 Creation and Fall  
Genesis, chapters 1-15

9/1 LABOR DAY

9/3 Creation and Fall  
Genesis, chapters 16-33

9/5 Discussion: Abraham  
Genesis, chapters 16-33  
**Homework assignment due**

9/8 The Patriarchs  
Genesis, chapters 34-50  
Bright, History of Israel, chp. 2

9/10 In class: critical reading assignment

**Exodus and Covenant**

9/12 The Contest with Pharaoh  
Exodus chapters 1-20, and chps 24-25 verse 22  
Bright, History of Israel, chp. 3.B and 3.C

9/15 The Emergence of Israel  
Deuteronomy chapter 4 verse 44 – chp. 11; chapters 27-30

9/17 Wandering in the Wilderness  
Exodus chapters 32-34; Numbers chapter 10 verse 11- chapter 14

### **The Promised Land**

9/19 Conquest and Holy War  
Joshua chapters 1-10; 23-24  
Bright, History of Israel, chp 4

9/22 Amphictyony  
Judges 1-16  
Bright, chp. 4

### **The United Monarchy**

9/24 The Emergence of the Monarchy  
1 Samuel chapter 1- chapter 15 verse 34  
Bright, chapter 5, sections A and B

9/26 King Saul  
1 Samuel, chapter 16 through 2 Samuel, chapter 4  
Bright, History of Israel, chp. 5

9/29 King David and the David Covenant  
2 Samuel, chps 4-20

10/1 The David Covenant  
2 Samuel, chps 4-20

10/3 Discussion: David and Joab  
**Homework assignment due**

10/6 EXAM

### **The Divided Kingdom**

10/8 King Solomon – Breakup of Israel  
1 Kings chps. 1-12  
Bright, chp. 6.A

10/10 Northern Kingdom: the Decline and Fall of Israel  
1 Kings, chapter 16, verse 21 – chapter 22  
2 Kings, chapters 1-2, 9-10, 2 Kings, chapter 17  
Bright, chapter 7

10/13 Judah's Struggle for Survival  
2 Kings, chapter 16 verses 1-20; chps 18-25  
Bright, chapter 8

### **Prophecy and the Redefinition of Faith**

10/15 Introduction to Prophecy and the Prophet Hosea  
Bright, chapter 9

10/17 MIDSEMESTER BREAK

10/20 The Prophet Hosea  
Hosea, chapter 1 – chapter 11, verse 11; chapter 14 verse 1-9

10/22 The Prophet Isaiah  
Isaiah, chapters 1-2; 6-7, 9-12; 36-37

10/24 The Prophet Jeremiah  
Jeremiah, chapters 1-5; 18-19; 21; 26--28; 31

10/27 The Prophet Ezekiel  
Ezekiel, chapters 1-3; 18; 20; 33-34; 36-37

10/29 The Prophet Second Isaiah  
Isaiah, chapters 40-55

10/31 Return and Restoration  
Ezra chapter 1 – chapter 10, verse 16; Nehemiah chapter 8 – chapter 9, verse 38  
Nehemiah chapter 1 – chapter 6, verse 19; chapter 13, verses 1-30  
Bright, chapter 9-10

11/3 REVIEW

11/5 EXAM

### **Jesus the Messiah**

11/7 Palestine at the time of Jesus  
Wright, The Challenge of Jesus, chp. 2, pp. 34-53

11/10 Jesus' Place in Israel's History  
Matthew, chps 1-3  
Luke, chps 1--6

11/12 The Kingdom of God  
Matthew, chps 4-20  
Wright, The Challenge of Jesus, chp. 3, pp. 54-73

- 11/14 Video: "From Jesus to Christ"
- 11/17 The Messianic Secret  
Mark, chps 1-8
- 11/19 The Victory of Christ  
Matthew, chps 19-28  
Wright, The Challenge of Jesus, chp. 4, pp. 74-95

**The Church and the Gentiles**

- 11/21 Pentecost and the Question of the Gentiles  
Acts, chps 1-15  
Wright, The Challenge of Jesus, chp., 6, 126-149
- 11/24 Early controversy in the church  
Acts, chps 16-28
- 11/25-28 THANKSGIVING
- 12/1 The problem of Gentile membership  
Acts, chps 16-28
- 12/3 Paul, the Law, and the Gentiles  
Letter to the Galatians
- 12/5 Justification by Faith  
Romans chps. 1-8
- 12/8 The Problem of Israel  
Romans chps. 9-11
- 12/10 Concluding thoughts

**FINAL EXAM**

Friday, Dec. 12 8:30-11:30 a.m.