



**Beijing Jiaotong University**

**2021 Summer Session**

**THEO 101 Introduction to Theology**

**Course Outline**

**Term: June 14- July 09, 2021**

**Class Hours: 16:00-17:50 (Monday through Friday)**

**Code: THEO 101**

**Instructor: Dr. Margaret E. Stiffler**

**Home Institution: North Carolina State University**

**Email: [stiffler@ncsu.edu](mailto:stiffler@ncsu.edu)**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Credit: 4**

**Class Hours:**

This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

**Course Description:** Development of Christianity from its origins to the present; events, persons, ideas, beliefs, and practices which were most significant in this development. This course is an introduction to the Christian Religion with emphasis on the history of the major traditions and movements that have shaped the multicultural practices and social impact of modern global Christianity.

**Course Objectives:**

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

1. Discuss how cultural and social aspects of Judaism and Christianity impacted Christianity in the first four centuries.
2. Outline the history of the early church in a nutshell.
3. Engage in meaningful discussion about significant events in each period of church history.

4. Identify a sampling of personalities who have been instrumental in the development of the theology of the Christian church and the contributions of each.
5. Define and describe rival interpretations which led to a quest for orthodoxy.
6. Identify movements in early Christianity which sought reform.
7. Understand church history on an intellectual basis in order to develop a deeper appreciation for the church as it is making history today.
8. Understand past church history that even one individual can make a difference toward the reformation of the church.

### **Course Materials and Required Books:**

Ferguson, Everett. Church History I: From Christ to the Pre- Reformation. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-310-51-6569.

**Course Requirements and Grades:** Final course grades are based on the following:

***Attendance and Participation:*** Class attendance is required. Regular participation is also required. This is worth 20% of your final grade.

***Quizzes:*** There will be a weekly quiz based on readings and discussions. Quizzes will be administered at various times without necessarily being scheduled for a certain class meeting. Quizzes are worth 20% of the total grade.

***Midterm:*** A short answer and/or multiple-choice examination will be given approximately halfway through the course. The test will cover all readings, lectures, and discussion up to the date of the test. It is worth 20% of the total grade.

***Reflection Paper:*** Students will be assigned a 2-page reflection paper based on the viewing of documentary that covers a philosophical topic. Reflection papers are due at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the term. Students may present their papers for extra credit. Reflections Papers are worth 20%.

***Final examination:*** The final examination may include short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions. The test will cover all readings, lectures, and discussion up to the date of the test, that is, it is cumulative. Administered the last day of class, the final exam is worth 20% of the final grade.

### **Course Policies:**

Participation is required and will be monitored.

Students are expected to have a device to access a digital copy of the textbook.

Students are required to participate in a consistent manner, being respectful of classmate's opinions and contributions. Check email frequently; additional readings and perhaps announcements will be distributed through email. Please use email to tell me of an illness or to set up a time to meet.

**Course Schedule:** Be prepared for changes in the schedule, depending on how we move through topics/chapters. Changes will be announced in class or, if necessary, by email.

**Week 1:** Jesus the Historical Basis, and Easter the Birthday of the Church (Ferguson, CH 1-2), The Hellenists and the Hebrews: A Split in the Early Church and Paul's Missionary Journeys, Opponents, Council of Jerusalem CH 1-2 cont'd., The Sub-Apostolic Age: What Became of Jewish Christianity? Gentile Christian Literature: Apostolic Fathers, NT Apocrypha (CH 3), CH 3 cont'd., Church and Empire: Roman Empire's Attitude Toward Christians, Christian Responses to Persecution: Apologies, Martyrdom (CH 4), Heresies and Schisms in the 2nd Century: Gnosticism, Marcionism, Montanism (CH 5), **Quiz 1**

**Week 2:** Reactions Against Rival Interpretations: Apostolic Succession, Apostolic Creed, Canonization of Scripture (CH 6), Beginnings of Early Christian Theology: Writings Against Heresies, Developing Philosophical Theologies, Problems Facing Early Theologians (CH 7), Church Life in the 2nd and 3rd Centuries: Christian Baptism, Christian Worship, Christian Life, Christian Hope (CH 8), Development of the Church in the 3rd Century: Persecution, Controversies Over the 'Lapsed', Christian Art, Church Growth (CH 9), Diocletian, Constantine, Imperial Christianity, the Arian Controversy, Council of Nicea and Its Significance (CH 10), The Church in the 4th Century: Arianism Alive and Well, Julian: Unexpected Unifier, Theodosius I - Christianity Official Religion, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers (CH 11).

### **Mid-Term Exam**

**Week 3:** 4th and 5th Centuries: Monasticism, Donatism and Missions (CH 12), The Church's Relationship to the State in 4th and 5th Centuries (CH 12 cont'd.), Other Christological Controversies (CH 13), Augustine vs. Pelagius et al. (CH 14), Transition to the Middle Ages and Proposed Dates for It, Germanic Migrations and Invasions by So-Called Barbarians, Effects on Society, Effects on the Church, Reform of the Papacy (CH 15), The Church in East and West in the 5th and 6th Centuries.: 1) Theological Developments in the East and the Rule and Influence of Justinian; 2) Stability in the West Through Benedictine Rule and Pope Gregory the Great; Differences Between East and West (CH 16), Impact of Arab Invasion and Spread of Islam on the Eastern Church 7th-9th Centuries, Iconoclastic Controversy, Photian Schism, Flowering of the Eastern Church (CH 17). **Quiz 2**

### **Reflection Papers Due**

**Week 4:** The Western Church, 7th-9th Centuries: Anglo-Saxon Christianity, The Age of Charlemagne (Military Expansion), Restructuring the Church, Establishment of Schools, Coronation), Pseudo-Isidorian Decretals (CH 18), Decay in the Papacy, Renewal Movements in the West, 9th-11th Centuries (CH 19), Papal Reform and the Crusades (CH 20), Intellectual Revival: Scholasticism and the Church in the Twelfth Century (CHs 21&22), Golden Age of the Western Medieval Church, 13th Century: Mendicant Religious Orders (CH 23), Universities, Thomas Aquinas (CH 23 cont'd.), Decline and Collapse (CH 24), Reformation is in the Air: John Wycliff, John Hus, Martin Luther.

### **Review and Final Examination**

**University Academic Integrity Policy:** The University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work. Within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of F for the entire course. When completing an assignment for this course, students are expected to do original work for the assignment and to not reuse work they may have done in previous courses or other settings unless the instructor grants specific prior approval. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of aid (whether written, oral or otherwise) in order for a student to receive undeserved credit on class work, homework, tests or any other assignment that is his or her own responsibility. Plagiarism violates the central core of educational philosophy. It involves stealing another person's work and claiming it as one's own. It occurs whenever one directly copies another person's intellectual effort and integrates it into his/her class work without giving proper credit to the author. Paraphrasing is defined as "a restatement of a text or passage giving the meaning in another form" (Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, 1996). When one paraphrases but intentionally omits authorship of the work, this, too, is a serious violation of academic honesty. All students have an individual responsibility to understand what cheating, plagiarism, and paraphrasing are. The student must also be aware that the consequences for cheating and plagiarism or for paraphrasing without proper attribution are severe. Whenever you have doubt about what constitutes cheating plagiarism, contact your instructor.

### **Grading & Evaluation:**

Grades will be distributed as

A : 94 - 100	A- : 90 – 93
B : 83 - 89	B- : 80 – 82
C : 73 - 79	C- : 70 – 72
D : 63 - 69	D- : 60 – 62
F : Fail	