

Syllabus

Faith, Life and Theology: Introducing the basics of Christian belief. 7,5 ECTS-credits

Course code	TL111	Valid from	Summer 2021
Discipline	Systematic Theology	Issued	2021-05-03
Level	First cycle 1, summer course	Revised	2021-05-03

Entrance qualifications

General entry requirements.

Course content

This course invites the student into the amazing world of Christian theology where they will learn the basic doctrines – what they are, how they work and why they matter. The course equips the students with the foundational knowledge to navigate the theological world and key insights they can expand by further theological studies. The course provides a basic introduction to the main areas of systematic theology, their historical backgrounds and current forms. It gives an overview of the basic theological doctrines that characterizes the Christian faith, such as the image of God and the Trinity, the doctrines of Christ (Christology), the Holy Spirit (pneumatology), salvation (soteriology), the church (ecclesiology) and of the last things (eschatology). Particular attention is given to the importance and relevance of theological studies for the Christian life and ministry.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- be able to account for the main doctrines of Christian theology and their relevance for the Christian life and ministry,
- be able to account for key discussions and currents that shape Christian theology as well as significant methodological choices in formulating theology,
- be able to understand and use basic theological terminology.

Competence and skills

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- be able to discuss how the Christian faith affects and is shaped by worldviews, people's lives and church traditions,
- be able to critically engage popular theological positions from a thought through theological point of view,
- read and understand basic academic theological texts.

Judgement and approach

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- show basic theological competence in mapping the key doctrines and how they interrelate,

- demonstrate an understanding of how spiritual, cultural and political factors interact with Christian theology and how this affects the contextual expression of theology.

Course work

The different topics are introduced in lectures and then expanded on through individual studies of the course reading. Optional live seminars give the students opportunity to interact with the teachers in relation to the content in the lectures and course reading. The examination of the course includes one multiple-choice exam, one book report and a final paper, which gives students opportunity to choose their own area of interest among the course topics.

Assessment

Multiple-choice exam. (2 ECTS)

A written book report. (2,5 ECTS)

A written paper on theology in a selected area. (3 ECTS)

Grading scale

Passed with distinction (VG), Passed (G) or Failed (U).

Grades can be translated to ECTS grades upon request.

Course evaluation

A course evaluation will be done at the end of or after the course. The result of this evaluation will be accessible for the students. Since this is the first time the course is held, no changes have been made in the course outline.

Required reading

Olson, Roger E. 2016. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic.

Grenz, Stanley, David Guretzki and Cherith Fee Nordling. 1999. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic.

One of the following popular theologies (ca 200 pp). Other choices can be made in dialogue with the teachers.

Bird, Michael, 2016. *What Christians Ought to Believe: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine Through the Apostles' Creed*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Chan, Simon. 2014. *Grassroots Asian Theology: Thinking the Faith from the Ground Up*. Grand Rapids: IVP.

Erickson, Millard. 2015. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Fackre, Gabriel. 1996. *The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Grenz, Stanley. 2015. *Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*. Grand Rapids, Baker Academics.

Grudem, Wayne. 2014. *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Hegstad, Harald. 2018. *God, the World, and Hope: An Introduction to Christian Dogmatics*. Wipf & Stock.

Jones, Beth Felker, 2014. *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic

Lane, Tony, 2014. *Exploring Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic.

McGrath, Alistair. 2018. *Theology: The Basics*, 4th ed. Oxford: Blackwell.

Trier, Daniel. 2019. *Introducing Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

Warrington, Keith. 2008. *Pentecostal Theology: A Theology of Encounter*. London: T&T Clark.