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**CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU**

Fall Evening Term

October 1 – December 8, 2001

Online

**COURSE: Religion 20590, Foundations of Christian Theology**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Buddy Summers, 808-780-1583

**Email address:** [budsummers@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:budsummers@hawaii.rr.com)

*Any procedural questions should be emailed directly to instructor.*

**WEB BOARD URL:** <http://acad.chaminade.edu:8080/~re205>

*Class members are expected to log-on October 1, download syllabus, and begin.*

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

**THE GOD WE NEVER KNEW: Beyond Dogmatic Religion to a More Authentic Contemporary Faith**

Marcus J Borg (1997)

HarperSanFrancisco

**CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY:**

**An Introduction** (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

Alister E. McGrath (2001)

Malden, MA, Blackwell Publishing, Inc.,

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** (Chaminade University Catalogue)

Students study and discuss the theological foundations of Christianity from a contemporary Catholic perspective, probing concepts fundamental to formulating a coherent and systematic faith vision within a diverse, multicultural society. Central themes include: revelation and faith; grace and Jesus; religion and salvation; scripture and tradition; church and mission; ethics and ecumenical dialogue. Contemporary debates on fundamental concepts in theology will be offered in a spirit that is catholic, Christian and ecumenical.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this course, excellent students will have ability to

1. Give a coherent description of Christian theology: its aims, sources, methods.
2. Illustrate the potential and limits of language in the theological enterprise.
3. Explore theological images, related terms, and implications of God, Christ, Trinity, Salvation, Human Nature, Church.
4. Discuss the impact of both the Enlightenment and Pluralism on Christian theology.
5. Construct a personal theological statement and program in relation to course readings and discussion.



## **PLEASE NOTICE**

Guided by Catholic, Marianist and liberal arts education traditions, Chaminade University seeks to prepare students for life, work and service. Accordingly, the Instructor invites respect for educational excellence, community building, moral character, personal competencies, and a commitment to build a just and peaceful society.

Students are expected to spend twelve hours per week on this course. This is a content-based survey course proceeding at an accelerated pace. Independent as well as interdependent work, motivation and self-discipline are essential. Internet access and familiarity required.

Care in use of the English language reflects well upon both student and teacher. Excellence will be noted. Sloppy work will be graded accordingly.

Academic honesty in accordance with Chaminade policies is expected. Violations will result in course failure.

As we are dealing with potentially sensitive material, courtesy and respect in responding to one another is essential.

## **HOMEWORK:**

- Read Text assignment by Wednesday each week.
- Participate weekly in Instructor's Forum.
- Journal. Follow Guidelines and email to Instructor each week.
- Paper. Follow Guidelines and email to Instructor on time.

## **INSTRUCTOR'S FORUM (IF):**

- IF essay and questions will be available 7 AM each Monday morning.
- Respond to each IF question not later than 7 PM Wednesday night each week.
- Make at least two further postings weekly in response either to Instructor's follow-up questions or each other's posts or responses.
- The Instructor will check web board, enter web board discussions, and answer direct emails on Thursday mornings.
- Noon each Sunday, the IF will close and be removed from the web board.

## **COURSE JOURNAL (J):**

The Course Journal will be a minimum four hundred word weekly personal reflection in response to the course reflecting your own attempt to integrate new material into your own path and understanding. Begin by listing and defining every word in the readings which is new to you or which is used in a new way. Relate your journal to the course objectives. Start early in the week. Take your time. Think.

Email your weekly 400+ word Journal entry directly to the Instructor NLT Saturday Noon each week. In most instances, the Instructor will reply with questions or observations for further reflection in subsequent weeks.

### **COURSE PAPER**

The Course Paper is intended to satisfy objective 5 above. It is to be 15 pages (not counting bibliography) double spaced, sized 12 font, Microsoft Word or Text format.

**The completed Course Paper must be emailed to the Instructor NLT Noon, December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### **FINAL EXAM**

The two hour FINAL EXAM will be administered to students with a current ID on the Chaminade University campus Saturday, 1:00 PM and at 3:00 PM, December 8, 2001, room to be announced.

The test will be an opportunity for each student to demonstrate what he or she has learned by writing thoughtful essays relative to objectives 1 through 4 above. Notes or outlines may be used. No pre-written essays accepted. The essays must be written in class.

**Off island students** must make arrangements through the Chaminade Evening Program Office (Donna Yoshimura, [\(808\) 735-4755](tel:8087354755)) to have the FINAL EXAM proctored and returned to Chaminade.

### **GRADING BASIS**

Grades will reflect Chaminade standards: "A" significant scholarship and unusual intellectual initiative, "B" superior work, "C" competent grasp of subject matter, "D" inferior work, "F" failure to grasp the minimum of subject matter.

Completion of the course requires **all** of the following:

- Participation in the Instructor's Forum (IF)
- Submission of Weekly 400+ Word Journal (J)
- Course Paper, 15 pages not counting bibliography.
- FINAL EXAM



Work will count toward the final grade as follows:

INSTRUCTOR'S FORUM (IF)	25%
COURSE JOURNAL (J)	25%
COURSE PAPER	25%
FINAL	25%

Course grades will be computed as follows:

> 90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 70	C
69 – 60	D
59 >	F

“Incomplete” will be given only in cases of documented extraordinary circumstances beyond a student's control and consistent with Chaminade policy. See catalogue.

There will be no make up or extra credit work given. Late work not accepted.

**SCHEDULE:**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Homework</u>
Oct 1		<b>Theology?</b>	CT pp 137-155, 253-260, IF, J
Oct 8		<b>Sources</b>	CT pp 159-196, TGWNK pp 1-31, IF, J
Oct 15		<b>God</b>	CT pp 265-315, TGWNK pp 32-51, IF, J
Oct 22		<b>Trinity</b>	CT pp 319-343, TGWNK pp 57-79, IF, J
Oct 29		<b>Christ</b>	CT pp 345-378, IF, J
Nov 5		<b>Post-Enlightenment</b>	CT pp 380-404, TGWNK pp 85-104, IF, J
Nov 12		<b>Salvation</b>	CT pp 406-438, TGWNK pp 156-175, IF, J
Nov 19		<b>Human Nature</b>	CT pp 440-474, TWWNK pp 110-128, IF, J
Nov 26		<b>Church</b>	CT pp 476-505, IF, J
Dec 3		<b>Pluralism</b>	CT pp 534-551, TGWKN pp 132-153, IF, J
Dec 8		<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	