

SE '07

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

COURSE: Religion 20590, Foundations of Christian Theology

INSTRUCTOR: Buddy Summers, 808-780-1583

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CLASS URL: <http://webct.chaminade.edu>

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. Describe the pertinent context and key contribution of one *major theologian* from each of the following periods: Patristic, Middle Ages/Renaissance, Reformation/Post-Reformation, Modern.
2. Describe the issues and characters surrounding a *key theological development* from each of the aforementioned periods.
3. Bring to bear knowledge of the development of Christian theology through the ages upon the analysis of a *contemporary issue* from a theological perspective.
4. Using reading and discussion material, outline a presentation on the *difficulties inherent in bringing scripture to bear* upon questions of what to believe and do.
5. Identify and discuss the *theological relevance* of the following terms: *pre-post Easter Jesus, Biblical literalism, panentheism, pluralism, post modernism, monarchial model, metaphor, tradition, sacred, social location.*

TEXT BOOKS:

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

Marcus J Borg (1997)

HarperSanFrancisco

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY:
An Introduction (3rd Edition)
Alister E. McGrath (2001)
Malden, MA, Blackwell Publishing, Inc.,

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

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 not be accepted.

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.

Elements of Course

- **Classmate Introduction**
Complete and post at start of class. This personalizes the cyber classroom and helps class members and instructor see and hear one another.
- **Weekly Reading Assignment**
This guides students along a discussion and reflection path. Most of the chapters of the McGrath book are unassigned. They may be useful, however, in helping student achieve a more complete understanding of a given topic and they will be useful for the student's term paper research.
- **Weekly Content Quiz/Instructor Graded**
The purpose of the content quiz is to pace the student's reading. The student is, in fact however, responsible for the content of the entire assignment.
The weekly content quiz will be available each Tuesday. Email answers to the Instructor NLT Noon Saturday of the week the quiz is offered.

- **Weekly Online Discussion/Instructor Initiates and Participates**
 - A discussion question that arises from the week's reading will be available on the website each Wednesday by 5 PM. Students are expected to respond to the discussion question and to each other between the time the discussion the question is posted on Wednesday afternoon and Noon that same Saturday.
 - Full credit will be give students who respond to the discussion question and to up to five other students. See "What's OK, What's Not" (online) for further information on acceptable responses to other students.

- **Weekly Journal/Instructor Response**
 - The Weekly Journal will be a minimum four hundred word weekly personal reflection in response to the course readings and discussion reflecting the student's attempt to integrate new material.
 - Email the weekly 400+ word Journal entry directly to the Instructor NLT Saturday Noon each week. The Instructor will acknowledge each Journal upon receipt and reply during following week with observations for further reflection.
 - Full credit will be based upon clarity of expression, meeting word minimum length requirement, and evidence of reflection based upon the week's readings and discussion.

- **Term Paper.**
 - The Term Paper is intended to represent the student's research and reflection upon a particular theological issue. It is to be five pages (not counting bibliography) single spaced, sized 12 font, Microsoft Word or Text format.
 - Full credit will be based upon clarity of expression, meeting paper length requirement, and evidence of integration of information from text, outside reading and research. See "Sample Paper Outline" (Online) for suggested paper outline.
 - *The completed Course Paper must be emailed to the Instructor NLT Noon, June 14, 2003.*

- **Final Exam.**
 - The Final Exam will be received from students with a current ID on the Chaminade University campus Saturday, 1:00 PM and at 3:00 PM, June 14, 2003, 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 5 above. A portion of the final is a take home exam. The remainder must be written in class without notes.
 - **Off island students** must make arrangements through the Chaminade Evening Program Office (Donna Yoshimura, (808) 735-4755) to have the in class portion of FINAL EXAM proctored and returned to Chaminade.

SCHEDULE:

<u>Week beginning</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Read For Discussion This Week</u>
4/7/03	The Patristic Period	CT pp 5-29
4/14/03	Middle Ages and Renaissance	CT pp 30-58
4/21/03	Reformation, Post-Reformation	CT pp 59-86
4/28/03	Modern Period (1)	CT pp 87-96
5/5/03	Modern Period (2)	CT pp 96-128
5/12/03	Doing Theology	CT pp 141-155 plus Instructor's Essay (online)
5/19/03	Reading Scripture	CT pp 159-176, plus Instructor's Essay (online)
5/26/06	Thinking About God	TGWNK pp 1-56
6/2/03	Imaging God	TGWNK pp 57-110
6/9/03	Living With God	TGWNK pp 111-178
6/14/03	FINAL EXAM	

GRADING BASIS

Grades for the course *and for each part thereof as appropriate* 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 completion of the following:

- Taking Weekly Content Quiz. 20%
- Participation in the Online Discussion 20%
- Writing the Weekly Journal 20%
- Submitting Term Paper 20%
- Completing FINAL EXAM 20%

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. ---*End of Syllabus*---