THEO1040 - Introduction to Theology
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dennis Carroll
Room: MC101a, McMullin Building.
Ph: 492 15751
Email: dennis.carroll@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Mondays and Tuesdays on campus (outside class); otherwise by email.

Semester 1 - 2010

Unit Weighting 10

Teaching Methods
Lecture
Seminar

Brief Course Description
This course engages students with the relationship between theology and social context at an introductory level. Through lectures and tutorials students will be introduced to a wide range of theological understandings as socially located reflections upon religious experience and practice, investigations of truth and statements of identity.

Following a broad and indicative introduction to the themes and methods of Christian theology, the course presents and critically examines a number of key contemporary theologies which arise out of specific social and political concerns, including those of gender, race, economics and ecology. The course content recognizes the wide breadth of contemporary theological positions in the Christian tradition and seeks to help students to begin to interrogate these understandings with reference to topical issues in Australian culture.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Tutorial for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

CTS Download Date: 10feb2010
3 contact hours per week for 14 weeks through 1 hour lecture, plus 2 hour of tutorials based on set-text. Course commences in week 1 of semester.

**Learning Materials/Texts**

**Course Objectives**
The aim of the course is to:

Introduce students to a broad range of principles relating to the development of Christian theology;

Introduce students to the idea of Christian theology as one aspect of the multi-dimensional reality of Christian thought and praxis;

Provide students with illustrative examples of Christian theology as the expression of a changing Christian identity under the pressure of different social contexts;

Enable students to begin to make initial theological judgments about particular doctrinal developments and their social consequences.

**Course Content**

**Lectures and Tutorials**
Students will be required to attend a one hour lecture and a two hour tutorial on the theme of the lecture each week. The themes for this course will include: an introduction to Christian theology; primary narratives, the Bible and the necessity of theology for Christian community; Christian theology in historical perspective; the impact of social context on the formation of Christian theology; authority, rationality and truth in Christian theology; cautions and dangers of Christian theology; theology, social imagination and social transformation, and Christian theology, science and the environment.

**Tutorials**
Students will be required to attend and contribute to, or lead the tutorials. Written summaries or reflections based on discussion will be part of the assessment regime of the course. Readings for the tutorial will be identified at the start of the course.

**Assessment Items**

| Essays / Written Assignments | Two or more written assignments, which might include minor or major essays, tutorial papers, book reviews, online quiz, blogs, essay proposals, bibliographies or other similar exercises, totalling 1000-4500 words. 100% |
| Other: (please specify) | Specific instructions about the weighting, timing and word limits of all assessment tasks will be found in the course outline available in the first two weeks of semester. |

**Assumed Knowledge**
No assumed knowledge. This is an introductory level course.

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**

**THEO1040**

**Introduction to Theology**

Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science

Semester 1 - 2010

| Workshop and Workshop | Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 | [MCLG42] |
| and Workshop | Tuesday 12:00 - 13:00 | [MCLG42] |

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the
business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

**Academic fraud** is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;

b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;

c) reusing one's own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);

d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;

e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and

f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;

b) using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;

c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

**Turnitin** is an electronic text matching system. During assessing any assessment item the University may:

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or

- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).

- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS**

Students can access the University's policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

**MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM**

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS**

*Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations* items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy specified in **Late Penalty** (under student) at the link above.

Requests for **Extensions of Time** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:
· applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

· whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html

**Note:** different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

**Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:**

- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

*Late applications may not be accepted.* Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au. As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability.

**CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT**

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/fees/censusdates.html

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade.

*Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term,* except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

**STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit:
www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building
Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre

City Precinct
City Hub & Information Common, University House

Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)
Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria

**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Websites</th>
<th>Dean of Students Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/</a></td>
<td>The Dean of Students and Deputy Dean of Students work to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable treatment at the University. In doing this they provide information and advice and help students resolve problems of an academic nature. <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/dean-of-students/">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/dean-of-students/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/</a></td>
<td>Phone: 02 4921 5806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/</a></td>
<td>Fax: 02 4921 7151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Dean-Of-Students@newcastle.edu.au">Dean-Of-Students@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

General enquiries

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**Ourimbah**
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.

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**End of CTS Entry**

**Important Additional Information**

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)
Course Rationale

What do Christians mean when they confess ‘we believe in God’? What is the significance of Jesus in the Christian traditions? What is theology and why does it matter? What can reading theologians do to help us engage with Christianity and the contexts within which we find ourselves? How do contexts such as race, gender, nationality and culture affect theological reflection? What part does theology play in church communities and traditions? These and many more questions drive the theological reflections in this course. Students will be introduced to the main tenets of Christian belief, the range of Christian perspectives and the most significant theological writers of the past and continuing Christian tradition.

Class Timetable for the Semester

Classes will meet for a period of thirteen weeks, commencing Tuesday 2 March and finishing 1 June, with a mid-semester break between 2 April and 9 April. The course content will be presented for twelve weeks. In the final week (week 13) students will have the opportunity to integrate and reflect on the course as a whole. Course attendance is compulsory. Course attendance dates are: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1.

Preparation for Lectures and Tutorials

It is expected that the student will have read the assigned readings for each week’s lecture and tutorial, and will attend and participate in all lectures and tutorials. Course lecturers and tutors will assist the students in recognising the appropriate reference books and journals in theology. Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the theology section of the library. The major theological encyclopaedias and dictionaries should be noted for a quick overview of the course topics. Care should be taken with the use of online resources.

Student Assessment

Students are required to submit all written assignments in two forms to fully comply with the assessment:
1. A hard copy handed in personally to the lecturer at the lecture on which the assignment is due.
2. An electronic form via Turnitin on the course Blackboard before the lecture on the due date. Students can expect to receive written feedback on the written assignments and tutorial tasks. Assessment is based on the stated course learning objectives as indicated for each assignment, and in keeping with the University’s policy (http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000779.html).

Assessment Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Topic Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>1000 words – see topic below</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>23 March (Week 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>2000 words – see topic below</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>27 April (Week 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Task</td>
<td>2 x 40 minutes “Letter to Enquiring Friend”</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>1 June (Week 13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
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Essays
The two essays must be completed by the due dates in both an electronic and hard copy form. One form alone cannot constitute compliance with the due date. The two essays are sequenced to give students timely feedback on their progress. The short length of the essays will focus skills in writing balanced, insightful and succinct presentations. The word count, with a 10% variation, is deliberately chosen and is the only work that will be assessed. The essays need to be set out in academic style with adequate footnoting and bibliographic detail. For a first year course a bibliography of at least 5-6 significant references is expected. Footnotes are expected to lead to references in the bibliography. The preferred style in theology is the Chicago footnoting style. Students are encouraged to use the conventions for citations and abbreviations found in Every Student’s Guide to Essay Writing, Second Edition, by Sarah O’Shea. This can be bought at the United Campus Bookshop or the Co-op Bookshop. Sarah can be found at the Learning Development Service Student Support Unit. For academic reasons students should use a Bible edition that includes the Apocryphal and Deuterocanonical Books.

Essay 1 (Due Date: 23 March in Week 4)
Write 1000 words on the following:

A Christian theologian is measured by whether the Christian message, Holy Scripture, God’s very Word, comes to light through his or her work. (Hans Küng).
Build a profile of a theologian, and then critically evaluate what this theologian does in the church and society.

Essay 2 (Due Date: 27 April in Week 8)
Write 2000 words on the following:

‘Rightly understood, the doctrine of the Trinity is not an arcane, speculative doctrine.’ (Daniel Migliore).
Critically discuss.

OR

‘If you believe that, you’ll believe anything!’ (Anonymous)
Examine the Christian doctrine of creation ex nihilo. Critically reflect on its social and political significance.

Written Task (Done in class 1 June (Week 13))
Imagine that two of your friends are enquiring about a Christian doctrine found in Weeks 6 to 12 of THEO1040.
Choose two doctrines from these weeks and write two letters to your “enquiring friends” about their particular enquiry.
Choose your two doctrines and REGISTER THEM BY EMAIL with the course co-ordinator by the end of Week 12. You will have 10 minutes preparation time and then 30 minutes to write each letter.

Class Participation
Students will be assessed on attendance and participation in the 13 weeks of the course. Serious and intelligent engagement with the lecture content and set readings will be looked for. The final determination of this performance assessment will be made when all the participating lecturers have been consulted.

Grading Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>85%</th>
<th>High Distinction (HD)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>A thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Distinction (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Credit (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Pass (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Than Fail (F)</td>
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### Semester Weeks, Dates, Lecture Topics and Lecturers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date of class</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td><strong>What is the Practice of Theology?</strong> (Dennis Carroll &amp; Bruce Perry)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9 March</td>
<td><strong>The Nature of Experience &amp; Tradition.</strong> (Bruce Perry)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td><strong>Theology’s Scriptural Reasoning.</strong> (Bruce Perry)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>23 March</td>
<td><strong>The Doctrine of God.</strong> (Kenneth Brown)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>30 March</td>
<td><strong>Creation: The Goodness of All Things.</strong> (Bruce Perry)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEMESTER RECESS</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>13 April</td>
<td><strong>Christology: One Lord Jesus Christ.</strong> (Bruce Perry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>20 April</td>
<td><strong>Theological Anthropology &amp; Hamartiology.</strong> (Bruce Perry)</td>
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</table>
|      |              | - Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*
### 8 27 April

**Soteriology: Remaking of Persons.**  
(Bruce Perry)


### 9 4 May

**Holy Spirit: Pneumatology.**  
(John McDowell & Dennis Carroll)


### 10 11 May

**Ecclesiology: Church and Sacraments.**  
(Kenneth Brown)


### 11 18 May

**Conversations: Christianity & the ‘Religions’.**  
(Bruce Perry)


### 12 25 May

**Sensing the End.**  
(Kenneth Brown & John McDowell)


### 13 1 June

**Assessment Task, Seminar, Evaluation.**  
(Dennis Carroll)

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**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**

- Alister McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*
- Karl Barth, *Dogmatics in Outline*
- John Colwell (ed.), *Called to One Hope*
- Mark S. Heim, *Saved from Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*
- Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *Christology*
- Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *The Doctrine of God*
- Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *The Trinity: Global Perspectives*
- Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, *Violence and Theology*
- David Fergusson, *Creation and Cosmos*
- Paul S. Fiddes, *Participating in God: A Pastoral Doctrine of the Trinity*
- David Ford, *Theology: A Basic Introduction*
- Colin E. Gunton, *The Christian Faith*
- Colin E. Gunton (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*
- Mike Higton, Peter Hodgson and Peter King (eds.), *Christian Theology: An Introduction to its Traditions and Tasks*
- Stephen Holmes, *Listening to the Past*
- Gareth Jones (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to Modern Theology*
- J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*
- Nicholas Lash, *Believing Three Ways in One God*
Nicholas Lash, *Holiness, Speech and Silence*
Herbert McCabe, *God Matters*
Herbert McCabe, *God Still Matters*
Jürgen Moltmann, *Jesus Christ for Today’s World*
Christopher Morse, *Not Every Spirit*
Roger E. Olson, *The Mosaic of Christian Belief*
Roger Olsen and Christopher Hall, *The Trinity*
William Placher, *The Domestication of Transcendence*
William Placher, *The Triune God*
William Placher (ed.), *Essentials of Christian Theology*
Karl Rahner, *Foundations of Christian Faith*
Walter Kasper, *The God of Jesus Christ*
Hans Schwarz, *Christology*
Christopher Seitz (ed.), *Nicene Christianity*
LeRon Shults, *Reforming Theological Anthropology*
Basil Studer, *Trinity and Incarnation*
Kathryn Tanner, *Jesus, Humanity and God*
Rebecca Chopp and Mark Taylor (eds.), *Reconstructing Christian Theology*
John Thompson, *Modern Trinitarian Perspectives*
Merit Trelsted (ed.), *Cross Examinations*
Denys Turner, *Faith Seeking*
Kevin Vanhoozer (ed.), (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Postmodern Theology*
Miroslav Volf, *The End of Memory*
John Webster, Kathryn Tanner and Iain Torrance (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*
Rowan Williams, *On Christian Theology*
Rene Latourelle and Gerald O’Collins, *Problems and Perspectives of Fundamental Theology*
Frances Young, *From Nicaea to Chalcedon*
Frances Young, *The Making of the Creeds*