

REGENT COLLEGE
Distance Education

THEO 606: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY B - CREATION,
CHRISTOLOGY, SOTERIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

John Stackhouse

Grader: TBA

Course Tutor: TBA

Main source for guidelines, resources, extra handouts;

www.regent-college.edu/classesonline

3 graduate credit hours

Your Due Date: _____

(See the last page of your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

600-level courses are usually more advanced and focused than 500-level courses and generally assume the completion of some theological studies.

A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.

Course Description

This course explores four fundamental themes of Christian theology: God's creation, the Lord Jesus Christ, salvation, and the nature of human personhood. The course will examine the historic Christian teachings on these subjects, how the church came to these conclusions, how these doctrines interact with each other, and why these things matter.

Class Outline

Disc ?	Creation & Humanity
Disc ?	Creation & Humanity (cont'd)
Disc ?	Sin & Evil + <i>Discussion of Burns</i>
Disc ?	Sin & Evil (cont'd)
Disc ?	<i>Discussion of Luther</i>
Disc ?	Christ
Disc ?	<i>Discussion of Norris</i>
Disc ?	Christ (cont'd) + <i>Discussion of <u>Christopher Wright</u></i>
Disc ?	Salvation
Disc ?	Salvation + <i>Discussion of <u>Boersma</u></i>
Disc ?	Conclusion

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

	<u>3 cr hrs</u>
Class Lectures	29 hrs
Reading (1000 pages)	50 hrs
Book Reviews (2 @ 1,250 wds each)	20 hrs
Reading Reports (2 @ 1000 wds each)	16 hrs
Examination	<u>20 hrs</u>
TOTAL	135 hrs

Assignments:

Note: All assignments must be submitted according to Regent's "default" style guide, *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Deviations from this style will be penalized.

1. Book Reviews.

Each student will write two book reviews according to the guidelines available on a separate sheet (see Appendix A). One review will be on the student's choice of a book from List A and the other from your choice from List B. Each review is worth 20% of the course grade, and should be 1100-1250 words long. Reviews will be penalized if either too long or too short. Please indicate the word count at the end of each assignment. (Note: All words count except those used for front matter or citations.)

2. Reading Reports:

Each student will write a report on the anthologies of anthropology (edited by Burns) and of Christology (edited by Norris) according to the guidelines available on a separate sheet. Each report is worth 10% of the course grade, and should be 800-1000 words long. Assignments will be penalized if either too long or too short. Please indicate the word count at the end of each assignment. (Note: All words count except those used for front matter or citations.)

3. Final Examination:

A final examination, to be written as a take-home assignment due at the end of the course, will cover the course materials (lectures and assigned texts). It is worth 40% of the course grade and should be 2200-2500 words long. Exams will be penalized if either too long or too short. Please indicate the word count at the end of this assignment. (Note: All words count except those used for front matter or citations.) You should request the final examination by e-mail and you will have two weeks to complete it from the time it is e-mailed to you. The exam is open book.

Evaluation

	<u>3 cr. hrs</u>
Book Reviews	40%
Reading Reports	20%
Final Exam	40%

Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator *first* for an extension. Contact information is provided in your Student Handbook. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of “Academic Integrity” in the College Catalogue.

Bibliography

Recommended Books for Reference:

Elwell, Walter, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Baker Academic)

Ferguson, Sinclair, et al., eds. *New Dictionary of Theology* (InterVarsity)

González, Justo. *A History of Christian Thought* (Abingdon)

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Blackwell)

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Reading Reports

Books required:

J. P. Burns, ed., *Theological Anthropology* (Fortress)

Richard Norris, ed., *The Christological Controversy* (Fortress)

Answer the following questions, beginning each answer with the appropriate numeral.

Burns book on Theological Anthropology

1. What are the major issues being controverted?
2. What are the main themes of agreement in these documents?
3. What, if anything, remains for the church to consider on this topic?
4. List two or three questions remaining for you after this reading.

Norris book on Christology

1. What are the main points of controversy?
2. What is at stake here—politically, pastorally, and so on, as well as doctrinally?
3. Explain the final orthodox position. What remains undefined?
4. Who do you think argued best in this dispute?

Appendix A

BOOK REVIEWS

Professor Stackhouse
For Distance Education Courses
2009

This assignment aims to help you become a better thinker and communicator. It provides the opportunity for you to refine your skills of literary analysis and synthesis and your ability to write in concise, cogent, and connected paragraphs. If you can write a good book review of this sort, you can easily learn to write a good book review of any sort. And properly reviewing books is the cornerstone of all serious engagement with books.

Requirements (please follow these exactly):

A. Papers must be formatted in accordance with the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

B. Follow the guidelines in the syllabus regarding word count. Papers will be penalized by a third of a grade (or more) if too short or long. Please indicate the word count at the end.

C. Respond to all of the following:

1. *Explain the title and the subtitle* (if there is one) of your book in terms of the book's *subject, purpose, and thesis*. This task should take up one or two paragraphs.

2. Set out the basic *structure* of the book, drawing from the Table of Contents or from some other outline (possibly from the author's own introduction, or according to your own summary). Show how the parts *fit together* into a whole as one part leads on and connects with another. This part should take up about 30-40% of your paper.

3. *Evaluate* the book: How well do you think the book achieved its goals? This part should take up about 20-30% of your paper.

4. What were two things that *impressed you positively* about this book? This part should take up one or two paragraphs and should be quite personal and specific. (Use the first person in writing this section and refer to something specific to yourself in each case—such as your being of a certain age, or ethnicity, or occupational background, or having had a particular experience, etc.)

5. What were two things that *impressed you negatively* about it? This part should take up one or two paragraphs and should be quite personal and specific. (Use the first person in writing this section and refer to something specific to yourself in each case.)

Books for Review in THEO 606

LIST A

- Berkouwer, G. C. *The Providence of God or Sin.*
Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin.*
Bouma-Prediger, Steven. *For the Beauty of the Earth.*
Green, Michael. *I Believe in Satan's Downfall.*
Gunton, Colin. *The One, the Three, and the Many.*
_____. *The Triune Creator.*
Houston, James. *I Believe in the Creator.*
Lewis, C. S. *Miracles.*
Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be.*
Stackhouse, John. *Can God Be Trusted?*
Wolters, Albert. *Creation Regained.*

LIST B

- Aulén, Gustav. *Christus Victor.*
Berkouwer, G. C. *Faith and Justification or The Person of Christ or The Work of Christ.*
Bockmuehl, Markus. *This Jesus.*
Boersma, Hans. *Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross.*
Davis, Stephen, ed. *The Resurrection.*
Davis, Stephen. *Risen Indeed.*
Evans, Stephen. *The Historical Christ and the Jesus of Faith.*
Ford, David. *Self and Salvation.*
Green, Joel. *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross.*
Gunton, Colin. *Yesterday and Today or The Actuality of Atonement.*
Hebblethwaite, Brian. *The Incarnation.*
Moltmann, Juergen. *The Crucified God.*
Schreiner, Thomas, ed. *The Nature of the Atonement.*
Stott, John. *The Cross of Christ.*
Wilson, Jonathan. *God So Loved the World.*
Wright, N. T. "Tom." *The Challenge of Jesus.*