

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Is there a divine purpose in my people's history? Can we discern God's action in a world of natural causes? Why has God allowed so much suffering? Such questions require both simple faith and complex reasoning. Learn to live out the answers by engaging with the political, scientific, and pastoral aspects of the doctrine of providence. Join us as we explore the vital history of Christian thought about how God preserves, accompanies, and governs the world he loves.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. a critical appreciation of key writings about divine providence
2. increased awareness of the political and scientific implications of theology
3. deeper empathy with those whose suffering challenges the notion of purpose
4. greater wisdom about how to speak of God's action (and when to remain silent)

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 July 11 Introduction: The God Who Provides; Scripture and the Application of Theology; Ancient Philosophy and the Early Church

Day 2 July 12 Medieval Philosophy and Theology

Day 3 July 13 From the Reformation to Modernity

Day 4 July 14 Political Dimensions of Providence; Scientific Dimensions of Providence

Day 5 July 15 Pastoral Dimensions of Providence; Providence in Contemporary Theology; Working Between Doctrinal and Applied Theology

REQUIRED TEXTS

Bowler, Kate. *Everything Happens for a Reason, and Other Lies I've Loved*. New York, NY: Random House, 2018. (All students)

Fergusson, David. *The Providence of God: A Polyphonic Account*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. (2- and 3-credit students)

Looking for textbooks? Please [contact](#) the Regent Bookstore, or check out their [direct-fulfillment website, Aerio](#).

Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

