

Penn West Academy

Theology Syllabus 2020-2021

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Course Objectives:

1. To explore the connection between the Bible, its interpretation, theological context, and the discipline of theology.
2. To identify theological methods; constructive, Biblical, correlation, feminist, liberation, Neo-Orthodox.
3. To identify theological figures from Christian history including Augustine, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, Karl Barth, Dorothee Soelle, Martin Luther.
4. To engage in practical theological reflection, with a deeper relationship with God being the primary goal.

Texts: Dorothy and Gabriel Fackre, Christian Basics: A Primer for Pilgrims, (Grand Rapids: Eerdman's, 1991).

Optional: Gabriel Fackre, The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine, Volume 1, Third Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdman's, 1996). The Christian Story deals with the same information as the first volume but in a more in-depth and academic way. It is not the required text but is a good companion to it.

September 2020:

Sacraments: Baptism

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 5, "The Church," pages 64-89.
- UCC Book of Worship, "Order for Baptism," pages 129-144.

Assignment: Due in March:

Write a children's sermon explaining ONE of the concepts of what happens in baptism (washing away sin, becoming a child of God, dying and rising with Christ, joining God's family -- the church).

October 2020: Sacraments: Holy Communion

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 5, "The Church," pages 64-89.

Assignment: Due in March:

- Write which view of communion (transubstantiation; consubstantiation; memorialism; OR mystical presence) most closely resembles your understanding of what happens in communion and why.

March 2021: Salvation and Christ

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 6: "Salvation," pages 90-124

Assignment: Due in May

- Oral Presentation in the May class on how you would describe the difference between justification and sanctification in, say, a Bible Study for adults.

May 2021: Theology and Prayer

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 6: "Salvation," pages 90-124

Assignment: Due in September 2021:

- Over the summer read a book on prayer (Must be approved by instructor) and write a reflection paper.