COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

Format: 16 weeks.
Course ID: THEO 1003
Course Title: Western Theological Tradition 1
College: Steelman Library
Prerequisites: None
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

This course offers an introductory intellectual consideration of theological tradition regarding the nature, significance, duties, and destiny of man in his relation to God as that tradition was taught by such great witnesses and scholars as the Apostolic Fathers, St. Justin, St. Irenaeus, St. Augustine, St. John of Damascus, St. Anselm, and St. Thomas.

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to give:

- Analyze the interpretive frameworks of the Early Church Fathers.
- Describe and evaluate the origins and responses to early heresies, confessions, and creeds.
- Compare early Christian beliefs with modern theological perspectives.
- Explain the relationship between theological creeds and biblical exegesis.

SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.

Late Work

Late Assignments will not be accepted. Students who request an extension must do so AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENT is due. Extensions will be granted at the instructor's discretion.

Assessments

This course is completed in an assessment based style in which students will select an essay from the provided prompts and submit artifacts of learning to demonstrate mastery of the intended learning outcomes at a college level. These assessments will be graded by your college professors and feedback provided to justify the grade assigned to each assessment.

Assessment 1 | Due Date: Tuesday of Week 3 at 11:59pm EST | 100 total points

Assessment 1 demonstrates competency of the following course intended learning outcomes:

- ILO #2: Describe and evaluate the origins and responses to early heresies, confessions, and creeds.

In this assignment, you will choose one of the provided essay prompts to write a 1,000-word analytical essay on selected theological developments in early Christianity. This essay invites you to examine the historical roots of key heresies, creeds, or confessions and the theological responses they inspired. Your analysis should reflect a clear understanding of the historical context, thoughtful engagement with the prompt, and a well-supported argument. Be sure to use cited references from primary sources and relevant course materials.

Essay Prompts (choose one):

1. **The Arian Controversy and the Nicene Creed:** Describe the origins of Arianism and the theological issues it raised. How did the Nicene Creed address these issues, and what

were its key theological affirmations? Evaluate how this creed aimed to protect early Christian doctrine and unity.

2. **The Gnostic Challenge and Church Response:** Analyze the influence of Gnosticism on early Christian communities. What key beliefs of Gnosticism were seen as heretical, and how did Church leaders respond? Describe specific measures taken to clarify orthodox teachings.

Assignment Guidelines:

Format:

- Choose either APA (American Psychological Association), MLA (Modern Language Association), or Turabian format for your paper.
- Ensure proper formatting for the title page, headers, margins, font size, and citations according to the chosen style.

Word Limit:

- The paper should be approximately 1000 words in length, excluding the title page and bibliography.
- Presentations should be approximately 8-10 minutes in length for recorded presentations.
- Slide deck presentations should be approximately 20-25 pages in length with a good balance of visuals and text.

Citations:

- Include a minimum of 3 citations from 1-3 external sources to support your essay.
- Provide in-text citations whenever you use information or ideas from external sources.
- Include a bibliography or works cited page at the end of the paper, listing all the sources used in your research.
- Follow the citation style (APA, MLA, or Turabian) consistently throughout the paper.

**Remember to consult the specific requirements outlined by your instructor and adhere to the chosen citation style diligently throughout the paper.*

Assessment 2 | Due Date: Tuesday of Week 5 at 11:59pm EST | 100 total points

Assessment 2 demonstrates competency of the following course intended learning outcome:

- **ILO #1:** Analyze the interpretive frameworks of the Early Church Fathers.

In this assignment, you will choose one of the provided essay prompts to write a 1,000-word analytical essay focusing on the interpretive approaches used by the Early Church Fathers. This essay invites you to explore how these early theologians read and interpreted biblical texts, providing insight into their exegetical and hermeneutical frameworks. Your analysis should demonstrate a clear understanding of the interpretive methods, thoughtful engagement with the prompt, and well-supported arguments. Use cited references from primary texts and relevant course resources.

Essay Prompts (choose one):

1. **Allegorical Interpretation in Origen's Writings:** Explore Origen's approach to allegorical interpretation of Scripture. How did he use allegory to explain complex theological concepts, and what were his main principles for interpreting biblical texts? Analyze the impact of his method on later Christian thought.
2. **Literal and Spiritual Readings in St. Augustine:** Examine St. Augustine's use of literal and spiritual interpretations in his exegesis of Scripture. How did Augustine balance these two methods in his writings? Evaluate how his approach contributed to theological understanding and shaped later interpretive practices.

Assignment Guidelines:

Format:

- Choose either APA (American Psychological Association), MLA (Modern Language Association), or Turabian format for your paper.
- Ensure proper formatting for the title page, headers, margins, font size, and citations according to the chosen style.

Word Limit:

- The paper should be approximately 1000 words in length, excluding the title page and bibliography.
- Presentations should be approximately 8-10 minutes in length for recorded presentations.
- Slide deck presentations should be approximately 20-25 pages in length with a good balance of visuals and text.

Citations:

- Include a minimum of 3 citations from 1-3 external sources to support your essay.
- Provide in-text citations whenever you use information or ideas from external sources.

- Include a bibliography or works cited page at the end of the paper, listing all the sources used in your research.
- Follow the citation style (APA, MLA, or Turabian) consistently throughout the paper.

**Remember to consult the specific requirements outlined by your instructor and adhere to the chosen citation style diligently throughout the paper.*

Assessment 3 | Due Date: Tuesday of Week 7 at 11:59pm EST | 100 total points

Assessment 3 demonstrates competency of the following course intended learning outcomes:

- ILO #3: Compare early Christian beliefs with modern theological perspectives.
- ILO #4: Explain the relationship between theological creeds and biblical exegesis.

In this assignment, you will choose one of the provided essay prompts to write a 1,000-word analytical essay on the development and interpretation of core theological concepts. This essay invites you to compare early Christian beliefs with modern theology or analyze the relationship between theological creeds and biblical interpretation. Your analysis should reflect a clear understanding of theological evolution, engagement with the prompt, and a well-supported argument. Use cited references from primary texts and relevant course materials.

Essay Prompts (choose one):

1. **Creeds and Biblical Interpretation in Early and Modern Theology:** Analyze how a specific early Christian creed (e.g., the Nicene Creed) has influenced biblical interpretation in both early and modern contexts. How has the understanding of key doctrines in the creed evolved, and what impact has it had on biblical exegesis over time?
2. **Sin and Salvation: Early vs. Modern Perspectives:** Compare early Christian beliefs on sin and salvation with a contemporary theological perspective. How did early theologians (such as Augustine or Irenaeus) define these concepts, and how do modern theologians approach them? Discuss how these perspectives shape different understandings of the human-divine relationship.

Assignment Guidelines:

Format:

- Choose either APA (American Psychological Association), MLA (Modern Language Association), or Turabian format for your paper.

- Ensure proper formatting for the title page, headers, margins, font size, and citations according to the chosen style.

Word Limit:

- The paper should be approximately 1000 words in length, excluding the title page and bibliography.
- Presentations should be approximately 8-10 minutes in length for recorded presentations.
- Slide deck presentations should be approximately 20-25 pages in length with a good balance of visuals and text.

Citations:

- Include a minimum of 3 citations from 1-3 external sources to support your essay.
- Provide in-text citations whenever you use information or ideas from external sources.
- Include a bibliography or works cited page at the end of the paper, listing all the sources used in your research.
- Follow the citation style (APA, MLA, or Turabian) consistently throughout the paper.

**Remember to consult the specific requirements outlined by your instructor and adhere to the chosen citation style diligently throughout the paper.*

GRADES AND QUALITY POINTS

The following scale of letter grades is used in recording a student's academic progress:

Explanation	Grade	Explanation	Points Range	Quality Points
Outstanding (90-100)	A	Superior performance in all aspects of the course with work exemplifying the highest quality-Unquestionably prepared for subsequent courses in field.	94-100 %	4.0

	A-	Superior performance in most aspects of the course; high quality work in the remainder-Unquestionably prepared for subsequent courses in field.	90-93%	3.67
Above Average (80-89)	B+	High quality performance in all or most aspects of the course-Very good chance of success in subsequent courses in field.	87-89%	3.33
	B	High quality performance in some of the course; satisfactory performance in the remainder-Good chance of success in subsequent courses in field.	84-86%	3.0
	B-	Satisfactory performance in the course-Evidence of sufficient learning to succeed in subsequent courses in field.	80-83%	2.67
Average (70-79)	C+	Satisfactory performance in most of the course, with the remainder being somewhat substandard-Evidence of sufficient learning to succeed in subsequent courses in field with effort.	77-79%	2.33
	C	Evidence of some learning but generally marginal performance-Marginal chance of success in subsequent courses in field.	74-76%	2.0
	C-	Minimal learning and substandard performance throughout the	70-73%	1.67

		course-Doubtful chance of success in subsequent courses.		
Below Average (60-69)	D+	Minimal learning and low quality performance throughout the course-Doubtful chance of success in subsequent courses.	67-69%	1.33
	D	Very minimal learning and very low quality performance in all aspects of the course-Highly doubtful chance of success in subsequent courses in field.	64-66%	1.0
	D-	Little evidence of learning-Poor performance in all aspects of the course-Almost totally unprepared for subsequent courses in field.	60-63%	.67
No Credit (0-59)	F	Failure to meet requirements of the course-Unprepared for subsequent courses in field.	0-59%	0.0
No Credit	W	Course Withdrawal		N/A
No Credit	WF	Administrative Withdrawal		N/A
No Credit	WD	College Withdrawal		N/A
No Credit	I	Incomplete		N/A

Credit	P	Pass	N/A
No Credit	S	Satisfactory	N/A
Credit	CR	Credit	N/A
No Credit	NC	No Credit	N/A
No Credit	IP	In Progress	N/A