

Syllabus

HTS 500 Introduction to Theology: A Metaphysical Perspective

Course Overview

Course Instructor

Name	Rev. Karren Scapple, Ph.D. [pronounced car-in]
Virtual Office	Fridays, 5-6 pm, immediately after class and by appointment.
Hours	816.525.4059
Telephone	Please call ONLY during office hours. Alternate times can be scheduled by appointment.
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Course Description

This is a foundational course in how to think theologically from the inclusive perspective of Unity Practical Christianity. Beginning with a discussion of the nature and limitations of intellectual inquiry, students will learn how to apply the tools and methods of theological reflection to their program of lifelong learning. The course will bring these tools of theology to the ongoing process of rethinking and redefining basic Christian concepts for every new generation. The students will learn to think theologically/metaphysically and to apply their insights to their professional and personal lives.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of the language and tools of metaphysical theology by participation in classroom discussions and writing critical analyses of major Christian themes.
- Correlate traditional theological topics with New Thought concepts.
- Analyze the evolution of the God concept, from animatism through panentheism.

Required Text/Readings

- Cady, H. Emilie. *Lessons in Truth*. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, (any edition WITH a chapter titled “Definition of Terms”).
- Epperly, Bruce G. *Process Theology: Embracing Adventure with God*. Gonzalez, FL: Energion Publishers, 2014.
- Gaither, James, ed. *The Essential Charles Fillmore: A Guide to Practical Mysticism and Metaphysics*, revised ed. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 2020.
- Harvey, Van A. *A Handbook of Theological Terms*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 1997 (or later).

- Stone, Howard and J.O. Duke. *How to Think Theologically*. 3rd ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2013.

Other Required Resources (available in the modules)

- Anderson, Marvin and Ed Rabel. “The Trinity.” In *Unity Metaphysics*, 1990s. <https://www.truthunity.net/books/unity-metaphysics-tan-book1-03-the-trinity>
- British Broadcasting Company. “Religions: The Trinity.” July 21, 2011. https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/beliefs/trinity_1.shtml
- Cady, H. Emilie. “Finding the Christ in Ourselves.” In *How I Used Truth*. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 1916.
- Freeman, Laurence. “The Key Question.” In *Jesus the Teacher Within*. London, UK: Canterbury Press, 2010.
- Funk, Robert W., Roy W. Hoover and The Jesus Seminar. *The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*, pp 1-10. San Francisco: Harper, 1997.
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo M. “Notes for a Theology of Liberation.” In *Theological Studies* 31:2 (May 1970): 243-261.
- Johnston, Katie. “The working poor who fight to live on \$10 an hour.” *The Boston Globe*, August 17, 2014. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2014/08/16/four-stories-working-poor/iKZkRB34Nhigu48zB0uWPJ/story.html>
- Robinson, B.A. “Christian belief systems: Competing theories of eschatology, end times and millennialism.” *Religious Tolerance*. 14 July 2014. http://www.religioustolerance.org/sal_over.htm, accessed 28 June 2019.
- ---. “Christian Concepts of Salvation: An Introduction to Ancient & Modern Beliefs.” *Religious Tolerance*. 6 December 2018. http://www.religioustolerance.org/sal_over.htm, accessed 28 June 2019.

Recommended Readings/Activities

- *The Revealing Word: A Dictionary of Metaphysical Terms*. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 1959.
- Shepherd, Thomas. *Glimpses of Truth*, 2nd ed. Kansas City, MO: Theosis House, 2014.
- Pub Theology Live! [weekly conversations on topics of life and faith, meaning and identity.] <http://www.pubtheology.com/ptlive>

“Live” Collaborate Course Room Sessions

Fridays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm ~ All times Central Time (CT) Zone

September 2021

1. September 17, 2021
2. September 24, 2021

October 2021

3. October 1, 2021
4. October 8, 2021
5. October 15, 2021
6. October 22, 2021
7. October 29, 2021

November 2021

8. November 5, 2021
9. November 12, 2021
10. November 19, 2021