

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Term: **Fall 2010**  
Instructor: Dr. D. Lyle Dabney  
Course #: THEO 1001  
Sections: 124 and 125  
Course Title: **Introduction to Theology**

Description:

Where are you? This is the first question that God asks of human beings in the biblical narrative, and today it is the question that many of us are asking of ourselves. University students at the beginning of the twenty-first century are coming of age in a culture that is undergoing fundamental change. A central expression of that change is the wide-spread confusion about the character of human life. Who are we? How do we best live our lives? And what is the significance—if any—of the life we lead? While these and a host of other questions about our humanity were long assumed to be settled in the western tradition, now they have all arisen anew. This course is an exercise in map-making. It seeks first to help students understand how we came to this place of cultural confusion about what it means to be human. And it then seeks to provide them with resources in Christian theology to help them discover their humanity as they journey through the strange new landscape of American society at the beginning of a new millennium. As such, it is an introduction to Christian theology.

The course has three goals. First, it seeks to introduce students to the narratives of human life that have dominated the extended conversation that is the western cultural tradition. Second, it seeks to introduce students to how Christianity has entered into that conversation and spoken to the question of our humanity both in the past and the present. And finally the course seeks to help the student begin to avail themselves of the resources of Christian theology to think through what he or she believes about human being and becoming today.