

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**  
Instructor: D. Stephen Long  
Course #: THEO 2310  
Sections: 103, 104  
Course Title: **Explorations in Christian Theology**

#### Description:

This course will examine who God is and how God functioned in three different “epochs:” the time prior to modernity, modernity and post-modernity. What each of these terms means will be explained. Then theologians and philosophers from each period will be read in an attempt to discover how the understanding of God shifted and/or remained continuous through significant transitions in western culture. Students will gain knowledge of some basic doctrines of theology, especially the doctrine of God and its relation to culture, politics and social formations. They should be able to address these specific questions:

1. How did diverse cultural spaces and times consider language and other signs to be references to, and or expressions of, ‘God,’ and who God was thought to be?
2. How was space and time conceived so that God could or could not be expressed in such diverse cultural settings?
3. What claims to truth and/or metaphysics were assumed?
4. What was the role of nature, faith and reason?
5. How did God relate to politics, culture, art?

#### Required texts:

- Robert Louis Wilken, The Spirit of Early Christian Thought (Yale University Press, ISBN: 0300097085)
- Mark Lilla, The Stillborn God (Knopf, ISBN: 9781400043675)
- Kevin Hart, Postmodernism (Oneworld, ISBN: 851683380)
- Selected essays on d2L