

## Department of Theology

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### UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2008**  
Instructor: Scott Celsor  
Course #: Theo 001  
Sections: 1010 and 1021  
Course Title: Introduction to Theology

#### Description:

This course is centered upon a discussion format, although it will also involve group work, student presentations, debate, and, of course, some lecture. Once you complete this course, you will be able to theologically describe the basic contents of the Catholic, as well as the Lutheran, faiths and to interpret texts within their historical and literary contexts. This course will also begin to introduce you to the ethical implications of the Christian faith. In the fulfillment of these goals, we will study the scriptural narratives that characterize many Christian world views (Catholic and Lutheran alike), Catholic and Lutheran doctrine, the Nicene Creed, and theological vocabulary, figures, and historical events. Reading and critical reasoning skills will be introduced and practiced; student participation is expected. It is my expectation that this will be a demanding, yet energetic and interesting class.

There are three components to one's final grade. First, there are 2 exams which will test your mastery of the contents of the Christian faith, both Catholic and Lutheran. The exams are comprehensive and are worth about 60% of your final grade. Second, there will be 12 reading exercises, worth 75 points or about 30% of your grade. These alternate between short, take home reading worksheets and pop quizzes. Finally, your participation in this class is worth 25 points, or about 10% of your final grade. It is based upon class attendance and your contribution to the class discussion, whether that be asking questions, answering questions that I ask, or just making comments or observations. The reading load is heavy. Extra credit is available.

#### Required texts:

Celsor, Scott. *Theo 001 Course Notes Packet*. 4th Edition. Available at Print World.

*The Holy Bible*. RSV, NRSV, NIV, NAB, or equivalent.

*Introduction to Theology*. Second Edition. Edited by John Laurance. Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2006.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters*. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

White, Heath. *Post-Modernism 101*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006.