

Syllabus – THE 390– Theology I

By
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THE 390 – Theology I
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Rochester Bible Institute

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Theology I

THE 390—Fall 2018

Rochester Bible Institute
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Tuesday evenings, September 11th – December 4th, 7:30 – 9:00
 All Certificate Classes meet once a week for 1½ hours over twelve weeks.

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Course Description:

This course is designed to give believers a deeper understanding of the Nature and Characteristics of Biblical Beliefs and the Triune God. As many historians have noted, Christianity became influential because of how its message informed its deeds. Christians stood out because of many of their deeds such as: their care of the ill and the needy. They were good citizens whose manner of life—despite how strange their beliefs were—was helpful for society. It was their fundamental faith commitments that supported their lifestyle. This relationship between belief and behavior, or doctrine and practice, is exactly what made all the difference. This is what Christian Ministry and this book is all about.

Rochester Bible Institute Program Goals and General Objectives:

- A. **LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** To develop ministry and lay leaders in tune with the Holy Spirit who understand the principles of the Bible and apply those principles for more effective ministry.

General Objectives

1. Demonstrate understanding of Scripture and its contemporary application to ministry and personal relationships.
2. Demonstrate appreciation for the role of Scripture in Christian ministry, in personal and spiritual formation, and in living the Christian life.
3. Demonstrate ability to interpret and use Scripture appropriately and effectively in ministry.

- B. **PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** To provide an environment that nurtures students' personal and spiritual development.

General Objectives

1. Demonstrate growth in one's personal relationship with God and the development of a spiritually disciplined life based on the Word of God.
2. Demonstrate developing sensitivity to God's active presence in one's own life, the lives of others, and the world, guided by the Word of God.
3. Demonstrate growth in personal formation, emotional maturity, and moral integrity, guided by the Word of God.

- C. **REAL-WORLD MINISTRY AND SERVICE:** To provide support for students as they integrate theory with practice and to cultivate their capacity for leadership within the church and community.

General Objectives

1. Demonstrate ability to interrelate theological, cultural, and experiential learning, and to apply academic learning in the practice of ministry.

2. Demonstrate deepening acceptance and love of others, compassion, and forgiveness.
3. Demonstrate a desire to identify spiritual gifts to be used in Christian service.
4. Demonstrate servant-leadership as the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.

Required Texts:

- *The Holy Bible*. New International Version, Study Bible.
- *Biblical Beliefs* – 2013 by Evangelical Training Association ETAWorld.org
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students & Researchers*, 8th or 11th ed. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Required Handouts:

None

Recommended Texts:

- *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts*, 3ed. Nashville, TE: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1982.
- Thiessen, Henry Clarence. *Lecture in Systematic Theology*
Grand Rapids, Michigan William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979

Course Objective: The student will read scriptural references from the Bible and material from other references, participate in discussions, and then answer questions and write essays about, Biblical Beliefs and what it was that led to the early church's success. Biblical Beliefs presents foundational Bible doctrine in an easy-to-understand format. It blends deep Bible truths with structural threads of simple truths which all believers, whatever their spiritual experience, can fully grasp

From the Biblical Beliefs Introduction:

The Apostle Paul emphasized doctrine as a crucial ingredient to the church's health in Ephesians 4. He explains that the entire purpose of Christian ministry is Christian maturity. Throughout the rest of that epistle, Paul then describes how this maturity is cultivated in the church.

Course Schedule:

Date	Class Topics	Reading Assignment	Written Assignments	Quiz
September 11	1. Getting to Know You & Prayer Time 2. The Authority of the Scriptures 3. Discussion of Ch. 1 Questions	1. Ch 1 2. Pages 11-26	None	None
September 18	1. The Godhead 2. Discussion of Ch. 2 Questions	1. Ch 2 2. Pages 27-38	None	Quiz #1
September 25	1. Creation and the Fall 2. Discussion of Ch 3 Questions	1. Ch 3 2. Pages 39 - 48	None	Quiz #2
October 2	1. The Person and Work of Christ. 2. Discussion of Ch 4 Questions	1. Ch 4 2. Pages 49 - 60	None	Quiz #3
October 9	1. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit 2. Discussion of Ch 5 Questions	1. Ch 5 2. Pages 61 - 70	Essay – The Person and Work of Christ.	None
October 16	1. The Doctrine of Salvation 2. Discussion of Ch 6 Questions	1. Ch 6 2. Pages 71 - 79	None	Quiz #4
October 23	1. Spirituality 2. Discussion of Ch 7 Questions	1. Ch 7 2. Pages 81 - 89	None	Quiz #5
October 30	1. The Church: Origin and Identity 2. Discussion of Ch 8 Questions	1. Ch 8 2. Pages 91 – 98	Essay - Spirituality	None

Date	Class Topics	Reading Assignment	Written Assignments	Quiz
	3. The Church: Mission and Ministry 2. Discussion of Ch 9 Questions	3. Ch 9 4. Pages 99 - 107		None
November 6	1. Angels and Demons 2. Discussion of Ch 10 Questions	1. Ch 10 2. Pages 109 - 114		Quiz #6
November 13	1. Heaven and Hell 2. Discussion of Ch 11 Questions	1. Ch 11 2. Pages 115 - 120	3. Research references for term paper The Decrees of God	None
Break Week – Thanksgiving Holiday – November 19-24				
November 27	1. The Coming Kingdom 2. Discussion of Ch 12 Questions	1. Ch 12 Pages 121 - 126	1. Write outline for term paper 2. Term Paper: The Nature of God: Essence and Attributes	None
December 4	1. Conclusion	1. Conclusion 2. Page 127	Term Paper due at 5:30, Dec. 4 th ; papers posted after this time will be marked incomplete.	None

Class Attendance Policy:

Student presence and active participation are critical for both the student and the class to benefit from the learning experience. If a student will be absent for any reason he/she must notify the instructor prior to the date of absence, request what assignment will be due for such absence, and submit that assignment by the following class session. Any assignments that are late due to absence from a class must be handed in during the following class. Failure to do so will result in a zero for that assignment. Students with more than 3 absences

during any course do not meet the minimum hours required to complete the course and may be dropped from the course.

Assigned Readings:

Class participants are required to complete all assigned readings prior to each class. Although there is a lot of reading in the class, you are expected to carefully and diligently read all texts in preparation for class each week.

Policy on Written Assignments:

All written assignments must be completed (even if they are late) to pass this course. Late assignments are always accepted up until the final class session. All written assignments must be submitted by email to the instructor at jflood1@frontiernet.net **one hour** or more prior to the start of the class session when they are assigned. There is no exception for this without a written excuse.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Any assignment that is late without a valid prior written excuse will be penalized 50% of the earned grade. Plan your time wisely and show respect, glory, and honor to the Lord. The deadline for submitting all late assignments is the final class session.

Essay and Term Paper Requirements:

1. **Introductory paragraph:** The introductory paragraph should include a vivid, clear, and attention getting opening sentence. A thesis statement must be included, along with a description of three to five related sub topics, and an explanation of the background information, and characters.
2. **Subtopic body paragraphs:** Clear, concise, and comprehensive topic sentence explaining the main idea of the subtopic with 5-7 detail sentences supporting the subtopic.
3. **Clincher or concluding paragraph:** Restate or summarize the related subtopics; state what is the most important topic and why; dramatic attention getting clincher closing sentence stating the most important theme.
4. **Essay Subtopics:** 3 or more subtopic body paragraphs required.
5. **Term Paper Subtopics:** 6 or more subtopic body paragraphs are required.
6. **Number of References:** All essays must have **2 or more** academic references and the term paper must have **3 or more** references cited.

7. **Citation of non-common facts:** All non-common facts, ideas, or words must be cited with the Chicago Style citation practices as specified in, *A Manual for Writers*, Kate L. Turabian. All works cited in the essay must be listed at the end of the document in the “Works Cited List.”
8. **Composition format:** All compositions must be typed in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, and indented at paragraph breaks with Adobe Reader DC.
9. **Biblical references:** Always give biblical references in the text of your paper. For example, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” (John 1:1; NRSV) Include the translation only if you are quoting a scripture that is different than NIV. For example, John pointed men to the Messiah (John 1:7).
10. **Essay and Term Paper Cover Format:** All essays and term paper must start with the required cover format. A single page number starts on the first page of the paper on the right side of the upper header. Use the pattern on the cover of the syllabus as the pattern for your paper cover page.

Grading of Written Assignments:

1. Clear, concise, and comprehensive introductory and clincher paragraphs.
2. Three or more subtopic body paragraphs for essays and six subtopic body paragraphs for term papers about specific subtopics that support the theme and present a logical progression of evidence to arrive at the concluding paragraph with a vivid and dramatic closing sentence.
3. Title of the essay or paper must tie to key words in the closing sentence.
4. Other essential elements include: writing style, format and organization, sentence structure, Chicago style footnotes, and “Works Cited List”

Course Grading:

No.	Activities	Points
1	Five paragraph essays: The Person and Work of Christ, Spirituality, The Church: Mission and Ministry (10 points each - 30 points)	30
2	Final Term Paper – The Nature of God: Essence and Attributes (28 points)	28
3	Quiz grade — (6 x 5 points each – 20 points)	30
4	Class Discussion — (12 classes x 1 point each – 12 points)	12
	Total Points	100

Grading scale:

Letter	Grade Point	Grade Scale, %	Definition
A+	4.3	= 97-100	High quality
A	4.0	= 93-96	Unusually high quality, exceptional associate work
A-	3.7	= 90-92	Far above average, fine associate work
B+	3.3	= 87-89	Above average associate work
B	3.0	= 83-86	Very good, average for associate work
B-	2.7	= 80-82	Slightly below average for associate work
C+	2.3	= 77-79	Meets minimal requirements, but with noticeable inadequacies
C	2.0	= 73-76	Meets minimal requirements, but with significant gaps
C-	1.7	= 70-72	Meets minimal requirements, but with serious gaps
D+	1.3	= 67-69	Minimal work
D	1.0	= 63-66	Barely acceptable for associate work
D-	0.7	= 60-62	Inadequate work
F	1.0	= 0-59	Failure
I	Incomplete		

Academic Integrity:

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be required to be the student's own work. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive an "F" for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code may also be extended to include failure of the course and Institute disciplinary action.

Incomplete Grades:

Students who are unable to complete their work in the class due to a serious illness or other significant reasons may submit a "Request for an Incomplete Grade" form. The instructor and the director of the school will review and grant the request if approved.

Class Withdrawal Policy:

Withdrawal from the class requires completion and approval of a "Change of Registration" form no later than the second to the last class session. The instructor and the director of the school will review and grant the request if approved.