

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

— Indianapolis —®

Marian's Adult Programs

Course Syllabus

THL 105 Introduction to Theology

Please be advised that all dates and times in Canvas are Eastern Time (ET) by default. Unless you as the student have changed your personal settings due dates and times will appear as ET. Please plan accordingly.

Textbooks:

Refer to the MAP website (www.marian.edu/MAP) for specific textbook requirements.

In addition to the textbooks, students will be required to supply their own **Christian Bible**. The New American Standard, Revised Standard, or New International Versions are preferred. If you do not have a Bible, the Bible on your laptop, iPad or Smart Phone is acceptable.

Course Description:

A study of the meaning and nature of theology, theological issues of God, what it means to be human in relationship with the Trinitarian God, and an introduction to scriptures and Christian morality.

Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students are expected to competently:

- See Christianity as a major world religion.
- Begin to develop a theological approach to faith, belief, and religion.
- Encounter the basic tools and resources of theological reflection – for example, scripture and Christian history.
- Understand some classical and contemporary challenges posed to Christian belief and Christian attempts to address these challenges.
- Begin to responsibly and reflectively formulate and articulate each one's own life project and its goals.
- Catch a glimpse of the character of religious and theological judgment.
- Become familiar with basic terms used in theology.

Soft Skills:

Students who complete Introduction to Theology (THL 105) through Marian's Adult Program are able to develop and strengthen a number of skills essential for success in today's workforce. By the end of the course, students will have had three opportunities to strengthen their research and analysis skills. They are required to write two, short research papers in which they are encouraged to articulate their perspectives on the assigned topics and use outside resources to support their argument. They also complete a church report (*The Faith Lived in Worship* report due week 5) that requires them to research the history of a specific religious denomination and interview a pastor from a specific church. The church report also gives students several opportunities to demonstrate and strengthen their verbal communication skills. For the church report, students are asked to attend a church that is of a different denomination from their own, observe the service, interview the pastor, and then give a 3-to-5-minute presentation to the class during which they are asked to describe the similarities and differences between their own church experience and the new, unfamiliar church's experience. This church experience, in addition to discussions with fellow students of different religious backgrounds, teaches the student the importance of recognizing their own "frame of reference" and how this frame impacts the way they understand and process information, in addition to listening, acknowledging, respecting, and valuing viewpoints and frames of reference that differ from their own. Finally, the students have many opportunities to demonstrate self-leadership by taking personal responsibility for knowing the course syllabus and required deadlines and by understanding that excellence requires going above and beyond expectations. In summary, THL 105 encourages the development of written and verbal communications skills, research and analysis skills, and situational self-leadership skills all within an environment that fosters respect and esteem for a diversity of viewpoints.

Methodology: THL105 introduces the student to the *academic* study of Theology in general and Christian Theology specifically. It is not a Religion course or a Comparative Religions course. However, because many aspects of religion are actualizations and expressions of theological concepts, the student will be introduced to many facets of the Christian, and especially Roman Catholic, religious tradition.

In order to be successful in the course, the student is responsible for staying current on the reading and writing assignments while also engaging in a *critical* analysis of the concepts presented in the text books, lectures and class discussions. To fulfill the academic intent of the course, the student will be required to *objectively* explore theological concepts that may or may not be consistent with their own religious tradition.

Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities: The student is responsible for reading and abiding by the policies, philosophies of conduct, and expectations of MAP and Marian University as stated in the MAP Student Handbook and the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. The Handbook can be found on the MAP website at www.marian.edu/MAP ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)). The Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities is also available at the Office of Student Life.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism (using the ideas and/or words of someone else without proper reference) and other forms of cheating are not tolerated. *Students guilty of plagiarism or other forms of cheating are subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in the course or expulsion from the University.* For more details on plagiarism, see reference materials posted in the “FILES” section of Canvas, or refer to the Student Handbook. All assignments will be scanned with TurnItIn, which will successfully detect plagiarism. Thus, be sure to properly cite and reference all sources used.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities who have proper documentation must contact the Director of Academic Support Services in the Counseling and Consultation Services office to set up a documentation review. If after the review, accommodations are deemed appropriate, an accommodation plan will be developed. As per the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) no accommodations can be provided until this process is complete. Contact Marj Batic, Director of Academic Support Services (mbatic@marian.edu ; 317.955.6150; or stop by the office in Clare Hall). Note: Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should consult with the instructor as to the most appropriate procedure to follow. If there are questions regarding such a procedure, contact Ruth Rodgers, Vice President, Student Success and Engagement/Dean of Students @ rrodgers@marian.edu or the Director of Academic Support Services for additional information.

Week 1: Theology, Faith, Belief, and Religion: Who is God and who am I?

Week 2: The Historical Development of Scripture; How to read Scripture Theologically

Week 3: The Gospels: Who is Jesus and what is the Reign of God?

Week 4: Sin, Suffering, Evil and Eschatology

Week 5: Church, Worship, and Prayer

Policies and Procedures: Refer to MAP Student Handbook.

Grade Assignment:

Grades will be assigned according to the following distribution:

Week	Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Week 1	Introductions	5%
	“Self Insight” essay	10%
	Discussion Forum	5%
Week 2	Writing Assignment	10%
	Discussion Forum	5%
Week 3	Titles for Jesus	5%
	Discussion Forum	5%
Week 4	Writing Assignment	10%
	Discussion Forum	5%
Week 5	Faith Lived in Worship Report	10%
	Faith Lived in Worship Presentation	10%
	Comprehensive Final Exam	20%
TOTAL GRADE		100%

Evaluation of Assignments

Grade	Points	Description of Grade
A	94-100	<i>Extraordinary</i> achievement. The <i>highest</i> level of achievement both technically and creatively. <u>Demonstrates mastery of subject matter.</u> Excellent in overall quality. Demonstrates initiative, desire, and ability to fully engage the topic and address course learning objectives. Goes above expectations.
A-	90-93.9	
B+	86-89.9	Achievement above average. Demonstrates understanding of subject matter. Good overall quality. Demonstrates initiative, desire, and ability to engage the topic and address course learning objectives.
B	83-85.9	
B-	80-82.9	
C+	77-79.9	Average achievement. Fair in overall quality, but it may be formulaic. Student is not highly sophisticated in reasoning, organization, or initiative. Student lacks initiative, desire, and/or ability to engage the topic and address course learning objectives. Strengths and weaknesses are more or less balanced.
C	74-76.9	
C-	70-73.9	
D+	67-69.9	Below average achievement. Below average in quality. Student has no initiative, desire, or ability to engage the topic or address course learning objectives. Student cannot demonstrate understanding or responsibility for course material. Assignment is completed as a "check the box" activity.
D	60-66.9	
F	≤59.9	Failure to successfully complete the assignment/course. Student demonstrates little or no responsibility or engagement with the course learning objectives.