HT140W Systematic Theology
Instructors: Cheryl Peterson, Man-Hei Yip
3 Credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This introductory course in Systematic Theology provides critical engagement with the essential doctrines and creeds that have shaped the Christian faith throughout history. Students will explore foundational theological topics, including the doctrine of God, Christology, the Holy Spirit, creation, humanity, sin, salvation, the Church, and eschatology. The course emphasizes both historical context and contemporary relevance. Alongside studying traditional doctrines, students will consider how these beliefs interact with perspectives from historically underrepresented communities and respond to current cultural, intellectual, and pastoral challenges.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify and describe a range of theological methods, approaches, and themes.
2. Develop skills to articulate diverse theological concepts with appreciation for the Christian tradition and contemporary insights.
3. Interpret Christian doctrines and ecumenical creeds in relation to pressing questions facing the church and the world today.
4. Develop their own voice in theological discourse, engaging both traditional understandings and perspectives from marginalized voices.

PROCEDURE: The course meets twice a week for ninety-minute sessions, totaling three hours per week. Each class includes instructor presentations followed by interactive discussions with students.

EVALUATION:

1. Attend class regularly and be prepared to discuss assigned readings.
2. Actively participate in small group discussions.
3. Complete written assignments that demonstrate engagement with and integration of course materials.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required:

Gebara, Ivone. *Out of the Depths: Women's Experience of Evil and Salvation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.
Hegstad Harald. *God, the World, and Hope: An Introduction to Christian Dogmatics.* Wipf and Stock, 2018.
Johnson, Elizabeth A., ed. *The Strength of Her Witness: Jesus Christ in the Global Voices of Women*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2016.
Kim, Grace Ji-Sun and Susan M. Shaw. *Intersectional Theology: An Introductory Guide*. Fortress, 2018.
Mendoza, Susanah Lily L., and George Zachariah, eds. *Decolonizing Ecotheology: Indigenous and Subaltern Challenges*. Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2022.

Recommended:

Cannon, Katie G. and Anthony B. Pinn, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology*. Oxford University Press, 2018.
Hall, Ashley and Man-Hei Yip. *The Council of Nicaea: A Study Guide*. ELCA, 2025. Free download at https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Nicaea_Study_Guide_Full_Document.pdf
McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, 2nd Edition. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2014.
Peterson, Cheryl M. *The Holy Spirit in the Christian Life: The Spirit's Work for, in, and through Us*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2024.
Streufert, Mary J., ed. *Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Perspectives*. Fortress Press, 2010.
Streufert, Mary J. *Language for God: A Lutheran Perspective*. Fortress Press, 2022.