



TSU CATALOG FACT SHEET #17.0a
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
ALPHABETICAL LISTING

AT—Apostolic Theology (by title; program order)

Introduction to Christian Theology (3 SCH)

The overall objective of Introduction to Christian Theology is that the disciple of Christ would come to have and to be governed by the mind of Christ. This, in turn, requires that the disciple endeavor to understand the Hebrew Scriptures (i.e., Old Testament) and the Christian gospel as Jesus did, and that he endeavor to perceive persons, events, circumstances, and things through the eyes of Jesus Christ and in accordance with His mind and heart. This course serves as the gateway and introduction to the other courses in the program of study, which are listed below.

Exegetical Theology: The Science & Art of Biblical Interpretation (3 SCH)

In order for the disciple to have and to be governed by the mind of Christ, he must endeavor to read and understand the Scriptures as Jesus did. This, in turn, requires that he constantly seek to interpret each passage and book of Scripture according to the message intended by the author. The course includes discussion of the principles which govern interpretation of each of the major literary genres found in Scripture, which are the following: narrative or story; poetry; didactic or teaching literature; and apocalyptic literature – that is, prophetic literature which is characterized by dramatic symbols and word pictures.

A History of Christian Theology: The Twelve Great Debates (3 SCH)

This course traces the development of Christian thought in each of the five periods since the 1st century AD: the Patristic Period (100-500 AD); the Medieval Period (500-1500 AD); the Reformation and Post-Reformation Period (1500-1650 AD); the Modern Period (1650-1950 AD); and the Post-Modern Period (1950-Present).

Torah: The Fountainhead of Wisdom (3 SCH)

The Torah – the five books of Moses – is the first section of the Hebrew Canon. As such, it forms the foundation for the rest of Scripture. Fourteen integrative motifs surface in the Torah, and these become strands of essential teaching that run through the entire Bible. The course includes a summary of recent biblical scholarship with regard to the Torah and each of the fourteen integrative motifs. This course serves as an introduction and gateway into the following courses on the other three sections of the Hebrew Canon.

The Former Prophets: The Application of Wisdom — Part One (3 SCH)

The Former Prophets is the second section of the Hebrew Canon, including the books of Joshua through 2nd Kings. This canonical section traces the narrative of the history of Israel from the Conquest to the end of the monarchical period when Israel was conquered by the Assyrians (722 BC) and the the Babylonians (586 BC). Each of the fourteen integrative motifs that surface in the Torah will be traced through this canonical section. Its prophetic character derives from the fact that the experiences of Israel as a nation contain theological, moral, and ethical lessons for us in accordance with the Apostle Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.

The Latter Prophets: The Application of Wisdom — Part Two (3 SCH)

The Latter Prophets is the third section of the Hebrew Canon, including all of the prophetic books from Isaiah through Malachi, but excluding Daniel. This canonical section is characterized by prophetic commentary on the theological, moral, and ethical state of Israel against the standard set forth in the Torah. Each of the fourteen integrative motifs that surface in the Torah will be traced through this canonical section. In the process, the student will endeavor to understand the relevance of prophetic teaching to our day and time.

The Writings: The Expression of Wisdom (3 SCH)

The Writings is the fourth section of the Hebrew Canon, including all the remaining books of the Hebrew Scriptures. This canonical section includes the following three components: all the poetic literature of the Hebrew Scriptures, including Job through Song of Solomon; a tracing of the post-exilic historical narrative of Israel in 1st & 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther; and Daniel's visions of the great world empires from the time of Nebuchadnezzar until the last days. Each of the fourteen integrative motifs that surface in the Torah will be traced through this canonical section.



TSU CATALOG FACT SHEET #17.0b
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
ALPHABETICAL LISTING

AT—Apostolic Theology (by title; program order), continued

The Gospels & Acts: The Narrative of Christianity (3 SCH)

The four Gospels and the Book of Acts form the first section of the Christian Canon. It includes the following two components: the narrative of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ from His virginal conception and birth through His ascension to His heavenly throne; and the narrative of the early church from the resurrection of Jesus Christ through the 1st imprisonment of the Apostle Paul. As was done for each of the sections of the Hebrew Canon, each of the fourteen integrative motifs that surface in the Torah will be traced through this canonical section.

The Pauline Epistles: The Teachings of Christianity — Part One (3 SCH)

The Pauline Epistles form the second section of the Christian Canon, including Romans through Philemon. The teachings of the Apostle Paul were addressed to the Gentile world, and they include the following four major components: the exposition of the Christian gospel as derived from the narrative of the Gospels; the application of the Christian gospel to the universal church as the body of Christ; the application of the Christian gospel to the lives and ministries of individual disciples of Christ; and the application of the Christian gospel to the lives and ministries of local church communities, of which individual disciples are members. Each of the fourteen integrative motifs that surface in the Torah will be traced through this canonical section.

The General Epistles: The Teachings of Christianity — Part Two (3 SCH)

The General Epistles form the third section of the Christian Canon, including Hebrews through Jude, but excluding the epistles of John. The General Epistles were addressed primarily to Jews dispersed throughout the Greco-Roman world of the 1st century AD. They include the following three major themes: the supremacy of Christ and the new covenant enacted through His sacrificial death; how the disciple of Christ should represent suffering and persecution; and how the disciple of Christ should confront heretical teachings and bear testimony of his hope in Christ to those who have not yet come to faith. Each of the fourteen integrative motifs that surface in the Torah will be traced through this canonical section.

The Johannine Literature: The Revelation of the Son of God (3 SCH)

The Johannine Literature forms the fourth section of the Christian Canon, including the three epistles of the Apostle John and the Book of Revelation. This canonical section includes the following four major themes: application of the Christian gospel to the life and ministry of the individual disciple, especially the mandate to practice self-sacrificing love within the community of faith; the theological and moral state of seven church communities in the province of Asia, and, by extension, to churches in general; the apocalyptic portrayal of the events and circumstances that will characterize the eschaton – that is, the second coming of Jesus Christ; and an apocalyptic portrayal of the final judgments and God's eternal kingdom.

Toward an Integrative Theology in Community and In Culture (3 SCH)

This course serves as the culmination and consummation of the entire program of study. It addresses the application of the Christian gospel to following four areas of essential teaching: the kerygma & didache: the essentials of sound doctrine; the theology of leadership in local church communities; the theology of civil government, including the manner in which disciples of Christ should relate to civil authority; and the theology of relief & development, including how disciples of Christ should relate to those in material need.