

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Course Profile

Course # and Title _____ RHTH 301 History and Theology I _____

Instructor: _____ Vitor Westhelle _____ Semester/Year: _____ Fall / 2017 _____

Course **Rationale** and Description

(Why do we offer this course? Which of LSTC's degree program learning outcomes does it address?):

This course presents an historical analysis of the formation and a constructive articulation of the content of some of the basic creedal teachings of the Christian Faith. It includes issues pertaining to the prolegomena of Christian theology and the doctrines of Revelation, Trinity, Creation and Fall, and Pneumatology, taking into account biblical origins, historical developments, and the contemporary significance of these teachings in the formation of the Christian Church into the Reformation.

Course Learning **Outcomes** (Learners will be able to):

(What *difference* will this course make to students' knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices?)

To help students in developing their own theological perspective, and to be able to discern different positions with a respectful but critical attitude. Participants shall be able to develop skills to come to grips with historical knowledge about the development of key doctrines of the Christian faith as to their relevance in face of contemporary challenges. By the end of the semester, students should be able to articulate their own position concerning the content of these doctrines and of the prolegomena to Christian theology. It should strengthen skills to think critically about the various descriptions and arguments presented in the lecture/readings and will improve their theological acumen by expressing their own ideas through discussions and writing.

Strategies for Learning:

(How shall we go about achieving these outcomes?)

Lectures and class presentations combined with preceptorial discussion of the readings provide the foundations of teaching method for this class. Through these, the instructor offers a critical overview of the *loci* under consideration, pointing to main problems and issues relevant to the contemporary appropriation of the Christian story. This will be correlated to different views expressed by the reading assignments.

Assessment :

(How shall we know if we—students and instructors—have been successful in achieving the outcomes?)

Active participation in class and group discussions, a short reflection paper, a test, a final hisorico-systematic paper, and a final colloquy will provide the instructor a basis for the evaluation of the work done and will give students the opportunity to assert their own stance as to the traditional historical content of the doctrines and their contemporary significance.

Bibliography:

Text Title	Author	ISBN# (Required)
<i>Thinking about God</i>	<u>Dorothee Sölle</u>	<u>0-334-02476-5</u>
<i>Lift Every Voice</i>	<u>Susan Thistlethwaite and Mary Engel, eds.</u>	<u>1-57075-163-3</u>
<i>Pneumatology</i>	<u>Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen</u>	<u>0-8010-2448-X</u>
<i>God as Trinity</i>	<u>Ted Peters</u>	<u>0-664-25402-0</u>
<i>Adam, Eve, and the Serpent</i>	<u>Elaine Pagels</u>	<u>0-679-72232-7</u>
<i>She Who Is</i>	<u>Elisabeth Johnson</u>	<u>0-8245-1162-X</u>

Additional information: Selections of the books in the bibliography will be used.