

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PACO 501

FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES FOR PASTORAL COUNSELORS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the systematic theology that will give attention to the doctrines of the Bible, God, humanity, sin, Christ, Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and last things. The course will provide the student the theological foundations to serve and counsel more effectively in the local church and community contexts.

RATIONALE

Christian theology supplies a biblical perspective on reality. Theological reflection is essential for the pastoral counselor who hopes to help others cope with reality; he or she must be able to provide biblical, reasoned, and sensitive responses to the hard questions of faith and life. Therefore, this course helps to prepare pastoral counseling students for counseling ministry by introducing them to the major doctrines in systematic theology.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Recognize theological terms and crucial issues in the context of pastoral counseling related to Christian theology.
- B. Evaluate discipline-specific, peer-reviewed articles relating to the doctrines of systematic theology.
- C. Apply a theological method toward constructive reflection on select doctrines in systematic theology.

- D. Apply the basic tools of the theological disciplines in order to resolve problems and research issues relevant to the issues of the authority of Scripture, the nature of God, and the human condition.
- E. Assess the importance and difficulties of developing an expression of theology in a contemporary culture.
- F. Discuss critical and controversial issues in Christian theology and pastoral counseling.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be between 200–250 words.

D. Journal Article Critiques (2)

For each critique, the student will read a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal article on a topic covered in class and write a critique. The critique must be 2 full pages (but must not exceed 3) and be double spaced. Each critique must include a cover page and follow current APA format.

E. Research Paper

The Research Paper will be completed in 3 steps.

1. Topic

First, the student must select a doctrinal topic for his/her paper from a provided list.

2. Proposal

After the student's topic has been approved by the instructor, he/she must complete a research paper proposal that is 1 full page (but not exceed 2). The proposal must contain the following components: a cover page, a working thesis statement, the purpose of the study, the procedure of the study, and a working reference list of at least 6 references.

3. Submission

The student must write his/her Research Paper using the approved topic and proposal. The paper must be 10–12 pages and must include the 8 sections listed in the instructions document; it must also contain at least 6 references and follow current APA format.

H. Exams (4)

The exams will cover the Reading & Study material for the modules/weeks covered. The exams will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 multiple-choice, matching, and

true/false questions, and have a 1-hour time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 80 pts ea)	320
Journal Article Critique (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Research Paper	
Topic	10
Proposal	70
Submission	200
Exams (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Dual Relationship

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

D. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student’s disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student’s permanent record.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PACO 501

Textbooks: Erickson, *Christian Theology* (2013).
Lambert, *A Theology of Biblical Counseling* (2016).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Erickson: chs. 6–10 Lambert: chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread	10 0 40
2	Erickson: chs. 11–12 Lambert: chs. 3–4 1 presentation 1 article	2 Replies to DB Forum 1 Thread Journal Article Critique 1 Research Paper – Topic Exam 1	40 100 10 50
3	Erickson: chs. 31–38 Lambert: ch. 5 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread	40
4	Erickson: chs. 39–41 Lambert: ch. 6 1 presentation	2 Replies to DB Forum 2 Thread Research Paper – Proposal Exam 2	40 70 50
5	Erickson: chs. 25–29 Lambert: chs. 7–9 1 presentation 1 article	DB Forum 3 Thread Journal Article Critique 2	40 100
6	Erickson: chs. 42–48 Lambert: ch. 10 1 presentation	2 Replies to DB Forum 3 Thread Exam 3	40 50
7	Erickson: chs. 49–53 Lambert: ch. 11 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Thread Research Paper – Submission	40 200
8	Lambert: ch. 12 1 presentation	2 Replies to DB Forum 4 Thread Exam 4	40 50
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.