

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

RLGN 335

THEOLOGICAL ISSUES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course allows students to study theological issues facing the modern church and presents opportunities to strengthen their biblical fidelity in belief and ministry practice. These issues are addressed from both a doctrinal and missional perspective focused on the primacy of the Great Commission. The goal is to bolster the church's ministry effectiveness in answering critical questions from contemporary culture with cogent, well-informed responses.

RATIONALE

This course offers dialogue concerning issues vital to the self-identity and mission of biblically conservative Christians. Christian leaders must be discerning and circumspect in their efforts to define and promote doctrinal truth—especially controversial issues. This course is offered to help the student recognize the issues at hand and the history behind many of these issues, formulate an approach for careful discernment, and articulate his/her own position in a consistent manner.

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
- D. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Begin to understand the ministry relevance of theological systems.
- B. Develop, strengthen, and clarify his/her theological vocabulary.

- C. Increase his/her ability to biblically evaluate theological issues.
- D. Build confidence in basic doctrine through theological discourse.
- E. Build sensitivity for which theological issues are vital or peripheral.
- F. Build appreciation for the relevance of theology to ministry.

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. Blog Posts (3)

The student will write 3 blog posts. For each post, the student will respond to the instructor's prompt by writing a 200–300-word blog post. In the same module/week, the student will write 4 comments to different classmates' blog posts. Each comment must consist of at least 100 words. In the blog posts and comments, the student must support his/her assertions and provide at least 1 citation in current Turabian format for each post (as well as a brief bibliography if any resources are referenced). (MLO: A, C, D)

- D. Theological Research Papers (2)

The student will be required to submit 2 Theological Research Papers. Each paper will be approximately 2100–2700 words. Each paper must cite at least 10 sources. Bibliography and citations must be in current Turabian format. Papers will be graded according to grammar and syntax, clarity and concision, the strength of the student's argument, and how well the student has exegetically or theologically supported his/her argument. The depth and quality of research will also be influential in assessing a student's grade. (MLO: C, D, E, F)

- E. Exams (4)

Four exams will evaluate the student's comprehension of material from the Boyd and Lutzer textbooks. Study guides are provided. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions, and have a 40-minute time limit. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Blog Posts (3 at 80 pts ea)	240
Theological Research Papers (2 at 180 pts ea)	360
Exams (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. 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

RLGN 335

Textbooks: LUC – Boyd & Eddy, *Across the Spectrum* (2009).

LUC – Lutzer, *The Doctrines that Divide* (1998).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Boyd & Eddy: ch. 6 Lutzer: chs. 1–2 1 presentation 1 study guide	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Blog Post 1	10 0 80
2	Boyd & Eddy: chs. 14–15 Lutzer: chs. 3–4 1 study guide	Exam 1	100
3	Boyd & Eddy: chs. 9, 12–13 Lutzer: chs. 5–7 1 presentation 1 study guide	Blog Post 2	80
4	Boyd & Eddy: chs. 1, 4–5 Lutzer: ch. 8 1 study guide	Exam 2	100
5	Boyd & Eddy: chs. 2–3 Lutzer: chs. 9–10 1 study guide	Theological Research Paper 1	180
6	Boyd & Eddy: chs. 7–8, 10 Lutzer: chs. 11–13 1 presentation 1 study guide	Blog Post 3 Exam 3	80 100
7	Boyd & Eddy: chs. 11, 17 1 study guide	Theological Research Paper 2	180
8	Boyd & Eddy: chs. 16 1 study guide	Exam 4	100
TOTAL			1010

LUC = Liberty University Custom

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.