

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

THEO 330

THEOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to equip students with an understanding of God’s original design for the home, the primary purposes of family life, and a biblical method for facilitating transformation. Students will establish the ground work for fostering healthy family relationships and strong generational legacy. This study begins with a “big picture” view of the home, clarifies doctrinal misunderstandings of the family role, outlines a history of the modern family, and offers a scriptural vision for long-term family blessing.

RATIONALE

The life of every person has been, and will be, largely shaped and defined by his or her home life; however, there are very few courses that apply an understanding of biblical and theological foundations to the family structure.

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. Bible
- D. Microsoft Word

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Identify the scriptural purposes for home life.
- B. Contrast terms that are misunderstood in our culture regarding the family with their correct definition based on a biblical foundation.
- C. Apply a theological framework to barriers facing the family.
- D. Evaluate current barriers that are facing the family from a biblical perspective.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes (Outcomes A, B, C, D)

B. Course Requirements Checklist

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

C. Group Discussion Board forums (2)

The student will complete 2 group discussion board forums (groups will be assigned by the professor) designed to facilitate substantive interaction on some of the topics covered throughout the course. Each forum takes place over the course of 2 modules/weeks. In the first module/week that the forum is assigned, the student is asked to post a 300–500-word original thread in response to the prompt provided. After posting the original thread, the student is asked to post 200–300-word replies to 3 peers' posts. Each portion of the Group Discussion Board assignment will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned modules/weeks. (Outcomes A, C, D)

D. Analysis Papers (2)

The student will select a current issue facing the family and analyze how the media (newspapers, news shows, popular magazines, news magazines, etc.) present or deal with the issue using a specific current media story. For each analysis, the student should analyze how the media deal with the familial issues and whether the attitudes and ideas expressed by the media are congruent with a biblical response. Each paper should be 2 pages in length and should include at least 1 citation from a media source. These assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned modules/weeks. (Outcomes B, C, D)

E. Journal Article Review

The student will review a scholarly journal article related to his/her proposed research topic for the Research Paper. For the article review, the student will be required to provide a correctly formatted citation for the article, a brief summary of the article (250–500 words), and a brief analysis of how this article fits within the scope of his/her proposed research topic (250–500 words). This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 3. (Outcomes B, D)

F. Biblical Foundations Essay

The student will write an essay identifying the scriptural purposes of home life. In a brief 2-page essay, he/she will explain the biblical foundations of the family. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 4. (Outcome A)

G. Research Paper

The final research paper will be 7–8 pages focusing on a topic or issue discussed during the course. The paper should incorporate 8 sources, 3 of which need to be scholarly articles. The student's writing should be written in formal, academic

style with Turabian citations. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 7. (Outcomes A, B, C, D)

H. Book Review and Application

The student will write a 750-word book review of *Walls*. This review will contain a short summary of the book, a discussion of the book's strengths and weaknesses, and an application of the book in the student's life. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8. (Outcomes A, C, D)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Group Discussion Board forums (2 at 125 pts ea)	250
Analysis Papers (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Journal Article Review	100
Biblical Foundations Essay	100
Research Paper	200
Book Review and Application	150
Total	1010

B. Scale

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

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

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

THEO 330

Textbooks: LUC – Rush, *Walls* (2011).

LUC – Stinson & Jones, *Trained in the Fear of God* (2011).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Stinson & Jones: intro, chs. 1, 3 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Contact Information Survey Group DB Forum 1 Thread	10 0 75
2	Stinson & Jones: chs. 6–8 1 presentation	Group DB Forum 1 Replies Analysis Paper 1	50 100
3	Stinson & Jones: ch. 4 1 presentation 3 websites	Journal Article Review	100
4	Stinson & Jones: chs. 2, 11, 13 1 presentation 1 website	Biblical Foundations Essay	100
5	Rush: Part 1 Stinson & Jones: chs. 5, 9 3 presentations 1 website	Analysis Paper 2	100
6	Rush: Part 2 Stinson & Jones: chs. 14–15 2 presentations	Group DB Forum 2 Thread	75
7	Rush: Part 3 Stinson & Jones: chs. 10, 12 1 presentations	Group DB Forum 2 Replies Research Paper	50 200
8	Stinson & Jones: chs. 16–17 2 presentations	Book Review and Application	150
TOTAL			1010

LUC = Liberty University Custom

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except for 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.