

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 626

DOCTRINE OF GOD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the existence, nature, and attributes of the triune God. Contains a study of such doctrines as the decree of God, Creation, the providence of God, and the doctrine of the Trinity.

RATIONALE

For students seeking advanced studies in theology and apologetics this course develops themes discussed in the foundational systematic theology classes relating specifically to the Christian doctrine of God. These include classic and modern discussions concerning the existence and attributes of God and with the works of God in relation to creation and providence. It is designed for those students who wish to secure a theology focus in their Master's program or in preparation for admission to advanced programs such as the Th.M. or the Ph.D.

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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Identify topics and issues of importance to the contemporary evangelical Church in regard to the doctrine of God.
- B. Develop and defend an appropriate thesis statement in response to a research question concerning the doctrine of God in its historical and evangelical context.
- C. Formulate a critical assessment of the principle agents and ideas that shape ancient and modern understandings of the Christian God.

- D. Reflect upon and synthesize relevant data from authoritative, biblical, and theological sources in a persuasive essay arguing for the logical cogency of a thesis statement.
- E. Articulate a clear and compelling research question regarding some aspect of the Christian doctrine of God.
- F. Compile and compose personal and theological reflections regarding the doctrine of God and its significance for life and ministry.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)
The student will participate in 2 Discussion Board Forums. The student will submit a thread of 400–500 words and reply to at least 3 peers’ threads in 250 words or more each.
- D. Reflection Paper
The student will read *America’s Four Gods* by Froese & Bader and prepare a 2-page reflection on the question, “Why God?” using current Turabian format. Specifically, the question is related to the general understanding of the biblical God and how God is perceived in the student’s personal experience, church, and community. In what way(s) did the student resonate with the authors’ research and conclusions?
- E. Annotated Bibliography
The student will submit an annotated bibliography comprising of 5 scholarly sources selected through the Liberty University Online’s Library, “Christian Periodical Index” or “ATLA Database.” As with all assignments, this will be submitted according to current Turabian formatting.
- F. Research Project
The Research Project will be 12–15 pages and submitted in stages. In Module/Week 4, the student will submit a thesis statement and summary of a research topic. In Module/Week 6, the student will submit the outline and introduction in preparation for the final paper. A template will be provided for the first 2 portions of the assignment located under Assignment Instructions.
- G. Theological Reflection Journal
The student will keep a weekly journal reflecting on the importance and significance of the study of the Christian Doctrine of God. The journal will reflect on personal, practical, and ministry applications of what the student is learning. The student will post a journal entry each week for a total of 8 entries.

H. Essay Exams (2)

Midterm Essay Exam: At the beginning of Module/Week 5, the student will be given a prompt that will suffice as the topic for his or her Midterm Essay Exam. By the end of the module/week, the student will submit a 1000–1200-word essay synthesizing course reading and outside research into an articulate and cogent response to the exam prompt.

Final Essay Exam: At the beginning of Module/Week 7, the student will be given a prompt that will suffice as the topic for his or her Final Essay Exam. By the end of the module/week, the student will submit a 3-page essay focusing on inquiry and action as he or she responds to the exam prompt.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board forums (2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Reflection Paper	50
Annotated Bibliography	100
Research Project:	
Thesis and Summary	50
Outline and Introduction	50
Final Submission	250
Theological Reflection Journal	100
Essay Exams (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
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. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and 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. Supplemental 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. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

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

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

THEO 626

Textbooks: Bray, *The Doctrine of God* (1993).
 Feinberg, *No One Like Him* (2001).
 Froese & Bader, *America's Four Gods* (2015).
 Gundry & Jowers et al., *Four Views on Divine Providence* (2011).
 McCormack, *Engaging the Doctrine of God* (2008).
 Vanhoozer, *Nothing Greater, Nothing Better* (2001).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Bray: Intro and ch. 1 Froese & Bader: chs. 1–7 McCormack: ch. 2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Reflection Paper DB Forum 1 Theological Reflection Journal Entry 1	10 0 50 50 10
2	Bray: ch. 2 Feinberg: chs. 2, 5	Annotated Bibliography Theological Reflection Journal Entry 2	100 10
3	Feinberg: ch. 3 McCormack: chs. 9–11 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Theological Reflection Journal Entry 3	50 10
4	Feinberg: chs. 6–7 Gundry & Jowers et al.: Intro 1 presentation	Research Project: Thesis and Summary Theological Reflection Journal Entry 4	50 10
5	Feinberg: ch. 8 Vanhoozer: chs. 1–10 1 presentation	Midterm Essay Exam Theological Reflection Journal Entry 5	150 10
6	Bray: chs. 3–5 Feinberg: ch. 10 1 presentation	Research Project: Outline and Introduction Theological Reflection Journal Entry 6	50 10
7	Feinberg: ch. 12 Gundry & Jowers et al.: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	Final Essay Exam Theological Reflection Journal Entry 7	150 10
8	Feinberg: ch. 16 Gundry & Jowers et al.: chs. 3–4	Research Project: Final Submission Theological Reflection Journal Entry 8	250 30
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

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