

RELS 305-M75 Summer (SU20)**Christianity**

Instructor: Bella Mukonyora <bella.mukonyora@wku.edu>

Recommended study time per day: At least 4 Hours between 5/18 until 6/19, 2020.

Course Description: This course gives continuous and comprehensive coverage of major theological conversations from the last 2,000 years of different western social histories. The sources of knowledge are texts especially selected to advance learning by highlighting the differing views about sources of knowledge, methods of arriving at knowledge, and questions about God and the person of Christ are used to advance theology in early, medieval and modern periods.

Prerequisites: none

REQUIREMENTS:**Two textbooks:-**

1) *Christian History: An Introduction* by Alister E. McGrath, 2013 published by Wile Blackwell. This is a wonderful introduction to the history of the Christian faith in the Near East, followed by the medieval and modern west.

2) *The Christian Theology Reader* also by McGrath Alister. Fifth Edition, 2017 and published by Wiley Blackwell.

- Please follow the detailed reading instructions provided for each Module, keep using the writing guidelines to improve the quality of your written work, and note the requirement to post entries on the Discussion Board.
- Discussion Board entries give students an opportunity to exchange ideas from their findings that are based on reading which they consider fresh and worth sharing as new insights on the changing social histories of Christianity past and present.
- The detailed writing guidelines are at the end of the syllabus and attached to the syllabus on Blackboard.
- The best answers come from students who make sure they know something about the historical period, social setting and the literature from which the excerpts are taken by McGrath. McGrath also provides a list of “Sources of Reading” used to challenge us to come to terms with the complex history of ideas which explain Christianity (pages 572-582). Use this information to orient yourself to the academic study of Christianity.

Prerequisites: None.

Colonnade Program Learning Outcomes:

- Analyze the development of the intellectual self in relation to others in society.
- Examine diverse values that from civically engaged and informed members of society.
- Evaluate solution to real-world social and cultural problems addressed in this course.
- Master the diverse cultural settings for the development of theological argument and engage the original literature provided to build confidence.
- Gain historical perspective and understanding of connections between past and present trends in theological reflection.
- Come to terms with enduring and contemporary questions of our humanity.

DISCUSSION BOARD ENTRIES ON CLONNADE LEARNING PROCESS: These are graded with each module is built on the quality of contributions to conversations held on Blackboard. As stated under the course requirements above, students must leave on record, a statement on at least one fresh insight on Christianity based on reading for modules, and one comment on something else observed by a classmate and posted for discussion. Depending on the quality of entries, students can score up to 5 participation points on completion of each module.

Ruling on absences from discussion board: *Absences from on-line discussion boards, even those reported to the instructor and acknowledged, will automatically reduce the quality of student learning. Please note that absences lead to drops in grades, and in extreme cases, it is easy to fail this course altogether.*

Student Disability Services: Students with disability who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Student Success Center, DUC-A200. Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

ADA Guidebook for Faculty/Staff is available at:

<http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Support/Legal/EOO/sds.htm>

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON MODULES

Please read carefully to make the job at hand easier.

DISCUSSION BOARD INTRODUCTIONS – Monday/5/18 - 8:00am until MIDNIGHT

The Discussion Board will open with a prompt from the instructor. This is to help students to interact by sharing news about majors, hobbies and interest in learning more from the history of Christianity.¹

EARLY CHURCH MODULE A

Deadline: Monday, May 25 by noon.

PART ONE - REQUIRED READING for essay based on **Chapter 1 of the book *Christian History: An Introduction*** by Alister E. McGrath, 2013. Early Church c.100 - c.500 (pages 1-70).

Essay topic: Evaluate the impact of the Roman Empire and the Greek language and philosophical ideas on the origins of theology. End your essay with a brief comment on what your friends or family members think is the difference between doing theology then and now. Students are encouraged to use mass media for insights on what is going on in the wider society and culture throughout this course. This is good for developing critical minds. Good luck!

Length of Part One essay = 4 pages. See writing guidelines on Blackboard.

¹ *This course runs for 31 busy days where you are supposed to spend at least 4 hours working on your study of Christianity per day. Please remember to proceed with work on Module B as soon as you are through with Module A until the end.*

PART TWO

IF NOT CHALLENGED ENOUGH BY THE PROMPT ON QUESTIONS OF STUDY, WRITE ANOTHER ESSAY, THIS TIME COMPARING AND CONTRASTING THE ARGUMENTS MADE BY THREE DIFFERENT THEOLOGIAN FROM THE SAME CHAPTER YOU CHOSEN FOR STUDY. If confused about the topic to give to your essay, feel free to e-mail bella.mukonyora@wku.edu for further advice. Students are encouraged to take ownership of ideas and practice drawing the distinction between preaching to the converted and communicating ideas for the academy, hence the focus on comparing arguments.

Below are chapter-based sets of excerpts to help you decide the general topics that concern theologians, from deciding how to address general questions about the meaning of Christianity(Ch.1), the sources of knowledge (Ch.2) and, in this course, two main concepts used to test our readiness for historical theology, God (Ch.3) and the paradox of the Person of Christ (Ch. 4). Textbook: *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION.

Chapter 1, Getting Started Preliminaries (pages 5-12)

REQUIRED READING FOR either *Questions of Study* taken from four different excerpts or essay based on the same reading. Remember the helpful background information from Chapter 1, *Christian History: Introduction (McGrath 2013)*. This is one of your two textbooks full of background information on the different periods of the history Christianity.² *You are encouraged to read all the following excerpts on early church theologians having to define theology for the first time in the history of Christianity. Then, select one question to answer from on each of the following theologians. Remember to use subheadings for each excerpt and show that you understand the historical setting for discussions about the role philosophy in creating the discipline of theology among the Early Church Fathers in the first paragraph of your answer. Then, please provide the required answers remembering the need to show that you comprehend the historical context for what is featured in excerpt under discussion.*

1.1 Justin Martyr on Philosophy and Theology

1.2 Clement of Alexandria on Philosophy and Theology

1.3 Tertullian on the Relationship between Philosophy and Heresy

1.4 Augustine of Hippo on Philosophy and Theology

1.5 The Nicene Creed

1.5 The Apostles Creed

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE 0 = 1 PAGE -TOTAL 4 PAGES FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED

Option Chapter 2, The Sources of Theology (pages 71-82)

REQUIRED READING FOR either *Questions of Study* in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. *You are also encouraged to read as many of the following excerpts by theologians from the Early Church, then either select one questions to answer from on 4 of the following theologians or write an essay based your favorite four Christian thinkers.*

² *The Christian Theology Reader* is invaluable for the direct access it gives students of theology. The author of this theology reader expects the same students to deepen their understanding of the subject by making full use of the background information provided on the each of the different historical periods covered.

Remember to provide subheadings and show that you understand the general issues raised about the scriptures and how to relate them to the new faith in Jesus at the time. AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

2.1 Melito of Sardis on Typology and Old Testament Interpretation

2.2 Irenaeus of Lyons on the Role of Tradition

2.3 Hippolytus on Typological Interpretation of the Scripture

2.4 Clement of Alexandria on the Fourfold Interpretation of Scripture

2.5 Tertullian on Tradition and Apostolic Success

2.6. Origen on the Three Ways of Reading Scripture

2.7 Cyril of Jerusalem on the Role of Creeds

2.8. Augustine of Hippo on the Literal and Allegorical Sense of Scripture

2.9 Jerome on the Role of Scripture

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

Option Chapter 3, The Doctrine of God (pages 155-172)

REQUIRED READING ANSWERS TO *Questions of Study* in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. *You are encouraged to read as many of the following excerpts by theologians from the Early Church, then either select one questions to answer from on 4 of the following theologians or write an essay based your four Christian thinkers whose excerpts are interest to examine.*

3.1 Athenagoras of Athens on the Christian God

3.2 Irenaeus of Lyons on the Origin of Evil

3.3 Irenaeus of Lyons on the Trinity

3.4 Tertullian on Creation from Preexistent Matter

3.5 Origen on Creation from Preexistent Matter

3.7 Gregory of Nyssa on Human Analogies of the Trinity

3.8. Basic of Caesarea on the Work of the Holy Spirit

3.10 Athanasius of Alexandria on the Holy Spirit and the Trinity

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

Chapter 4, The Person of Christ (pages 225-234)

REQUIRED READING EITHER *Questions of Study* in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION or essay. *Read as many of the following excerpts by theologians from the Early Church first. Then select one question to answer from at least 4 different excerpts listed below. Remember to use the subheadings and show that you understand the general topic and whatever is different or interesting about the issues raised in the first paragraph, then provide the required answers.*

4.1 Ignatius of Antioch on Docetism

4.2 Irenaeus of Lyon on Gnosticism in Christology

4.3 Tertullian on Patripassianism

4.4 Tertullian on the Incarnation

4.5 Novatian on the Divinity of Christ

- 4.7 Arius on the Status of Christ
- 4.8 Athanasius of Alexandria on the Two Natures of Christ
- 4.9 Apollinarius of Laodicea on the Person of Christ
- 4.10 Gregory of Nazianzus on Apollinarianism

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

DEADLINE Monday, May 25 by noon. Please submit your written work on Part One and Part Two, plus a short statement on something you find most striking about Christianity in the Early Church the Discussion Board as well as get ready to comments on something interesting from one of your classmates. Press on with reading McGrath's account of the History of Christianity: Introduction of the Middle Ages and Renaissance (pages71-149).

END OF MUDULE A

MODULE B deadline Monday, June 1 by noon.

PART ONE

MIDDLE AGES TO RENAISSANCE c.500-1500. REQUIRED READING FOR compulsory work on essay based on Chapter 2 of *Christian History: An Introduction* by Alister E. McGrath c.500-1500 (pages 71-148). *Essay topic:* Write an essay highlighting what strikes you as the cultural setting for practicing Christianity and doing theology in the Middle Ages or Renaissance. End your essay with a brief discussion about the difference between Christianity then and now. **Length of essay = 3-4 pages. See writing guidelines on blackboard and the last page of the syllabus.**

PART TWO

Chapter 1, Getting Started Preliminaries (pages 13-21) and Chapter 2 and Chapter 2, The Sources of Theology (pages 83-82) on the same period.

REQUIRED READING FOR Questions of Study or essay in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. Read as many of the following excerpts first. Then select one questions to answer from on 4 of the following theologians, preferably using "See also" to identify related excerpts that are worthwhile examining side by side Remember to use the subheadings and show that you understand the general issues raised especially if you decide to use the reading material from both chapters.

- 1.7 Anselm of Canterbury's Proof for the Existence of God
- 1.9 Thomas Aquinas on Proofs for the Existence of God
- 1.10 Thomas Aquinas on the Principle of Analogy
- 1.11 William of Oakham on Proofs for the Existence of God
- 2.11 Bernard of Clairvaux on the Allegorical Sense of Scripture
- 2.12 Stephen Langton on the Moral Sense of Scripture
- 2.13 Ludolph of Saxony on Reading the Scriptures Imaginative
- 2.14 Jacques Lefevre D`etaples on the Senses of Scripture

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM

THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

Chapter 3, The Doctrine of God (pages 176-186)

REQUIRED READING FOR Essay or Questions of Study in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. Read as many of the following excerpts by theologians from the Early Church first. *Then select one questions to answer from 4 different theologians listed below. Remember to use the subheadings and show that you understand the general topic and whatever is different or interesting about the issues raised in the first paragraph, then provide the required answers. If you like essay writing, feel free to us “see also” to identify other excerpts around which to create an essay topic with which to show the depth of your understanding of the history of Christian theology.*

3.17 The Eleventh Council of Toledo on the Trinity

3.18 Anselm of Canterbury on the Compassion of God

3.19 Richard of St. Victor on Love Within the Trinity

3.21 Thomas Aquinas on Divine Omnipotence

3.22 Bonaventure of Bagnoregio on the Origin of Evil

3.23 Julian of Norwich on God as Our Mother (*For more background information, see McGrath History book, pages 102-104 on Women Mystics and Female religious Orders*)

3.24 William of Oakham on the Two Powers of God

3.25 Thomas A`Kempis on the Limits of Trinitarian Speculation

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

Chapter 4, The Person of Christ (pages 241-246)

REQUIRED READING for essay in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. *Start by reading the excerpts listed under this chapter in Module A (pages) to learn more about the original debates about the person of Christ during the early church, including the famous doctrinal statement called 4.15 The Chalcedonian Definition of the Christian that was used to fight Docetism (4.1); Gnosticism (4.2), Arianism(4.7) and other views which gave meaning to Christian uses of the term heresy. These debates to do with the different cultures giving shape to Early Christian orthodoxy). The excerpts 4.1-4.15 are all fascinating to read after looking if keen trace the roots of a subject known as Christology where theologians tackle questions about the Person of Christ. Anyway, to help you understand theologians from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, I recommend a brief statement on the significance of 4.15, then work on the 4 different excerpts listed below and write an essay about this subject using the four excerpts below showing that you now know something about Early Church debates on the identity/nature of Christ.*

4.16 John of Damascus on the Incarnation and Icons

4.17 Honorius of Autun on the Cause of the Incarnation

4.18 Thomas Aquinas on the Necessity of the Incarnation

4.19 Gregory Palamas on the Divine Condescension in the Incarnation.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF ESSAY = 4 PAGES OF MAIN TEXT FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED.

- ***Remember to submit your written work on Blackboard and statement on something you find most striking about Christianity in The Middle Ages and Renaissance on***

Discussion Board. Also remember to try and show that you are learning more about theology from reading other excerpts.

Deadline for Module B Monday, June 1 by noon

MODULE C

Deadline on Wednesday, June 10 by noon.

COMPETING VISIONS OF THE REFORMATION c. 1500 - c. 1650 AND THE MODERN PERIOD TO THE PRESENT c.1650- c.1914-Present

MODULE C PART ONE

REQUIRED READING FOR an essay based on Chapter 3, *Christian History: An Introduction* by Alister E. McGrath on Competing Visions of the Reformation c.1500-1650 (pages 151-213). *Essay topic:* Read this chapter carefully, then write an essay on whatever strikes you as the main reasons for McGrath to refer to as the “competing visions of the reformation.” Conclude your essay with a brief discussion what you consider main problems leading to the decline of Christianity in the western world today. **Length of essay = 4 pages. See writing guidelines please.**

MODULE C PART TWO

Option Chapter 1, Getting Started Preliminaries (pages 23-37) in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. Read al or as many excerpts as you can on this interesting topic of modern theologians using the past to define theology of a new era of the Enlightenment. Remember to use the subheadings, date and, biographical data provided in blue boxes by McGrath to show that you understand the historical setting for discussions covered in each chosen excerpt in the first paragraph of your answer. Then, please write an essay discussing the ideas of at least four different theologians of your choice or write it using 4 excerpts listed under “See also” to help you appreciate the continuity of ideas and debates associated with doing theology. Please consult instructor via e-mail if you need further assistance.

Competing Visions of the Reformation

1.12 Martin Luther on the Theology of the Cross

1.13 John Calvin on the Nature of Faith

1.15 John Locke on the Formation of the Concept of God

1.16 Rene Descartes on the Existence of God

1.17 Blaise Pascal on Proofs for the Existence of God

1.18 Blaise Pascal on the Hiddenness of God

1.20 Soren Kierkegaard on the Subjectivity of Truth

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

OR MORE RELEVANT TO TODAY

Modern Age to Present: Note: Extra Credit for outstanding work on this period, especially if you show enough courage to examine what theologians are saying about our topics that touch on experiences, attitudes and questions about Christianity today.)

1.21 The First Vatican Council on Faith and Reason

- 1.22 John Henry Newman on the Grounds of Faith
- 1.24 Karl Barth on the Nature and Task of Theology
- 1.25 Vladimir Lossky on Apophatic Approaches to Theology
- 1.28 Dietrich Bonhoeffer on God in a Secular World
- 1.29 Paul Tillich on the Method of Correlation
- 1.30 Ian T. Ramsey on the Language of Christian Doctrine
- 1.31 Sallie McFague on Metaphor in Theology
- 1.32 Gustavo Gutierrez on Theology as Critical Reflection
- 1.34 George Lindbeck on Postliberal Approaches to Doctrine

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

Option Chapter 2 on The Sources of Theology (pages 88-148)

REQUIRED READING *Questions of Study* in *The Christian Theology Reader* by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. *This is a hot topic for many readers around the world. Read all or as many excerpts as you can on this interesting topic of modern theologians using the past to define theology since the Enlightenment. Remember to use the subheadings, date and, biographical data provided in blue boxes by McGrath to show that you understand the historical setting for discussions covered in each chosen excerpt in the first paragraph of your answer. Then, please write an essay discussing the ideas of at least four different theologians of your choice or write it using 4 excerpts carefully listed under "See also: to help you appreciate the continuity of ideas and debates associated with doing theology. Please consult instructor via e-mail if you need further assistance on reading and writing with McGrath.*

Making sure you give yourself a chance to look at excerpts on the modern period and now, either examine the following excerpts on Competing Visions of the Reformation

- 2.15 Martin Luther on the Fourfold Sense of Scripture **note the striking similarity with Early Church 2.3 Clement of Alexandria; 2.6 Origen; 2.8 St. Augustine and 2.9 Jerome.*
- 2.16 Martin Luther on Revelation in Christ
- 2.17 John Calvin on the Natural Knowledge of God
- 2.25 The King James Translators on Biblical Translation
- 2.26 Sir Thomas Browne on the Two Book of Revelation
- 2.28 Jonathan Edwards on the Beauty of Creation
- 2.37 Karl Barth on Revelation as Self-Disclosure
- 2.38 Emil Brunner on the Personal Nature of Revelation
- 2.39 Rudolph Bultmann on Demythologization and Biblical Interpretation
- 2.45 Phyllis Trible on Feminist Biblical Interpretation
- 2.47 James Packer on the Nature of Revelation
- 2.50 N.T. Wright on the Authority of Biblical Narratives
- 2.51 Alister E. McGrath on a Christian Approach to Natural Theology

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY.

Chapter 3. Doctrine of God (pages 186-203)

REQUIRED READING FOR Essay or *Questions of Study* in *The Christian Theology Reader*

by Alister E. McGrath, FIFTH EDITION. *This is a controversial topic worth look at from a modern lens because there are so many readers prepared to argue that there is no scientific proof for the existence of God, especially scientists and the growing trend of millennials calling themselves “New Atheists.” You are encouraged to read all or as many excerpts as you can on what modern theologians are saying about God. Always, remember to use the subheadings, date and, biographical data provided in blue boxes by McGrath to show that you understand the historical setting for discussions covered in each chosen excerpt in the first paragraph of your answer. Then, please write an essay discussing the ideas of at least four different theologians of your choice or write it using 4 excerpts carefully listed under “See also: to help you appreciate the continuity of ideas and debates associated with doing theology. Please consult instructor via e-mail if you need further assistance.*

*****Selected from the Modern Age to the Present and highly recommended for Module C where theologians are sharing ideas which are either popular already or worth looking at against the background questions about God and life on earth today. See history book Chapter 4 and/or 5. Have fun sharing your thoughts on the Discussion Board.**

3.26 John Calvin on the Providence of God

3.28 F.D.E. Schleiermacher on the Trinity

3.29 Karl Barth on the “Otherness” of God

3.30 Jurgen Moltmann on the Suffering of God

3.32 Leonardo Boff on the Trinity as Good News for the Poor

3.34 Hans Kung on the Immutability of God

3.38 Paul Jewett on Non-inclusive Language of the Trinity

3.41 Anne Carr on Feminism and the Maleness of God

3.42 Sarah Coakley on Social Models of the Trinity

3.43 David Bentley Hart on God and Evil

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THOUGHTFUL ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION OF STUDY PICKED FROM THE DIFFERENT EXCERPTS LISTED ABOVE = 1 PAGE = TOTAL 4 PAGES. FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE PAGE ON WORKS CITED. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE WRITING OF AN ESSAY. Feel free to ask for advice on how to link excerpts for your essay.

Please submit your written work on Blackboard and statement on something you find most striking about your own findings plus comments on something interesting stated by a classmate on Discussion Board.

DEADLINE Wednesday, June 10 by midnight. Please and proceed with work for Module D as soon as possible.

MODULE D

Deadline Friday, June 19 by midnight.

Required Reading: Chapter 9 “Christianity and Other Religions”

Please write an essay approximately 4 pages long ideas of at least three modern theologians addressing global questions about other world religions. Please remember to end your final essay for this course with an explanation of the theologian whose ideas you agree, disagree with strongly or inspired you to think more critically about other world religions. In case you are familiar with issues raised by your study of another world religion at WKU, you are welcome to use it to develop your own mind.

SPECIAL WRITING GUIDELINES FOR ESSAYS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE QUESTIONS OF STUDY. McGrath provides dates with short biographies of theologians and a “Glossary” to help you understand the vocabulary. Students are expected to use this information identify theologians, their context and issues under discussion in excerpts before giving answers. **AVERAGE LENGTH OF ESSAY = 4 PAGES OF MAIN TEXT**, followed by Works Cited or Bibliography. **AVERAGE LENGTH OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF STUDY, 2 paragraphs usually read better than one long paragraph for thoughtful one-page answers.**

Reading and writing tips on essays:

1. Plan your essay and decide on a few eye-catching words for the topic.
2. Start your essay by explaining your topic of interest providing the instructor with some background information about the different theologians chosen for discussion by reading first the biographical details in the blue box positioned at the top of each excerpt. To help you develop a deeper understanding of the different theological issues and personalities, McGrath ends his opening remarks in the blue box at the top of each excerpt with “See also with numbers of other excerpts that are interesting to compare with whatever ideas draw your attention when reading particular excerpts. ***To score points as critical thinkers and meet the requirements of the colonnade program, students are encouraged to conclude essays with a comment or two on whatever strikes them the most about the arguments made in the texts chosen for study i.e. conclude with an example of a lessons learned.***
3. Show the level of understanding of the main points made in texts by providing summary statements of main argument presented by making good use of keywords and phrases used as in-text citations (e.g. McGrath, 11).
4. Avoid double spacing lengthy quotations, cover pages and cutting corners with the use of fonts bigger than the recommended New Times Roman Font Size 12. This class demands a high level of thoughtful answers drawing on examples of beliefs and practices of Christianity in the wider society in which students take this course.
5. Draw upon experiences from life to develop critical skills need to distinguish answers and score good points. Also, practice thinking independently by explaining why you are drawn to the texts selected for study.
6. End with a statement on something different learned about theology from your comparative study.
7. Provide bibliographical information about the reader or Works Cited, the give the number, title and pages of each of the texts used to produce an essay.

WHEN PROVIDING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF STUDY

1 Start by giving the number and title of excerpt with page references e.g.

1.4 Augustine on Philosophy & Theology, pp. 7-8 or

1.2 Clement of Alexandria of Philosophy and Theology, pp. 6-7.

Then provide answers which show that you grasp the background and identity of the author (including dates of birth and significance) as you start giving your answer. Then use the second paragraph to relate you answer to at least one or two of the Colonnade Program Learning Outcomes on page 1 of the syllabus. **AVERAGE LENGTH = 1 PAGE per thoughtful answer.**

Works Cited

Alister E. McGrath, *Christian History: An Introduction*. Wiley Blackwell, 2013. *It is assumed you will provide in-text citations or footnotes depending on your writing skills.*

Alister E. McGrath (Ed.), *The Christian Theology Reader*, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2017.

1.4 Augustine on Philosophy & Theology, pp. 7-8

1.11 William of Ockham on Proofs of God's Existence, pp. 19-20

1.29 Paul Tillich on the Method of Correlation, pp. 43-47

Although allowed to look at websites that are approved by WKU, please not that this is time to master the literature provided by McGrath and learn from the ideas which have been used to produce arguments on different dimensions of Christianity which explain the different chapters of *The Christian Theology Reader*.

Interviews should be added onto this page too. Here is an example:-

Interview with Shane Sanders (Date 2/10/20)

Interview with Joseph Middleton (Date 2/11/20)

Interview with Cheyenne Silver (Date 2/12/20)

Interview with Pat Hodgson (Date 2/13/20)

END

Instructor: Professor Bella Mukonyora @ Western Kentucky University, Summer 2016.