

TH100 CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGY I
Vancouver School of Theology
Spring 2008
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The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major Christian doctrines in order to help them develop their own "functional theology," a theology that will work in their personal, professional, and public lives. In other words, the goal is to help you to think theologically for yourself. The plan is to assist you in this task by acquainting you some theological voices from both the past and the present.

The course will meet for lectures and discussions on Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Lectures, readings, and discussions will be coordinated thematically; it is therefore important that each week's readings be done before Thursday.

In addition to the readings and participating in the discussions, there are two brief writing assignments and one longer one. The short papers are two three-page double-spaced responses to a question on an assigned topic. The questions and due dates are listed in the course outline. Writing these short reflection papers will help prepare you for the longer assignment, which is your Credo.

The Credo is a statement of your most basic beliefs. It should be approximately 10 double-spaced pages. It is a challenging project, but meant to be just the first of many such Credos over your lifetime. It is to be a statement of personal faith, but a carefully reasoned and thought-through one. The Credo should attempt a holistic vision of Christian faith (from where you presently stand and with the help of other theologies). It should identify the context of your theology as there is no "theology in general." The Credo should not conceal points of doubt or uncertainty. It is an exercise in self-examination in light of your tradition and present understanding. It is understood that this is a very beginning effort, with perhaps more questions than answers!

The principal texts for this course, all available at the UBC Bookstore are:

Dorothee Soelle, Thinking About God: An Introduction to Theology (Trinity Press International 1990 pb).

Daniel L. Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Faith Second edition Eerdmans 2004 pb)

Serene Jones and Paul Lakeland, eds., Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes (Fortress Press 2005 pb)

"Christian Perspectives on Theological Anthropology," WCC
Faith and Order Study Document #199.