

COURSE INTRO

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many people imagine themselves speaking for and against making God an important part of our human life. Yet, who has actually *seen* God? Who has actually *understood* God? Who can actually *explain* God's ways? Who can actually *describe* God's nature? There is a solid biblical foundation for saying that Christians believe in God, Whom they have not seen, do not understand, cannot explain, and will not fully describe. For these reasons, Christians depend on God continually making Godself recognizable in the Persons of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. For these reasons, theology is commonly understood as ***faith seeking understanding***.

This class introduces students to theology and its history of getting God's help to understand God. Students will learn (1) the key vocabulary and concepts of Christian theology, (2) the habits of thinking theologically and integratively about the content of Christian faith, and (3) the relevancy of theology in the modern world.

2. COURSE PROCESS

Through the semester, this content will be taught through:

- 🗣️ in-class lectures/discussion which will summarize the main points of the corresponding sections of Daniel Migliore's *Faith Seeking Understanding*,
- 📖 readings assigned to enhance student observations about the defining traits of Christian theology in general, which will be connected to
- 🧠 examinations of student understandings of the key vocabulary and concepts of Christian theology. These learning opportunities will begin to enable students to think through, talk about, and live out the tough-to-express theological dimensions of their own lives, in a way that is informed by Christian theology.

3. COURSE GOALS

This course does not presume a religious background. The instruction received in this course will enable all students to:

- 🎓 Describe what is meant by the term "theology."
- 🎓 Recognize key sources, traits, developments, and people in theology, and
- 🎓 Understand and define the key theology vocabulary and concepts listed in Migliore's *Faith Seeking Understanding*

In addition to these Instructional Objectives (IO), this course will help students grow in their abilities to:

- ⚡ Think in systematic and integrative ways about the vocabulary and concepts of Christian theology
- ⚡ Use theological resources to connect with traditional Christian beliefs and engage new theological ideas, and
- ⚡ Better present and explain their own theological ideas in a way that is informed by – yet also distinct from – the insights of important academic, religious/spiritual, and cultural voices that they consult on a regular basis.
- ⚡ Use PowerPoint and similar presentation platforms to organize and express ideas in academic, team, and professional contexts.

Scan this QR Code to read about the Top Skills Employers Look for in College Graduates, all of which this class will help you to develop!

