

# Apostolic Theological Seminary

## Introduction to Theological Research

“...THE MAIN SOURCE OF DOCTRINE IS NOT THEOLOGICAL SPECULATION,  
BUT THE LIFE OF WORSHIP.” \* JUSTO L. GONZÁLEZ

Rancho Cucamonga, California

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• Course: <http://drpablojimenez.net/courses-workshops/introduction-to-theological-research/>

### I. Course Description

Departing from a clear definition of the term “theology”, the course will consider the theological method; the difference between systematic, biblical and practical theology; and different ways of studying the Bible.

### II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

**Aim:** The general aim of the course is to facilitate students entry into the world of theological studies.

**Specific Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define the concept “Theology”.
- Discuss the differences between systematic, biblical and practical theology.
- Define the concept “theological method”.
- Understand the may theological and biblical keywords.
- Research a theological concept.
- Research a biblical text for a seminary-level Bible study.

### III. Format and Procedures:

1. This is a “hybrid” course where students will find resources and submit their papers and quizzes online.
2. The professor will offer **lectures** and will conduct **group exercises** on each assigned topic.

3. Lectures will be enhanced with **computer-generated presentations** and handouts.

**IV. Course Requirements:** Whatever tasks and assignments you include in your course should be aligned with the specified learning outcomes (final learning state, skills, knowledge, attitudes and values the students leave the course with) you have defined and specified earlier.

**1. Class attendance and participation policy:** Students will accumulate up to 20 points per class day, up to 100 points.

**2. Course readings:** Students must read the following books BEFORE the course begins:

Butler, Trent. ***Six Ways to Study the Bible***. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2010. Kindle Code: [http://www.amazon.com/Ways-Study-Bible-Trent-Butler-ebook/dp/B004LE924G/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1440719865&sr=1-1&keywords=Six+ways+to+study+the+bible+butler](http://www.amazon.com/Ways-Study-Bible-Trent-Butler-ebook/dp/B004LE924G/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1440719865&sr=1-1&keywords=Six+ways+to+study+the+bible+butler)

Stone, Howard W. & James O. Duke. ***How to Think Theologically***. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013. Kindle Code: [http://www.amazon.com/How-Think-Theologically-Howard-Stone-ebook/dp/B00FE0LPY6/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1440719669&sr=1-1&keywords=how+to+think+theologically](http://www.amazon.com/How-Think-Theologically-Howard-Stone-ebook/dp/B00FE0LPY6/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1440719669&sr=1-1&keywords=how+to+think+theologically)

Thielicke, Helmut. ***A Little Exercise for Young Theologians. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing***, 1962. Kindle: [http://www.amazon.com/Little-Exercise-Young-Theologians-ebook/dp/B0037HPJCM/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1440718797&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Little-Exercise-Young-Theologians-ebook/dp/B0037HPJCM/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1440718797&sr=8-1)

**3. Online Quizzes:** Each student will answer an online quiz on each of the required readings, for a combined grade of 100 points:

- Quiz on Thielicke (20 points)
- Quiz on Stone & Duke (40 points)
- Quiz on Buttler (40 points)

**4. Electronic Journal:** Students will post four electronic journal entries on the assigned website. Each entry must have a minimum of 400 and a maximum of 500 words. Each entry will have a value of 25 points, for a combined grade of 100 points. The required subjects are:

- Why you want to study theology?
- What is “Theology”?
- What is the Bible? Why is important to study the Bible?
- What is the relationship between systematic, biblical and practical theology?

**5. Forum:** Each Student must comment, at least, five of the journal entries of his or her fellow students. Comments must be civil and thoughtful. Each comment will have a value of 20 points, for a combined grade of 100 points.

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	100% - 95 %	400 - 380
A-	94% - 90%	379 - 360
B+	89% - 87%	359 - 348
B	86% - 83%	347 - 332
B-	84% - 80%	331 - 320
C+	79% - 77%	319 - 308
C	76% - 73%	307 - 292
C-	72% - 70%	291 - 280
F	69% - 0%	279 - 0

## V. Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the ATS’s Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lectures and the sections with other students. However, such cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a disk, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Copying and pasting material from the Internet or other electronic resources will also be penalized. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

## VI. Accommodations for students with disabilities

The professor will be available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities or suffering sudden illness. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first two days of class, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made.

## VII. Course Schedule: (*May change as needed*)

Date	Activities	Readings	Format
<b>October 5 AM</b> Introduction to the course Discussion of the Syllabus	Read the Syllabus & connect to the Online Support webpage	Thielicke, Introduction and Chapters 1 to 5	
<b>October 5 PM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> From Sunday School to Theological School	Begin your electronic journal, describing why you want to study theology	Thielicke, Chapters 6 to 13	Journal entry electronically submitted
<b>October 6 AM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> What is Theology?	Quiz on Thielicke	Stone & Duke, Introduction & Chapters 1 & 2	Quiz electronically submitted
<b>October 6 PM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> What is the theological method?	Continue your electronic journal, defining the concept "Theology".	Stone & Duke, Chapters 3 & 4	Journal entry electronically submitted
<b>October 7 AM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> How to research and write a theological paper?	Quiz on Stone & Duke	Stone & Duke, Chapters 5 to 10	Quiz electronically submitted
<b>October 7 PM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> What is Biblical Theology?	Directed reading on Biblical Theology	Butler, Introduction and Chapters 1 to 3	Reading electronically submitted
<b>October 8 AM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> How to study the Bible?	Quiz on Butler	Butler, Introduction and Chapters 4 to 6	Quiz electronically submitted
<b>October 8 PM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> How to research and write an exegetical paper?	Continue your electronic journal, describing how you view of the Bible.	Butler, Appendixes 1 to 7	Journal entry electronically submitted
<b>October 9 AM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> What is practical theology?	Directed reading on Practical Theology	Supplementary readings to be provided by the professor	Reading electronically submitted

<b>October 9 PM</b> <b>Lecture:</b> What are the major disciplines related to practical theology?	Finish your electronic journal, discussing the relationship between systematic, biblical and practical theology.	Supplementary readings to be provided by the professor	Journal entry electronically submitted
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### VIII. Additional Readings

Dyrness, William A. & Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, et. al. ***Global Dictionary of Theology***. Grand Rapids, MI: IVP Academic, 2008.

González, Justo L. ***Essential Theological Terms***. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox Press, 2005.

González, Justo L., Editor. ***The Westminster Dictionary of Theologians***. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox Press, 2006.

Hayes, John H. & Carl R. Holladay. ***Biblical Exegesis: A Beginners's Handbook***, Revised Edition. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987.

Musser, Donald W. & Joseph L. Price, Editors. ***A New Handbook of Christian Theology***. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

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Soulen, Richard N. & R. Kendall Soulen. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*.

**For further information, please contact Dr. Jiménez at:**

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