

**BUCKEYE BRETHREN INSTITUTE**  
**SYLLABUS: Introduction Christian Theology**  
**SPRING TERM 2025**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Tina Hunt

Address: 804 E. 7th Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805

Cell Phone: 567-203-8872

Email: [tmh4957@gmail.com](mailto:tmh4957@gmail.com)

**DATES & TIMES:** (2025—All Fridays) February 28, and March 14 and 28; 9:30am - 3:30 pm with an hour planned for lunch at approximately 12 noon. We will be meeting at the District Office and Zoom will be available for those who need it.

**LOCATION:** NOCOB District Office, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805

**PURPOSE:** This course will discuss the basic doctrines of the Christian Faith, as well as, some variation on those beliefs. Throughout the course, the historically Brethren/Anabaptist position will be emphasized where it is distinguishable from other traditions.

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this unit, the student will:

- A. Be able to identify four areas of current theological debate, place them in an historical context and identify appropriate ways of addressing the issues.
- B. Be able to identify four major Christian theologians, place them in an historical context and identify the contributions they have made to an understanding of the church's faith.
- C. Be able to identify the major theological streams of his/her congregation and articulate how beliefs and faith are formed in the congregation.
- D. Be able to define the relationship between theology and practice and the relationship to a particular life issue.
- E. Be able to articulate a "theological confession of faith" that expresses the student's basic convictions regarding the Christian message.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. The Bible
2. Another Way of Believing A Brethren Theology, Dale W. Brown, 2005, Brethren Press
3. Practicing Christian Doctrine An Introduction to Thinking And Living Theologically, Beth Felker Jones, Baker Academic, 2023

**GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- attendance at all classes
- engaged participation in all class activities
- complete reading assignments as scheduled
- complete the writing assignments to be submitted as scheduled

In case of a participant needs to miss a class (due to illness or scheduling), to receive credit for the class the participant will need to watch the class recording (all classes are recorded off Zoom). Additionally they will have to choose three (3) points of class discussion to react to and share their reaction in a paper. -

If a participant has to miss more than one class (2) they will not receive credit for the course and will be required to retake the course.

#### CLASS OUTLINE:

##### 1. OUR FIRST CLASS: (February 28, 2025)

In our first class, we will discuss what Theology is and the varying doctrines about God and Scripture. We will go over the assigned text reading and articles provided.

##### 2. OUR SECOND CLASS - (March 14, 2025)

In our second class, we will discuss the doctrines of humanity, Sin, the person and work of Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We will go over the assigned text reading and articles provided.

##### 3. OUR THIRD CLASS – (March 28, 2025)

In our third class, we will discuss doctrines of salvation, the church, and the last things (Eschatology). We will go over the assigned text reading and articles provided.

#### SESSION ASSIGNMENTS:

Due 2/28/25

Bring to Class: Lyrics to 3 Hymns (either your personal favorites or congregational faves)

Reading: Another Way of Believing Chapters 1, 2, and 12, pages 1-30, and 171-190  
Practicing Christian Doctrine Chapters 1-4, pages 11-76

Response Paper: What Is Your Theology of God?

Due 3/14/25

Bring to Class: Lyrics to 3 Choruses (either your personal favorites or congregational faves)

Reading: Another Way of Believing Chapters 5-7, pages 61-108  
Practicing Christian Doctrine Chapters 5-7, pages 97-166

Response Paper: What Is Your Theology of Christ?

Due 3/28/25

Bring to Class: Titles to 3 Mainstream movies you feel deal with theology

Reading:  
Another Way of Believing Chapters 4, 11, 14, pages 49-60, 155-170, and 217-234  
Practicing Christian Doctrine Chapters 8-10, pages 167-236

Response Paper: What Is Your Theology of Sin/Salvation?

Response paper expectations:

3 pages.

Response paper 1:

Describe your understanding of God.

What are the words you use in your personal relationship with God?

How would you answer a non-believer's question: If God created the universe like you say, how can he care about me?

Response paper 2:

Describe your understanding of Jesus Christ.

How would you answer a non-believer's question: Is Jesus God?

(Extra points if you can clearly describe the trinity.)

Response paper 3:

Describe your understanding of Sin.

What does it mean to be saved?

How would you answer a non-believer's question: Is there really a hell where all unbelievers go?

#### ETHICS AND EXPECTATIONS:

This course complies with the Brethren Academy and BBI Policy on Citation Style and Plagiarism as described below:

“Integrity is central to life in community. In the Christian academic community, integrity means giving proper credit to people for the ideas and information we receive from them. It also means that the work we submit and represent as our own is really work we ourselves have done.

The Church of the Brethren 2008 Annual Conference Ethics in Ministry Paper (2008) Part III Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders states: ‘I will give credit for all sources quoted or extensively paraphrased in sermons and prepared papers. I will honor all copyrights’ (p. 8, Letter M).

“Plagiarism is using the work of other people without giving them credit, whether in written assignments, oral reports and sermons. The consequences for plagiarism will vary according to the extent of the offense. These may range from rewriting the assignment, non-crediting the assignment, or non-crediting the course.”

Instructor's instructions and expectations for papers

Use a 12pt font. (Times New Roman, Calibri, Ariel)

Double space all documents and indent each new paragraph.

Demonstrate your understanding of the material—do not merely rehash.

Cite all sources within the document.

Putting quotes around a bunch of words without attribution is unacceptable.