



Eston College Online

Thinking Theologically: Fostering a Gospel-Shaped Imagination

30 Hours

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I. Course Description

God calls us to love and worship him with our whole beings: heart, soul, strength and mind. If that is true, then learning to think theologically is not an optional discipline, but essential to the healthy formation of every Christian believer. Fostering a Gospel-shaped imagination means being embedded in the overall storyline of the Bible so we can learn how to apply the narrative of God's redemption to our everyday life and mission as Christians.

II. Learning Outcomes

A. Primary Student Outcomes. Upon completion of this course, you will...

1. Understand the overarching storyline of the Bible and the key theological doctrines of the Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada and Eston College.
2. Gain the skills for applying the Gospel narrative to real life situations through an integrated biblical worldview.

B. Learning Objectives. Upon completion of this course, you will...

Cognitive (Head) – After completing this course you will...

1. understand the basic theological tenets of Christian theology.
2. articulate the overall flow and shape of the biblical story.
3. learn how to think about everyday life issues with a more integrated and biblically-grounded worldview.

Affective (Heart) – After completing this course you will...

4. grow in a deeper love for God as we explore his Word.
5. appreciate the value of stories for shaping life and meaning.
6. encounter your own brokenness and the assuring hope of Christ's redemption.

Conative (Hands) – After completing this course you will...

7. practice applying the Gospel story to real life situations and issues.
8. identify how the Christian faith comes into stark contrast with key issues in modern society.

9. consider a range of topics through a biblical lens that you might not typically think of as part of Christian living.

III. Course Evaluation & Assignments

To complete this course for credit with ACOP's credentialing, or for the sake of Eston College's future accreditation, complete the following assignments:

- A. Online Instruction. 4-5 hours of video; 5-10 hours of supplementary material. (50%): engage in full with the online instruction and any supplementary material for each lesson and topic.
- B. Reading & Book Interaction. 12-15 hours for reading; 6 hours for reflection paper; 18-21 hours total time investment. (50%): read one of the following textbooks (see below) and write a 3 page (750-900 word) paper summarizing the key points and thesis of the author, and how this book has shaped your own thinking.

OR

- C. Integrative Project (3 Options): Research Paper or Video Project or Artistic Project. 18-20 hours time investment (50%): Using the methods applied in the class, the student will produce a case study and 'think theologically' through a particular key issue, theme or area of life. Topics could include any aspect of church life, ministry, leadership, governance, spiritual tradition or practices, parenting, creation care, society, politics, justice and global issues, mental health and stigma, racism, education, grieving and dying, etc.
 1. Option 1: Research Paper. 6 pages, approx. 1,500-1,800 words, interacting with 12 sources including Scripture.
 2. Option 2: Video Sermon/Lesson. Record and produce a video lesson for an adult Sunday school / lecture / topical sermon style context. (30-45 minutes, integrating 12 sources, including Scripture).
 3. Option 3: Artistic Project. Create an artistic project in a chosen medium (poetry, musical composition, dance, fine arts, etc.) that demonstrate the issue you are interacting with and portray a theological engagement with the issues involved. (Example: four paintings, four sketches, or four pieces of music that illustrate the creation, fall, redemption and consummation of your chosen topic).

Assignment	Hours	Percentage
Complete Online Curriculum	10-15 hours	50%
Reading & Reflection <i>or</i>	15-20 hours	50%

Integrative Assignment		
Total:	30 hours	100%

IV. Bibliography

- A. Required Textbooks (when possible we choose books from the [Scribd library](#)):

For Reading & Reflection Assignment (choose one):

[Duvall, J. Scott & Daniel J. Hays. *Living God's Word*. 2nd ed. Zondervan: 2021.](#)

[Harrison Warren, Tish. *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*. 2019.](#)

[Koukl, Gregory. *The Story of Reality: How the World Began, How It Ends, and Everything Important That Happens in Between*. 2017.](#)

- B. Recommended Systematic Theologies for reference:

[Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983.](#)

[Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.](#)