THEO 101601 Introduction to Christian Theology I, 3 credits
Boston College Summer Session 2017
Summer 1, May 17-June 21
MW 6:00pm-9:15pm

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Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
This is the first session of a two-part course; this sequence of courses considers significant questions in conversation with some of the most important writings in the tradition of Western Christian thought. Its purpose is to encourage students by drawing systematically on primary sources of historical significance to uncover the roots of the Christian faith and life and to delineate the values for which this tradition of faith stands.

Textbooks & Readings (Required)
Robert W. Jenson, Can These Bones Live? A Theology in Outline (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Textbooks & Readings (Recommended)
The New Oxford Annotated Bible, 4th ed., NRSV (or another version of an NRSV, RSV, or ESV translation)
Canvas
Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will demonstrate...
1. A basic knowledge of the scope and method of Christian theology, including an understanding of its sources, history, and central themes.
2. An ability to engage in close and careful reading of primary texts and to articulately communicate an interpretation of these texts in oral and written form.
3. An awareness of the diversity of theology across cultural settings and the impact of culture, gender, and age in the practice of theological reasoning as demonstrated by the comparison of ancient and contemporary texts.
4. Attunement to the ethical ramifications of theological claims and concepts pertaining to God, creation, and the human person as demonstrated by contemporary application of and engagement with these claims.

Grading
Class participation: 10%
Quizzes: 15%
Exam 1: 25%
Exam 2: 25%
Final paper: 25%

The undergraduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:
A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67)
D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the Office of Student Services.

Deadlines and Late Work
Students are expected to turn in their work on time. Late submissions of work will not receive full credit. Ten percentage points are reduced for submissions received within twenty-four hours of the original due date. Ten additional percentage points are reduced for every twenty-four-hour period after that. Submissions will not be accepted after a four-day period. Extensions can only be granted under specific circumstances and must be requested by email prior to the submission date.

Course Assignments
This is an intensive summer course, condensing the work of an entire semester into only six weeks and twelve class sessions. For this reason, the reading assignments for each class session will exceed the quantity of work typically given in regular, academic term courses. It is expected that you will spend 8 hours per week on out-of-class assignments and exercises. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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| May 17 | Class Introduction           | Robert Jenson, “What is Theology?”  
                          | David F. Ford, “Thinking of God”  
                          | Christian Smith, “Moralistic Therapeutic Deism”                                      |
| May 22 | Story of Israel              | Robert Jenson, “Israel”  
                          | Genesis 12:1-9; 15  
                          | Exodus 19:1-23:19  
                          | Deuteronomy 5-11  
                          | Psalms 105-106  
                          | Ezekiel 37                                          |
| May 24 | Jesus                        | Robert Jenson, “Jesus and Resurrection”  
                          | Richard Bauckham, “The sources” and “Jesus in his 1st-century context”               |
| May 29 | Trinity                      | Robert Jenson, “The Triune God”  
                          | Richard A. Norris, “Introduction” to *The Christological Controversy*  
                          | Augustine, “Sermon 52”                                                                 |
| May 31 | Creation                     | Robert Jenson, “Creation”  
                          | Wendell Berry, “Economy and Pleasure”  
                          | Genesis 1-2  
                          | **Exam 1 in class**                                                                 |
| June 5 | Image of God                 | Robert Jenson, “Image of God”  
                          | Robert Louis Wilken, “Likeness to God”  
                          | Peter Singer, “Beyond the Discontinuous Mind”                                         |
| June 7 | Sin and Salvation            | Robert Jenson, “Sin and Salvation”  
                          | Martin Luther, “The Freedom of a Christian”  
                          | Romans 1-5:11                                                                        |
| June 12| Church                       | Robert Jenson, “Church”  
                          | Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ “A Eucharistic Church: The Vision of John Paul II”  
                          | Philip Jenkins, “Next Christianity”  
                          | Acts 1-4, 6-7, 10-11                                                                  |
| June 14| Lived Theology               | St. Augustine, *Confessions*, books 1-3  
                          | **Exam 2 in class**                                                                 |
| June 19| Lived Theology               | St. Augustine, *Confessions*, books 4-8                                                                 |
| June 21| Theology in film             | *The Tree of Life*  
                          | **Final paper due**                                                                   |
Written Work
Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using MLA style. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

Attendance
Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction of the student’s final grade.

Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

Accommodation and Accessibility
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- The Disabilities Services Office (DSO) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility.

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see the Boston College policy on academic integrity for more information.