



## THEO 502 - Christian Thought II

### Winter 2026

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Schendel

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Online: January 5 — March 13, 2026

3 Graduate Credits (127.5 hours)

**Online Meeting day/time:** Thursdays, 5-7:30pm (PST)

## Course Description

Theology, in the Christian tradition, is careful, attentive, and ordered inquiry into the existence, nature and acts of God. As part two of the Christian Thought sequence, THEO 502 attends to the external acts of God in creation, providence, salvation, and consummation.

## Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should understand and be able to articulate...

1. the method of Christian theology;
2. the articles of the Christian faith, and how they are distinguished from other Christian beliefs concerning which there have been internal discussion, debate, and disagreement, so that the student recognizes what is the unity of the Christian faith as well as its diversity.

Furthermore...

3. Students will come to a deeper awareness and appreciation of theology as not only an academic field of study, but also as *a way of life*, and a way of life that takes place *in community* (i.e. the church).
4. Students who complete the course readings and assignments will continue to develop skills in the basics of human communication: reading and writing.

**Nota Bene:** advancement in the art of reading is not simply *advancement in reading speed*, nor is it simply *advancement in reading comprehension*, that is, the ability to remember bits of information. Advancement in the art of reading is growth in two ways: first, it is growth in degree of understanding one has and it is growth in the *kind of person* one is becoming.

## Instructor Biography

Dr. Joshua Schendel holds a doctorate in Theology from Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO, USA), is Professor of Theology at Yellowstone Theological Institute, and an adjunct faculty member at Carey Theological College (Vancouver, Canada). He is the author of *The Necessity of Christ's Satisfaction* (Leiden: Brill, 2022). He lives with his wife, Bethanne, and three kids in Bozeman, Montana. He is also a certified philosophical counselor.

## Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI)

Synchronous Course	Weekly Hours of RSI
Live Course Meetings	2.5 hours
Assignments and Grading	1.5 hour
Course Communication or Office Hours	.25 hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.5 hours (10 weeks)</b>

## Course Texts

A *bible* (You can purchase and bring a bible of your choosing, but I ask that it be one of the following Translations: RSV, NRSV, KJV, NKJV, ESV, NASB).

Fred Sanders, *Union With Christ and the Life of Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Academic, 2025). ISBN: 9781540961723

PDFs of weekly readings will be made available to students on populi by the professor in time for the students to read them and create analytical outlines.

## Course Evaluation

1. *Participation* (20%): Because dialogue is integral to the learning process, each student will be evaluated on regular participation in class discussions and written participation in the discussion forum on Populi. It is expected that each student post *at least twice* per week in the online populi discussion forum: one, in answer to the question posed, a second in response to a classmate's post. Each post should be between 150-200 words in length.
  - **Due:** written posts for the populi discussions are due before each week's class time.
2. *Annotated bibliography* (10%): The student will compile and annotate a list of **at least 8 sources** that will be used for the final paper. Entries should follow Turabian formatting for bibliographical entries, and include: title of the book, authorship, publication info, brief summary paragraph of its content or thesis. A quick guide for Turabian sources may be found here: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/citation-guide.html>, and then select the "Notes and Bibliography Style." Citations should be New Times Roman and 12-

point font, with a hanging indent by .5. The annotations should be placed under the citations, as a separate paragraph that is justified both right and left side and indented on both right and left by .5. An example template will be provided on populi.

- Length: at least 8 sources. Annotation should be one paragraph for each source
- **Due: February 5, 2026 by 5pm PST.**

3. *Paper* (30%): The student will write a **3,000 word** (including footnotes but not including bibliography), researched, argumentative essay. That is, the essay will begin with an introductory paragraph, including a stated thesis, contain a body, in which the thesis is argued for and expounded, and conclude with a summary of the essay's argument. This essay must engage with at least **8 sources** (which may be the same as the annotated bibliography) that appear in the notes in the text and are included in a bibliography at the end of the essay. The paper should be in New Times Roman, 12-point font, and single spaced. Please use footnotes rather than endnotes. The **topic** for the paper must be one of the following: *The mission of the Son, The mission of the Holy Spirit, salvation in Christian theology, the Christian life, final beatitude*. These are broad topics, so that the student is encouraged to work with the professor to develop a narrower thesis within the topic. Students are encouraged to write this essay from within their own denominational traditions while also engaging sources that come from without those traditions.

- **Due:** beginning of second to last class period – **March 5, 2026 by 5pm PST.**

4. *Book review* (20%): Each student will write a 1000-1200 word book review of Fred Sanders, *Union With Christ and the Life of Faith*. This book should be read slowly throughout the duration of the term. The book review should first summarize the main argument of the book and then engage that argument from within the student's own denominational tradition: what was helpful? what, if anything, was unclear or confusing? what, if anything, was objectionable? Students are encouraged to look up a few different examples of book reviews published in academic, peer-reviewed journals, and then model their own review after the best of these examples.

- **Due:** beginning of final class period – **March 12, 2026 by 5pm PST.**

*Grading policy for late work:* Except for extenuating circumstances (to be determined at the discretion of the professor), assignments that are turned in late will receive the equivalent of a half grade reduction per day late. For example, a paper that receives a 95% grade but is one day late will be reduced to a 90%, if two days late, it will be reduced to an 85%, and so on. Each day late is counted as any time within 24 hours past the due date and time.

*Generative AI*

No use of generative AI is permitted for producing work for the required assignments in this course. Any works submitted that have any AI produced content will not be graded and will receive a zero for the grade of that assignment.

## Time Investment

Assignment	Hours Expected
Readings	47.5 hours
Weekly lectures	30 hours
Weekly discussions	10 hours
Annotated bibliography	5 hours
Final paper	25 hours
Book review	10 hours

**NB:** A 3-hour accredited master's level graduate course is calculated to include 127.5 hours of study per term, so approximately 12.5 hours per week. Please pace yourself and budget your time accordingly.

## Carey Grading Scale

Grade class	Descriptors		GPA	Detail	%
A class work:  Excellent, superior work	Effectively and exceptionally accomplishes all course outcomes and objectives. Work produced is excellent quality, of publishable quality, and benefits the wider Christian community. Shows exceptional growth/mastery. Exceptionally creativity and originality in approach to the subject.	A+	4.0	Special Commendation Work	100-98
		A	4.0	Consistent A-class work	97-94
		A-	3.7	Generally A-class work, some lapses and areas for refinement	93-90
B class work:  Good solid work	Accomplishes all course outcomes and objectives. Work produced is good quality, and beneficial to peers and fellow students. Growth/mastery of course material is good. Shows creativity and originality in approach to the subject.	B+	3.3	Primarily B-class, superior to some areas	89-87
		B	3.0	Consistent B-class work	86-84
		B-	2.7	Generally B-class work, some lapses and areas for refinement	83-80
C class work:  Possible but needs to improve	Accomplishes enough course outcomes and objectives to be passable. Work produced is not recommended for dissemination unless qualified. Growth/mastery is basic, but encouraged to repeat the course. Shows hints of creativity and originality, but not consistent.	C+	2.3	Primarily C-class work, better in some areas	79-77
		C	2.0	Consistent C-class work	76-74
		C-	1.7	Generally C-class work, but this is based on generous interpretation.	73-70

				Elements that fall significantly short, marginally passable	
F class work:  Not passable	Fails to accomplish course outcomes and objectives. Work should not be disseminated under any condition. Little to no growth/mastery of course material. Fails to show creativity or originality in approach to the subject.	F	0	Generally unpassable work.	69-0

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest and responsible scholarship. Students are expected to submit original work and give credit to other peoples' ideas. Academic dishonesty is acting in a manner to gain unearned academic credit. Examples of academic dishonesty are:

- Plagiarizing by misrepresenting the work of another person (in whole or in part) as a student's own work or failing to give credit for either wording or ideas that belong to another;
- Submitting the same material for credit in more than one course (whether the earlier submission was at Carey or another institution);
- Using unauthorized aids of any sort in examinations, completing work in unauthorized collaboration with others, or the unauthorized recording and use of class lectures;
- Incorporating material developed using generative-AI tools such as ChatGPT.

Instances of “substantial or severe plagiarism,” including substantial use of generative-AI, will result in a failure of that assignment with no possibility of revision, a report to the registrar, and the possibility of earning no grade higher than a “C” in this course. All students are responsible for knowing and practicing academic integrity and must become familiar with the plagiarism student resource at: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/academic-integrity/>.

## Course Withdrawal Policy

A student who withdraws after the period for which tuition refunds are available within the first half of the course will receive a “W” on their transcript. Beyond those dates, they will receive an “F.”

## Course Schedule

The following is the lecture schedule for the course. For readings required for each week, please see the “files” tab in populi and corresponding week folders. Please also see the “discussions” tab in populi for our weekly online discussions regarding these lecture topics.

[Prolegoumena]

### Week 1:

- Course matters
- The strange new world of theology (review of THEO 501)
  - Reading for next week: Jamieson and Wittman, *Biblical Reasoning*, ch. 9; Aquinas *STI* Q22 (pdfs on populi)

[Acts of God]

### Week 2

- Divine Missions
- Providence
  - Reading for next week: Aquinas, *STI-II* Q18, AA1-4; *STI-II* Q75, AA 1-3; & Webster “Love is also a Lover of Life” (pdfs on populi)

### Week 3

- The Doctrine of creation
- The Doctrine of the fall
  - Reading for next week: Jamieson and Wittman, *Biblical Reasoning*, ch. 8 and White, *The Trinity*, ch. 33 (pdfs on populi)

### Week 4

- The Incarnation
  - Reading for next week: Sanders, *Fountain of Salvation*, ch. 6 and Sanders, *Union With Christ*, ch. 3 (pdfs on populi).

### Week 5

- The Work of Christ: an overview
- Christ and the Christian life
  - Reading for next week: Cardinal Ratzinger, “The Holy Spirit: Mind, Spirit, Love”; Sanders, *Fountain of Salvation*, ch. 7 (pdfs on populi).

### Week 6

- Pentecost & the work of the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit and the Christian life
  - Reading for next week: Schendel, “God of Order: Human Nature and the Beatific Vision” and Sanders, *Fountain of Salvation*, ch. 5 (pdfs on populi)

### Week 7

- The Vision and Fruition of God
  - Reading for next week: John Webster, “The Domain of the Word” & “Biblical Reasoning”; Swain, *The Trinity and the Bible*, ch. 7 (pdfs on populi)

[Theology and Scripture]

### Week 8:

- Theological reading of Sacred Scripture, part I: *Regula Trinitatis* & *Regula Fidei*
  - Reading for next week: Vanhoozer, *Mere Christian Hermeneutics*, ch. 7; Aquinas, *STI* Q1 A10 & *Super Gal.*, C4 L7 (pdfs on populi)

### Week 9

- Theological reading of Sacred Scripture, part II: senses of scripture

## **Week 10**

- Term review & discussion