Course Syllabus

✎ Edit

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
— Indianapolis —

THL 105 Introduction to Theology 3 Credits

Semester and Year: First Five-Weeks, Summer 2025

Email: Contact via Canvas email

Required Textbook(s) & Materials:

Dennis M. Doyle, *What is Christianity? A Dynamic Introduction.*   Paulist Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8091-4993-3

For Module 5, you will be required to watch the documentary that is cited and linked below. Please budget your time accordingly.

Avni, R., Makhlouf, J., Rous, N.(Producers), Avni, R., Bacha, J. (Directors). (2006). *Encounter Point* ⇗ *(https://intranet.orbiseducation.com/Streaming/marian/encounterPoint.html)* .

⇗ **(https://intranet.orbiseducation.com/Streaming/marian/encounterPoint.html)** In addition to these books and materials, students will be required to supply their own **Christian Bible**. The New International, New American Standard, or Revised Standard Versions are preferred. If you do not have a Bible, the Bible on your laptop, iPad or Smart Phone is acceptable.

Additional Resources:

The Mother Teresa Hacklemeier Memorial Library at Marian University provides various databases **http://www.marian.edu/library/Pages/default.aspx** ⇗

- **Marian University requires all work be completed on a laptop or PC; this includes all exams and quizzes.**

Course Description:

Study of the meaning and nature of theology, theological issues such as the nature of God, human persons, Jesus the Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and an introduction to Scriptures, liturgy, sacraments and Christian morality. This course partially satisfies the general education curriculum standards of faith, ethics, and foundations of thought.

Course Goals:

Transformational Journey Program Learning Objectives

Objective	Method of Assessment
Faith, Reason, and Ethics- Criterion B: Exhibit self-awareness of faith and ethical beliefs.	Writing Assignments, Discussions, Exam

Transformational Journey Program (General Education) Learning Outcomes Explanation

Marian University's Transformational Journey Program (TJP) supports students in their pursuit to become transformative leaders in service to the world. The Transformational Journey Program (TJP) supports students in the pursuit of this mission and vision. Marian's TJP curriculum aligns with the six institutional-level outcomes that are central to intellectual, moral, social, physical, and spiritual development. The TJP courses, which support these areas of competency, provide the base for exploration in new areas of learning, for deeper understanding of previously acquired learning, for recognition of one's place in a global environment, and for examination of social and spiritual existence. Our four Franciscan sponsorship values and our Catholic and Franciscan intellectual traditions are integrated throughout the program. In essence, the Transformational Journey Program provides crucial development in our students' lifetime of learning, analysis, and leadership.

This course helps accomplish this by meeting the above TJP learning outcome.

Additional Learning Outcomes:

1. Recognize how key components of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition relate to contemporary discourse.
2. Apply transferable skills inherent in theological dialogue, including oral and written communication, textual analysis, and world view agility.

Soft Skills

Students who complete Introduction to Theology (THL 105) through Marian's Adult Program are able to develop and strengthen a number of skills essential for success in today's workforce. By the end of the course, students will have had three opportunities to strengthen their research and analysis skills. They are required to write two, short research papers in which they are encouraged to articulate their perspectives on the assigned topics and use outside resources to support their argument. They also complete a church report (The Faith Lived in Worship report due week 5) that requires them to research the history of a specific religious denomination and interview a pastor from a specific church. The church report also gives students several opportunities to demonstrate and strengthen their verbal communication skills. For the church report, students are asked to attend a church that is of a different denomination from their own, observe the service, interview the pastor, and then give a 3-to-5-minute presentation to the class during which they are asked to describe the similarities and differences between their own church experience and the new, unfamiliar church's experience. This church experience, in addition to discussions with fellow students of different religious backgrounds, teaches the student the importance of recognizing their own "frame of reference" and how this frame impacts the way they understand and process information, in addition to listening, acknowledging, respecting, and valuing viewpoints and frames of reference that differ from their own. Finally, the students have many opportunities to demonstrate self-leadership by taking personal responsibility for knowing the course syllabus and required deadlines and by understanding that excellence requires going above and beyond expectations. In summary, THL 105 encourages the development of written and verbal communications skills, research and analysis skills, and situational self-leadership skills all within an environment that fosters respect and esteem for a diversity of viewpoints.

Teaching Strategies

THL105 introduces the student to the *academic* study of Theology in general and Christian Theology specifically. It is not a Religion course or a Comparative Religions course. However, because many aspects of religion are actualizations and expressions of theological concepts, the student will be introduced to many facets of the Christian, and especially Roman Catholic, religious tradition.

In order to be successful in the course, the student is responsible for staying current on the reading and writing assignments while also engaging in a *critical* analysis of the concepts presented in the text books, lectures and class discussions. To fulfill the academic intent of the course, the student will be required to *objectively* explore theological concepts that may or may not be consistent with their own religious tradition.

Assignments & Assessment Methods:

Methods of Evaluation

Assignments & Values:

Week	Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Week 1	Introductions	2%
	"Self Insight" essay	10%
	Discussion Forum	4%
Week 2	Writing Assignment	10%
	Discussion Forum	4%
Week 3	Writing Assignment	10%
	Discussion Forum	5%
Week 4	Writing Assignment	10%
	Discussion Forum	5%
Week 5	Faith Lived in Worship Report	10%
	Faith Lived in Worship Presentation	5%
	Discussion Forum	5%
	Comprehensive Final Exam	20%
TOTAL GRADE		100%

Grading Scale

<div align="center">Grade Scale</div>

Grade	Points	Description of Grade
A	94-100	*Extraordinary* achievement. The *highest* level of achievement both technically and creatively. <u>Demonstrates mastery of subject matter.</u> Excellent in overall quality. Demonstrates initiative, desire, and ability to fully engage the topic and address course learning objectives. Goes above expectations.
A-	90-93.9	
B+	86-89.9	Achievement above average. Demonstrates understanding of subject matter. Good overall quality. Demonstrates initiative, desire, and ability to engage the topic and address course learning objectives.
B	83-85.9	
B-	80-82.9	Average achievement. Fair in overall quality, but it may be formulaic. Student is not highly sophisticated in reasoning, organization, or initiative. Student lacks initiative, desire, and/or ability to engage the topic and address course learning objectives. Strengths and weaknesses are more or less balanced.
C+	77-79.9	
C	74-76.9	
C-	70-73.9	Below average achievement. Below average in quality. Student has no initiative, desire, or ability to engage the topic or address course learning objectives. Student cannot demonstrate understanding or responsibility for course material. Assignment is completed as a "check the box" activity.
D+	67-69.9	
D	60-66.9	
F	≤59.9	Failure to successfully complete the assignment/course. Student demonstrates little or no responsibility or engagement with the course learning objectives.

Course Policies:

Late Policy & Due Date Extensions:

Assignments will close for submission 72 hours after the due date. Any assignment submitted late in that 72 hour time period will receive a 10% late penalty. For any final exam, paper, etc. that is due the last

day of the term/session, the 72-hour late policy does not apply past the date the term or session ends. Late initial posts in discussion boards will receive a 2-point deduction in the rubric.

Further extensions and accommodations, including exams, may be given consideration for unforeseen, documented hardships, such as medical emergencies, documentable technical issues, death of a loved one, travel and weather emergencies, etc. However, simply forgetting, time zone differences, going on vacation, or not preforming as well as intended are not acceptable excuses. If you believe an extension or accommodation is warranted, please contact your instructor.

Exam Retakes: Exams retakes are different than requesting and being granted an extension on an exam. There are no exam retakes allowed in this course. Once you open an exam, you're stating that you have prepared adequately for the exam and you're accepting the results of the exam.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit in this course.

Plagiarism Statement: Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another as your own without giving credit to the source author. This also includes taking a paper found online and submitting it as one's own paper and/or cutting and pasting from a website and submitting it as your work product.

Plagiarism is defined in detail in the **Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities** ⤏ **(https://www.marian.edu/docs/default-source/campus-life/codeofstudentrightsandresponsibilities.docx? sfvrsn=14)** under Section 8: Academic Conduct Procedures, as well as an extended description of academic dishonesty.

The following are some helpful websites for understanding plagiarism, documentation and citation:

- Marian University's library: **https://www.marian.edu/current-students/library** ⤏ **(https://www.marian.edu/current-students/library)**
- Plagiarism.org: **https://plagiarism.org/** ⤏ **(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/plagiarism.org/__;!!DUogwUQ!T_yXRW2Aa1Gbx09gkwJ_Q3X0PNE2K**
- Purdue OWL: **https://owl.purdue.edu/** ⤏ **(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/owl.purdue.edu/__;!!DUogwUQ!T_yXRW2Aa1Gbx09gkwJ_Q3X0PNE2**

Adherence to Academic Integrity & Use of AI and Chat GPT
At Marian University, all students are called to uphold academic integrity in all their academic endeavors, including the responsible use of AI tools, reflecting both the institution's commitment to intellectual and moral integrity and its foundational Franciscan values. Students are expected to exemplify honesty, honor, and respect for the truth, demonstrating their intellectual and moral integrity as outlined in the **Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities** ⤏ **(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.marian.edu/academics/_assets/_documents/student-code-of-rights-and-responsibilities.pdf__;!!CSKv4JNZfdoHTMmavA!mnoa-UuWHQVxQI3HYxIUkwLmlsOK2XEQN2K3SBAym3puRjSHjMyHf9d9-cjFUO8NGAHGz6CvM_yc1gB84CSIKNqzFw$)** . By embodying these responsibilities, students contribute to a just and flourishing academic community. Students are

allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course if that use is properly documented and credited. For example, text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: "Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your query." Generated using OpenAI. **https://chat.openai.com/** ⮕ **(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://chat.openai.com/__;!!CSKv4JNZfdoHTMmavA!mnoa-UuWHQVxQl3HYxlUkwLmlsOK2XEQN2K3SBAym3puRjSHjMyHf9d9-cjFUO8NGAHGz6CvM_yc1gB84CQ5dxyFUQ$)** " Material generated using other tools should follow a similar citation
convention. Decisions are at the discretion of the instructor, so students are encouraged to communicate with their instructors.

Accommodation/Accessibility Statement: Marian University, through policy and practice, is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience, or anticipate experiencing, barriers to your education due to a disability please contact the Personalized Learning Center by emailing **plc@marian.edu (mailto:plc@marian.edu)** or calling **317.955.6540** to start a conversation.

Although a student may request an accommodation at any time, it is best to initiate the accommodation process as early as possible as it may take time to complete the interactive process and accommodations will not be implemented retroactively. If a reasonable accommodation is determined, a Course Accommodation Letter will be created at the Personalized Learning Center for the student to provide to their faculty members with information related to their accommodations. Faculty will not set up disability-related accommodations without a current semester Course Accommodation Letter.

Faculty, Staff or Student questions or concerns regarding the accommodation process can be sent to **plc@marian.edu (mailto:plc@marian.edu)** or Mandie Greiwe, **agreiwe@marian.edu (mailto:agreiwe@marian.edu)** , Director of the Personalized Learning Center.

Diversity & Inclusion Statement: Marian's Adult and Online Programs (MAP) at Marian University is a collaborative academic community committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community across the intersections of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability status, socio-economic background, political perspective, culture, immigration status, and national origin. Online programs is committed to creating a safe and just environment of respect for students, faculty, and staff following our shared Franciscan values.

**Any changes to this syllabi will be communicated to the student.

Please click here to download a PDF of the syllabus. (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/files/318535719?wrap=1) ⭳ (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/files/318535719/download?download_frd=1)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
	💬 **Discuss Module 1.2: Big Questions in Life (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195753)	due by 11:59pm
	💬 **Discuss Module 1.6: Images for God (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195751)	due by 11:59pm
	💬 **Discuss: Class Introductions (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195752)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Submit: Writing Assignment 1** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195763)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 14, 2025	💬 **Discuss Module 2.5: The Lockless Door by Robert Frost (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195754)	due by 11:59pm
	💬 **Discuss Module 2:2: The Development of the Old Testament (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195755)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 16, 2025	📝 **Submit: Writing Assignment 2** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195764)	due by 11:59pm
Sat May 17, 2025	💬 **Discuss: Which Church do you Plan to Attend?** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195761)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 21, 2025	💬 **Discuss Module 3.3: The Suffering Image of Jesus (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195756)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 23, 2025	📝 **Submit: Writing Assignment 3** (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195765)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 28, 2025	💬 **Discuss Module 4.3: Christian Existence (Initial Posts Due on**	due by 11:59pm

The "Wed May 7, 2025" date label appears in the Date column spanning the first four rows.

Date	Details	Due
	Wednesdays) **(https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195758)**	
Fri May 30, 2025	📝 **Submit: Writing Assignment 4** **(https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195766)**	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 4, 2025	💬 **Discuss Module 5: Encounter Point (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** **(https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195759)**	due by 11:59pm
	💬 **Discuss Module 5: Faith Lived in Worship Presentation (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)** **(https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195757)**	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Submit: Writing Assignment 5** **(https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195767)**	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jun 7, 2025	🚀 **Take: Final Exam** **(https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545452/assignments/50195750)**	due by 11:59pm