REL 114 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY
Final Paper

This final written assignment is a critical essay on a book of your own choice.

You are to choose a book in some area of theological studies. Perhaps the best approach is to first determine a subject area in theology/religious studies that is of some interest to you and then to find a book in that area. The book should be of a reasonable length (no less than 100 pages – and this is a minimum guidelines).

This is an opportunity to explore ideas in theology, faith and religion that interest you. Among the topic areas you might consider are:

- Fundamental theology: the question of God, belief/faith, the Christian response to atheism. This can include areas like the relationship between religion/theology and science.
- Comparative religion: Christianity in relation to other religions, contemporary issues in religion, e.g. fundamentalism.
- Christology: the Person and work of Jesus Christ, the “historical Jesus”, the Resurrection, teachings about Christ.
- The Church, its worship, the sacraments, church history.
- Particular approaches to theology, e.g. Feminist theology, liberation theology.
- A particular figure in theology, i.e. a specific theologian.

The paper itself should include the following:

- A synopsis of the author’s thesis or main points.
- What questions were answered or raised for you in reading this book? How did the author engage you, challenge you, affirm you?
- Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?
- Please note that one element in evaluating this paper will be the propriety of your choice of a book – that is, can you recognize a theological book when you see one? Avoid “light reading” or “Christian self-help” books.

Due: Friday, Nov. 30th. – length: 4-5 pp.
No Thesis Statements this week.