Intro to Theology—RELS 114-H
Dr. Argall
Paper 2 Assignment

Write a 1,000 word paper. Use 12-point font and one inch margins. The lines of the text should be double-spaced. Write in complete sentences. Print your paper and bring it to class on December 6.

Recall the course objectives from the syllabus:
As a result of taking this course, you should gain the following:
1. A familiarity with the standard topics of Christian theology.
2. An ability to discuss selected readings from major Christian theologians of the past and present.
3. An acquaintance with a wide range of theological perspectives within the Christian tradition.
4. An increased ability to think critically and theologically.
5. An appreciation for the attempt to integrate Christian faith and a modern scientific worldview.
6. A better understanding of your own theological views or non-theological viewpoint.

In the first paper, I asked you to write about your own theological views or non-theological viewpoint in order to give you a base line for beginning this course. Course objective 6 is that you will gain “a better understanding of your own theological views or non-theological viewpoint.” Now that you have this base line, and most of the course work behind you, you can take the next step.

In this second paper, I want you to look at course objectives 1-5 and to write about how or to what extent these objectives have been met in your case and how they have contributed to giving you a better understanding of your own views (objective 6).

Provide specific examples in your paper. A good paper will touch on the following points:
1. How has becoming familiar with a standard theological topic(s) in McGrath’s Theology the Basics given you a better understanding of what you believe or do not believe? Explain. This is objective 1.
2. Which related reading(s) in the Basic Readings text helped clarify your own view? Explain. This is objective 2. Show me an ability to write about a particular theologian and accurately report his or her claims.
3. How has a specific perspective within the Christian tradition impacted your own view? This might be the perspective of modern science, or feminist theology, or liberation theology—or some other. This covers objectives 3 and/or 5.
4. The paper should demonstrate that you know how to use theological terms appropriately, and that you can recognize relationships between theological concepts and between these concepts and your own experience. This relates to objectives 4 and 6.

In sum, the paper is a personal assessment of how and to what extent the work you have done in this course has influenced your own theological thinking.