

Th801: Introduction to Theology

Study Guide

Course Overview

The textbook (see the Resource Room main page) for this course contains thirteen topics. These topics will provide the theological knowledge and foundation for the seven remaining Major Core courses and the four Minor Core Subject papers.

Project One

Part One: Read the textbook for the course. Make notes on each of the thirteen topics. These notes will be for your personal use as you complete the requirement for Part Two. Do not include the notes with your Projects submitted for this course.

Part Two: Create an Annotated Outline for each of the thirteen topics. Each Annotated Outline should contain enough information so that you could teach the topic using only the Annotated Outline. Title each of the Annotated Outlines with the **Topic title**, followed by: **Th801 Project One**.

Example: **Topic title: Th801 Project One**

An outline consists of a set of Roman Numerals and capital alpha letters for each Roman numeral, and details what you consider to be the most important elements or sections in the textbook. It is possible that your Roman numerals will match the chapter numbers. In this instance, the A.; B.; C.; etc. will contain the key elements in the chapter.

Use the Annotated Outline method so that you can write complete thoughts and ideas for both the Roman numerals and the alpha characters. Some textbooks will be a bit more complicated than others. Please remember this. There is no minimum for word requirement. Be certain to demonstrate your familiarity with the contents of the book in your Annotated Outline.

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Example:

I.

- A.
- B.
- C.

II.

- A.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B.
 - 1.
 - 2.
- C.

Use as many Roman Numerals and alpha letters as necessary for your Outline. The outline should be complete enough to use for teaching the course.

Project Two

Write a Response (Reaction) Essay of not less than three pages in length on each of the thirteen topics in the textbook. Use your Annotated Outlines while writing the papers to assist in the structure and sequence of the papers. See Appendix I “How to Write a Response (Reaction) Essay” for instructions.

Each of the thirteen Response / Reaction Essay papers must display both the Topic title, and **Th801 Project Two**.

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Submission Instructions

Project One, Parts One and Two, and Project Two, must be submitted as a single unit. Use the Cover Page template in the Major Core section of the Resource Room for each Submission.

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APPENDIX I

How to Write a Response (Reaction) Essay

A response (reaction) essay is generally meant to provide the reader with a better understanding of how you personally feel about the textbook or audio lecture subject. As such, when you write the response or reaction essay, you will discuss your personal thoughts and feelings on the subject. Biblical materials allow a broad range of expression.

A response or reaction essay is written in the first person. This means you will use the word “I” while writing the essay.

Because you are writing your personal response to the materials presented by the author or lecturer, your introductory paragraph will contain a thesis statement that asserts your point of view. The following portion of the essay will be used to support your thesis.

Your thesis statement should begin “I think that...” or “In my opinion...” or use something similar to these. You will use the same types of phrases throughout your response or reaction essay. Your essay will not rely on facts, because it focuses on your personal opinions, doctrinal position, or biblical interpretation.

However, you will use facts that you know, or your own observations, to help support your opinions. As you write, you may say “In my opinion, the lecture (or textbook) was very confusing because the speaker (or author) used too many words that were unfamiliar to me and changed the point of view too often.” Although another Institute student may not have a problem with the words, or keeping track of the changes in point of view, it is a fact that you did not know many of the words and the speaker did make frequent changes in his/her point of view.

After supporting your thesis statement with the body of your response or reaction essay, you will then write a conclusion. The conclusion is used to summarize what you have said and to once again state your thesis or opinions. Be sure to state your thesis in a different way than you stated it in the introduction. Redundancy is a sign of poor writing and unacceptable at the Graduate and Post-Graduate levels.