



A MINISTRY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY  
IN COOPERATION WITH ABC-GI ALONG WITH SPONSORING  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS

## **C104-Introduction to Theology**

**July 16, July 30, August 13 & August 27, 2022**

### **Instructor Contact Information**

Rev. Rodney J. Lynch  
Cell: (765) 421-2034  
Email: [pastor@thefoundatpurdue.org](mailto:pastor@thefoundatpurdue.org)

### **Description and Purpose**

This theology class will enable you to define what you mean by “theology.” You will engage with classmates in discussing doctrines of Christian belief and ways we communicate our faith, and respond to challenges of faith in the twenty-first century. We will also explore some contemporary issues of life, and how we approach them in the light of what we believe—how we “do faith.”

### **Focus of This Experience**

- As to the manner in which we will study, our class will be driven by discussion. To have an informed opinion, we must read the writings of others. To best understand what we read, we must write about and discuss our readings. This formula is tested through time and seems effective. We will read, listen, and write to learn. We are all expected to respect the opinions, whether you agree or not, of the instructor and your peers.
- Each session, you will be asked to write a few one-paged papers on your reading. Please share the ideas that your reading stimulates and show that you have read the text by what you write. By reading and writing, we will have much more interesting discussions in class. I am looking for content in writing, not grammatical perfection. These papers should be typed and emailed to the instructor. They will not be graded, but I will take them seriously, so I hope you take them seriously too.
- It is very likely the instructor will present handouts for each class. These handouts will be the writings of other theologians who are discussing the topics we are addressing each session. These handouts will be both read and discussed in class. This will not constitute extra work for you outside of class.

## **Required Texts**

1. How To Think Theologically: Third Edition, by Howard W. Stone & James O. Duke, Fortress Press, 2013.
2. Let The Oppressed Go Free, Exploring Theologies Of Liberation, by Marvin A. McMickle, Judson Press, 2020.

## **Student Expectations**

1. Attend all live class sessions whenever possible.
2. If you will be absent, contact the instructor in advance via call, text or email.
3. Be prepared for each live class session.
4. Participate in the live class sessions.
5. Support and encourage classmates.
6. Communicate with the instructor, especially if you have any questions or concerns.
7. Please have the following available during each pre-recorded and live class session:
  - Textbooks
  - Good English translation of the Bible; additionally, a Spanish translation of the Bible may be brought, if desired.
  - Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
  - 2 pens/pencils (electronic device to take notes, if preferred)
  - Syllabus, handouts & assignments

## **Requirements to Earn Credit**

1. Meet expectations for students listed above.
2. Complete all assignments—including watching pre-recorded material before class sessions.
3. Participate in class discussions and exercises.
4. Read additional articles or blogs as may be assigned.
5. Attend at least 9 of the 12 hours of the zoom class sessions.
6. If absent more than 30 minutes of any class session, earn an excused absence by doing the following:
  - a. contact the instructor about your absence (preferably before the absence, but at least within 72 hours of the absence);
  - b. watch the recording of the class session you missed;
  - c. complete a special assignment given by your instructor in addition to regular assignments; this is usually an enriching experience that will pertain to the class time the student missed in some way.
  - d. complete a special assignment given by your instructor in addition to regular assignments; this is usually an enriching experience that will most likely pertain to the class session the student missed in some way.

## Class Sessions

### Class Outline and Schedule of Assignments

- Assignments listed under each live class session date need to be completed, typed & emailed to the Instructor *before* the class session meets.
- Students are strongly encouraged to schedule blocks of time each week into their personal calendar for completing preparation for each live class session.
- Complete assigned reading in the texts and handouts with capability to discuss the material and join in the discussion.
- Out of respect for your instructor and classmates, *please be prepared*.

#### **Doctrines of Christian belief to be discussed:**

Theology-doctrine/study of God, Christology-doctrine of Jesus Christ, Pneumatology-doctrine of Holy Spirit, Soteriology-doctrine of Salvation, Eschatology-doctrine of the End Times, Ecclesiology-doctrine of the Church.

For more information on these terms, see glossary in the book, How To Think Theologically, by Howard W. Stone & James O. Duke

#### **Session 1—July 16, 2022**

##### Preparation Assignments:

- Read the Preface (ix, xi, and xiii – xv) & the introduction to How To Think Theologically, by Howard W. Stone & James O. Duke; the Foreword, Introduction, and chapters 1 & 2 in the book Let The Oppressed Go Free, Exploring Theologies Of Liberation, by Marvin A. McMickle, Also read Exodus Chapters 1 – 3 (focus on chapter 2:23-25 & chapter 3).
- Write a brief (no more than 1 page typed) statement on the meaning of theology for you? What are your theological tenets, beliefs that have shaped the core of your Christian commitment/belief in Jesus Christ? Be prepared to share your meaning of theology.
- Please come prepared to discuss the following: (1) What is your present area of ministry in the local church you serve? (2) What are your initial thoughts about Black Liberation Theology? In what ways do you think that the study of theology, specifically through the lens of liberation theology, may help you grow in ministry? (3) How might this class help you to grow both intellectually, spiritually, and socially, in order for you to minister/serve humanity even better?

##### Focus of 1<sup>st</sup> Class Session/Session One Objectives:

1. We will introduce ourselves, and share what we hope to learn from this course.
2. We will define what we mean by “theology,” and “liberation theology,” and why?
3. We will discuss the assigned readings for the day.
4. We will share our “What I Believe” statements regarding our own theological beliefs/tenets.

## **Session 2—July 30, 2022**

### Preparation Assignments:

Read pp. 50-96, in McMickle, and write 2 typed one-page responses. First, setting the captives free from poverty (chapter 3). Second, respond to the intersectionality of race and poverty in the USA (chapter 4).

### Focus of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Session:

1. We will discuss chapters 3 & 4 (liberation from poverty & the intersectionality of race and poverty, from the book Let The Oppressed Go Free, Exploring Theologies Of Liberation, by McMickle.
2. Be prepared to discuss your responses.

## **Session 3—August 13, 2022**

### Preparation Assignments:

Read chapters 5–8 (pp. 97-153), in McMickle, and write a 1-2 page typed response on chapter 5 or chapter 8.

### Focus of 3<sup>rd</sup> Live Class Session:

1. We will discuss chapters 5 – 8 (liberation of women through a multitude of lenses, from the book Let The Oppressed Go Free, Exploring Theologies Of Liberation, by McMickle.
2. Be prepared to discuss your responses.

## **Session 4—August 27, 2022**

### Preparation Assignments:

Read chapter 9–11 & the conclusion (pp. 178-231), in McMickle, and write a 1-2 page typed response on chapter 10 or chapter 11.

### Focus of 4<sup>th</sup> Live Class Session:

We will discuss chapters 9 – 11 (liberation theology from the women/s lens, from the book Let The Oppressed Go Free, Exploring Theologies Of Liberation, by McMickle. Be prepared to discuss your responses. In addition;

1. Students will discuss the ways in which they have used (and/or will use) their learning's/insights of liberation theology and how it has informed their own faith journey.
2. Students will have a one hour discussion with the author Dr. Marvin McMickle (Time: 2:00-3:00pm).
3. Turn in all work due to complete the requirements of this course.
4. Complete Evaluation Forms.

### **Tentative Daily Class Schedule**

**Sign-on or Arrive By 8:45AM**

9:00 - 10:15	Segment 1
10:15 - 10:30	BREAK
10:30 - 11:45	Segment 2
11:45 - 12:45	LUNCH
12:30 - 1:45	Segment 3
1:45 - 2:00	BREAK
2:00 - 3:30	Segment 4

### **Class Location/Participation Info**

**American Baptist Churches of  
Indiana and Kentucky office  
65 Airport Parkway, Suite 120  
Greenwood, Indiana 46143**

**(In-Person Option depends on ABC-IN/KY Covid-19  
Policy when class is scheduled to start)**

**OR**

**Via Zoom Live Streaming**

**(Link to be sent a few days before each live class session)**