

# Theological Foundations (TH 600)

## Course Syllabus

Last Updated: 1/24/19

### Class Info

Professor: Dr. Vincent Bacote  
Facilitator: Pastor John Kwak  
Facilitator E-mail: johnk@villagebeaverton.com  
Online Meeting Time: Thursdays, 7:00-8:15 pm  
Online Meeting Dates: 2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 4/18, 5/2 (On-campus opening session on 2/3, 12:45-2:00 pm, Willamette A, lunch provided)

Professor Bio: Dr. Bacote is an assoc. professor of theology and the Director of the Center for Applied Christian Ethics at Wheaton College, and an affiliate professor at Kilns College. He has a rich background in theology and religious studies. He has written multiple books including *The Political Disciple: A Theology of Public Life*. He enjoys teaching on the intersection of Christian ethics and public life.

Facilitator Bio: John Kwak is the Pastor of Adult Education at Village where he has been on staff since 2012. He has an M.A. in Philosophy from USC and another in New Testament from Biola University.

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the range of Christian beliefs (doctrines), their biblical basis and some of the prominent historical figures and/or traditions. The class will also consider the relationship between Christian faith and public engagement, with the aim of helping students to develop the ability to make thoughtful and clear connections between doctrine and practice.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to articulate the Biblical basis for the range of Christian beliefs.
- Students will become familiar with prominent historical figures and traditions of the Christian faith.
- Students will have a better understanding of the relationship between Christian faith & public engagement.
- Students will be able to make thoughtful, clear connections between doctrine & practice.

### Required Course Texts (Please purchase on your own)

- *The Political Disciple: A Theology of Public Life*, Vincent E. Bacote
- *Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples*, Michael Horton
- *Political Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed*, Elizabeth Phillips

### Recommended Texts

- *The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation*, Rod Dreher (Think about how you would respond to what the author says.)

### Course Requirements

To successfully receive credit for this class towards the completion of the VU certificate requirements, students must receive a final numerical grade of 75%. The individual class requirements are:

**Reading (40%)** – Reading assignments are indicated in the course schedule section of this syllabus and should be completed *prior* to watching the corresponding module's lecture videos. Please purchase the required texts on your own. Students will be asked to self-report what percentage of each module's reading they were able to complete on time.

**Video Lectures (30%)** – Lecture videos are made available through Kilns College's Canvas online classroom system. They will be released on a module-by-module basis according to our course schedule. Students are asked to view all the lecture videos for a given module, and post comments on the lecture discussion board for that module, *prior* to the online class meeting for that module. (Which specific lecture video you are to respond to on the discussion board will be determined by the class facilitator; they are indicated by "DB" in the course schedule below.) For the discussion board, each student is asked to submit the following:

- One paragraph comment on “What point from the lecture was most interesting or relevant for you and why? What is its practical benefit or application for you?”
- One paragraph comment on “What point from the lecture was most challenging for you or difficult to understand and why?”
- One detailed reply to one of the comments from another student.

Discussion Meetings (30%) – There will be periodic required online discussion meetings for each module, led by the class facilitator. These are designed to provide an opportunity to engage and discuss the material for that module. (They are not meant to be additional lectures.) In cases where a student must miss a session, they will have until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day following the live meeting to watch a recording of the meeting (posted to Canvas the next morning) and offer one paragraph responses on the discussion board for that video to each of the following questions:

- *What point from the class discussion stood out to you and why? Or, what additional point would you have liked to have contributed from the reading and lectures?*
- *What lingering, substantive question do you have about the material for this module?*

### Using the Online Canvas Platform

Populi Login: kilns.populiweb.com  
Canvas Login: kilnscollege.instructure.com

Note that when you log into Canvas and go to the “Dashboard”, you should see two classes listed. One is the actual VU class you’re enrolled in. The other is called “Canvas Overview for VU Students”. If you enter the latter and then click on “Modules” you will see several easy, short instructional videos on how to use the Canvas system. Please take a look!

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic/Lecture Video	Reading Assignment
Feb. 3	Opening Class Session	* None
Feb. 21, Module 1	<b>Theology: Friend of the Church</b> * Welcome Video * <u>Not for the Ivory Tower (DB)</u> * Says Who?	* Bacote, Ch. 1 * Phillips, Chs. 1-3 * Horton, Chs. 1-2
Mar. 7, Module 2	<b>Talking about God</b> * <u>Do We Really Need to Talk about the Trinity? (DB)</u> * Divine Attributes – What We Emphasize Matters	* Horton, Chs. 3-4 * Phillips, Chs. 4-6 * Bacote, Ch. 2
Mar. 21, Module 3	<b>God’s Creation and Our Responsibility</b> * Creation – It’s More than Origins, but Not Less * <u>Humans – Amazing &amp; Broken (DB)</u>	* Horton, Chs. 5-6 * Bacote, Ch. 3 * Phillips, Chs. 7-8, Conclusion * [Dreher, Introduction, Chs. 1-4]
Apr. 4, Module 4	<b>Knowing and Following Jesus</b> * Jesus the God-man * <u>Christ’s Work for Us (DB)</u>	* Horton, Chs. 7-8 * Bacote, Ch. 4 * [Dreher, Chs. 5-8]
Apr. 18, Module 5	<b>Salvation: Multiple Facets</b> * The Cross and Justification: Getting a Bigger Picture * <u>Saved to Be Holy in Private ... and Public (DB)</u>	* Horton, Chs. 9-14 * [Dreher, Chs. 9-10, Conclusion]
May 2, Module 6	<b>A Hopeful Church</b> * <u>The People of God (DB)</u> * The End of the Story – Living with Hope	* Horton, Chs. 15-19