

LONG BEACH CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, MTI
(Nondenominational School of Ministry)
COURSE SYLLABUS—THEISM
Summer 2025 | SEVEN WEEK COURSE | May 6 thru - June 17, 2025

Professor: **Dr. Mildred Oates**

Required Text (s): **No Other God, A Response to Open Theism**

Author: John M. Frame

ISBN: 10: 0-87552-185-1

Recommended Text: Holy Bible

Virtual Lecture Class Format: This class is a general introduction intended for students with computer access. The course will adopt a virtual (Zoom) classroom format. In this online teaching and learning environment, teachers and students can present and view course materials and lessons and engage and interact with one another. Each class will consist of prayer, lecture, readings, presentations, and/or guest speakers.

Course Description: THEISM – THY-400 (Accelerated Course)

A study of the doctrine of God, His nature, attributes, personality, and work. An in-depth study of the gospel; critical and analytical survey of the belief in a personal God as a Creator and Supreme Ruler.

Prerequisite: None

Course Objectives: Equip students with a biblical and theological understanding of Open Theism and how to respond to it from a classical theistic perspective.

the student be able to:

1. Define Open Theism
2. Analyze the Biblical Basis
3. Understand God's Omniscience in Open Theism
4. Compare Open Theism with Other Theological Views – Contrast Open Theism with Classical Theism, Calvinism, and Arminianism.
5. Evaluate the Implications for Prayer and Free Will
6. Assess Theological and Philosophical Critiques –
7. Apply Open Theism to Christian Living and Ministry

Weekly Assignments/Lectures:

Week 1: Introduction to Open Theism and Classical Theism
Reading: Preface & Chapter 1 ("What is Open Theism?")

Topics:

- Definition of Open Theism
- Key proponents and historical background
- Why Open Theism challenges classical Christian theology

Discussion Questions:

What is attractive about Open Theism to some believers?

Why does Frame see it as a significant theological error?

Week 2: God's Sovereignty and Foreknowledge

Reading: Chapters 2-3

Topics:

- Biblical foundations of God's omniscience
 - How Open Theists interpret divine foreknowledge
 - The philosophical problem of free will vs. sovereignty
- Scriptures: Isaiah 46:9-10, Psalm 139, Romans 8:29-30
- Activity: Compare Open Theism's view of God's knowledge with the traditional view.

Week 3: Does God Change? The Immutability Debate

Reading: Chapter 4

Topics:

- The immutability (unchanging nature) of God
 - Passages that Open Theists use to claim God changes (Genesis 6:6, 1 Samuel 15:11)
 - Frame's response: How should we understand biblical language about God "changing His mind?"
- Scriptures: Malachi 3:6, Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 13:8
- Discussion: How does God's unchanging nature affect our confidence in Him?

Week 4: Providence, Prayer, and Divine Action

Reading: Chapter 5

Topics:

- How Open Theism affects our understanding of prayer
 - Does God respond to prayer dynamically?
 - The biblical model of God's providence
- Scriptures: James 5:16, Isaiah 65:24, Matthew 6:8
- Activity: Discuss a real-life scenario—how would Open Theism change the way we pray?

Week 5: The Problem of Evil and Suffering

Reading: Chapter 6

Topics:

- How Open Theism redefines the problem of evil

- Frame's response: God's sovereignty and human suffering
- The role of divine mystery and trust in suffering
Scriptures: Job 1-2, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Case Study: How would an Open Theist counsel someone who has lost a loved one? How does Frame's view differ?

Week 6: Biblical and Theological Responses to Open Theism

Reading: Chapters 7-8

Topics:

- Refuting Open Theist interpretations of Scripture
- The importance of sound doctrine in shaping our view of God
- Practical implications for preaching, teaching, and ministry
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 29:29, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Discussion: How should pastors address Open Theism in their congregations?

Week 7: Final Evaluation & Defending Classical Theism

Reading: Conclusion & Appendices

Topics Covered:

- Summarizing the key arguments against Open Theism
- How to engage Open Theists in respectful theological discussions
- Personal application: strengthening our trust in God's sovereignty
- Final Assignment:
Write a 3-page paper on Open Theism and the importance of biblical theism.

Last Day: June 17, 2025

Student Honesty | Plagiarism Statement: Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is seen as a shameful act and is not acceptable at LBBC. Each member of the academic community should do their own work. In essence, be careful when using another writer or speaker's material (work). Give credit!

Attendance: Regular attendance is required and necessary to achieve success in this class. Students are expected to arrive at 7 pm and stay until the end of class. Each student is responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any attendance matter.

Refunds and Withdrawals: Refunds to students are based on the date of the emailed Notice of Withdrawal, addressed to the instructor and copied to the College Administrator.

Withdrawal Deadline

- The deadline for withdrawing from both 7-week and 14-week classes is at the end of the first week of the class.

- Failure to submit a timely withdrawal request can result in an 'Incomplete' grade on the transcript.
- Failure to submit the required Notice of Withdrawal email before the deadline will result in the student remaining academically and financially responsible for the class.

Refund Policy

- 100% refund for payments made before or during week one (1) of the class.
 - 0% refund - for payments made during and beyond week two (2) of class.
- NOTE: Students who drop a class after the second week will be charged full tuition for the class.

Students may seek approval to transfer a percentage of paid tuition towards a class they will take the following semester. No guaranteed approval.

Expectations:

1. Students must perform college-level work.
2. Work should be completed with the student's name and date and submitted on time.
3. Read the required text as assigned—come prepared for each class.
4. Bring the appropriate materials for class meetings, respect your fellow students, and refrain from bringing food or drink to virtual class sessions (except for water bottles).
5. You may be asked to speak (impromptu).
6. Have a well-lighted and quiet setting with the **CAMERA ON** for “Remote/Virtual” class.

Grading will be based on the following:

Class Attendance/Participation: 20%
 Homework Chapter Assignments: 10%
 Written and Oral Presentations: 30%
 FINAL Examination: 40%
 (3-page written assignment)

WELCOME LBCC SCHOLARS!