

D0110

143:

Religion and Culture, 1

1. Names & office hours (T, 9-12; Th 2-5)

2. Intro to subject matter of course.

SKIP

Title indicates that we will be studying a particular dimension, the religious dimension, of the cultural life of mankind.

Begin with 2 difficulties experienced by undergraduate students of theology -- difficulties in their operative understanding of theology before taking a theo course. 2 implicit assumptions that must be challenged.

1) That theology is somehow structurally a different kind of pursuit of understanding & knowledge from other disciplines. Theology obviously has to do with religion, & in matters of religion, so the assumption goes, one begins with the truth and does one's paltry best at understanding it.

Corrective in cognitional theory.

2) The 1st assumption is rooted, I believe, in a notion of religion that is other than the one I am employing. Compartmentalized, over & beyond the process of constituting oneself as a human being & of constituting the world on basis of mgs & motivated by values one discovers & affirms in this process. = Illusion. Illusions, if lived by, are not only erroneous but destructive.

Corrective: a) the radical secularity of all experience, including religious experience. There is only one world, & it is this world, & this is all experience is this-worldly.

b) the radical religious dimension in all this-worldly experience.

Indoctrination
pre- and
Post-
Enlighten-
ment reactions
to indoctrination

Religion is
an illusion

T-Th 10
M-W 4
~~Fr-Sa~~ T-Th 9

9-10-12

11 A.M.