



HTS 552 Metaphysical Theology II
An In-Depth Look at Fillmorean Theology 3 cr hr/4ceu
Tuesdays & Thursday, 8-10 a.m. Spring 2009

Instructor Name	Thomas W. Shepherd, M.Div.
Office Hours	Tuesdays 1-3:30 p.m.; Thursdays 1- 4:30 p.m. Other times by appointment.
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Required Texts	Students must have access to the following books by Charles Fillmore (available online or at any Unity bookstore): <i>Talks on Truth</i> <i>The Twelve Powers of Man</i> <i>Keep a True Lent</i> <i>Christian Healing</i> <i>Prosperity</i> <i>Jesus Christ Heals</i> <i>Atom-Smashing Power of Mind</i> Sam Harris. <i>Letter to a Christian Nation</i> (2008). New York: Vintage Books.
Other Required Reading: (Previously required texts)	Thomas Shepherd. <i>Glimpses of Truth</i> (2000). Carol City, FL: UFBL Press. Howard Stone and Duke, J.O. (2006). <i>How to Think Theologically</i> , 2 nd Ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
Recommended Reading	Neal Vahle (2002). <i>The Unity Movement: Its Evolution and Spiritual Teachings</i> . Philadelphia, PA: Templeton Foundation Press.

Course Description

Based on the seven major books by Unity co-founder Charles Fillmore. Application of the tools of descriptive theology to an in-depth, critical look at the thought of Unity's Co-founder. Students will read, discuss, debate, and present their findings about the basic ideas which characterize Mr. Fillmore's contribution to Christian thought.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Accurately describe and critically analyze the basic theology presented in Charles Fillmore's seven books: *Christian Healing*, *Talks on Truth*, *Keep a True Lent*, *The Twelve Powers of Man*, *Prosperity*, *Jesus Christ Heals*, and *Atom-Smashing Power of Mind*.
2. Using the tools of descriptive theology, work with a team of fellow students to present, both in writing and in panel discussion format, an independent, critical study of the central ideas found in one of the seven basic Fillmorean texts.

3. Create a complete proposal for a new book, which builds on the work begun by previous theological authors such as, but not limited to, Unity and New Thought Christian authors.
4. Define and explain (fifty) basic New Thought Christian terms and concepts.

The above objectives partially fulfill the following outcomes for the Master of Divinity and Certificate programs:

MD-4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge needed for ministry, specifically: Recognize the value, purpose, and cultural context of sacred texts

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The above objectives partially fulfill the following outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies program:

MA-1 Demonstrate mastery in the study of religion

DETAILED SYLLABUS AVAILABLE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Assignments: All Students	Total Value	Due Dates
Essential Metaphysics Vocabulary Quiz	(10%)	TBA
Book Seminar Presentation	(50%)	Individually scheduled
Original Book Proposal	(40%)	Individually scheduled

Grading (See above)

Additional Assignment Details

1) A passing grade of 80% or higher **MUST** be achieved on the Essential Metaphysics Vocabulary Quiz. For those who do not meet the standard initially, re-testing will be required. However, the re-test will only satisfy the “must pass” requirement and will not replace the lower, original score in calculating the course grade. ***Failure to achieve 80% on re-testing will result in failure for the course, although up to three re-testing opportunities are possible.*** Re-tests will be scheduled outside normal classroom hours by appointment.

Final Grade Determination

Percentage	Points	Grade
90% - 100%	4.0	A
80 - 89%	3.0	B
70 - 79%	2.0	C

Note: “C” is ordinarily considered a failing grade in graduate programs. Grading is on straight 4-point scale; grades will be “rounded” to letter grade. Pluses and minuses are merely instructor commentary and will not be calculated in the grade equation (B+ or B- will be recorded as “B”).