

Thom Rowe

Lesson 2 Preparation Assignment

This is an example of a theological “ditty,” a half-page, single-spaced reflection on a certain question from the week’s reading. The purpose of this writing assignment is to create a space for processing, in a creative way, issues and questions related to our class. The point is not to write something that is perfect in a theological or literary sense, but rather to reflect our own thinking. Part of the task of “doing theology” involves process – reading different sources, multiple points of view, and attempting to match them up with Scripture as a solution or answer. This space is free for you to do just that – think and work out how our subjects relate to each other. What we want to see is how you are processing ideas, more so than having the “right” answer. In fact, many of the questions we will be asking don’t have a “right” answer, as is often true in theology!

The theological ditty should be short, the same length as this piece, concise, without flowery theological language or extended metaphors, and clear, making its point without extraneous information. The best ditties are short, compact, and take large subjects and boil them down to their essence. The easiest way to tell if you are writing too much is to take the print copy, fold the page in half, and if the writing is below the crease, it is too long. I look forward to working with you this semester and seeing your important thoughts!