

ST511 “Orientation to Theological Studies” (Fuller Online) Course Preview! (Erickson/Spinks)

Even if you have already enrolled in the online version of ST511, access to the course itself will not be available until the first day of the quarter. So, what can you do meanwhile, if you want to get a jump on things? This brief set of suggestions is intended to help you get that jump, and to do it “effectively”!

- First, once your advisor has registered you, you will be set up in the Online system by the Fuller Online Coordinator, Chris Nelson. Chris will send you an email informing you that you are now a registered Fuller student in ST511 online.
- Chris’s email will also instruct you in the following: To enter Fuller Online, you will go to www.fulleronline.org and click “Registered Student Login” located on the left hand side. Your Student G# (listed in your admissions letter) will serve as your User ID, with “fuller” (all lower case) as your password. After you log in for the first time, you will have the option of changing your user name and password by selecting “user profile” from the tabs at the top of the page.
- Next, once you have logged in to the online system, open and “take” the “Student Orientation Tutorial.” Make sure you understand how the eCollege environment works and how the courses are set up. There may be questions about this preliminary information on quizzes in ST511!
- On the Extended Course Description for ST511, you’ll find the course described in various ways, including a list of the required textbooks. One good way to get a head start on the course work is to begin reading the required material. For the most part, we will work through the books little by little, so it will not be especially useful to read any of them start-to-finish before the course gets going. However, things you can do now are the following, which cover most of the reading assigned for the first two weeks of the course.
 - Preliminarily examine each of the required books by reading the cover blurbs and preface for each one, and by studying its table of contents.
 - Read the first seven chapters of Adler and Van Doren, *How to Read a Book*.
 - Read the introduction and first five chapters of Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*.
 - Read the introduction and first three chapters of Stone and Duke, *How to Think Theologically*. Take a look at Stone and Duke’s glossary while you’re at it.

Once the quarter begins and access is granted into the course itself, let your first act be to read very carefully through *all* the material posted under the button labeled “Course Home.” This material is essential to understanding this particular course and its design, and all of it is subject to random quiz questions!