

# Historical Theology II: Medieval Theology

## Instructor:

Tarmo Toom, Ph.D.  
ttoom@johnlelandcenter.edu

## Description of the Course:

This course is an investigation of the main theological issues, theologians, and religious movements from “semi-Pelagianism” to Nominalism, from the 5<sup>th</sup> century to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The course is a continuation of the Historical Theology II: Patristic Theology.

## Required Texts:

Bell, D. N. Many Mansions: An Introduction to the Development and Diversity of Medieval Theology. Cistercian Studies 146. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1996.

Leclercq, J. The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: A Study of Monastic Culture, trans. C. Misrahi. New York: Fordam University, 1982 [reprint, 2001].

It is presumed that all students have two dictionaries and the style-guide from previous classes:

Livingstone, E. A. (ed.) The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church (Oxford Paperback Reference) 2d ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

O’Collins, G. and Farruiga, E. G. A Concise Dictionary of Theology. New York: Paulist Press, 2000.

Turabian, K. L. A Manual for Writers if Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996.

### Course Outline and Readings:

1. The “Fall” of the Church?; Introduction to Medieval Theology
2. **Semi-Pelagianism**—(Bell 1) TEXTS: T. A. Smith, *De Gratia: Faustus of Riez’s Treatise on Grace and Its Place in the History of Theology* [1990], Ch. 4; Cassian *Conferences* 13; (in class, the canons of the Council of Orange).
3. **Predestination**—(Bell 17) TEXTS: Boethius *Consolation of Philosophy* 5; Thomas Aquinas *ST* 1a, Q. 23.
4. **Monastic Theology** and/or **Medieval Mystical Theology I**—(Bell 3; Leclercq 11-36, 53-70, 89-111) TEXTS: Cassian *Conferences* 9; St. John of the Cross *The Dark Night of the Soul*, Book II, 18-21.
5. **Monastic Theology** and/or **Medieval Mystical Theology II**—(Leclercq 191-235) TEXTS: Bernard of Clairvaux *Sermon* 74; Id., *On Loving God* VII.22-25, IX.26-29; (in class, William of St. Thierry *The Golden Epistle* I.120-124; Bonaventure *The Mystical Vine* 7; *The Cloud of Unknowing* 39).
6. Pseudo-Dionysius and *via negativa*, Aquinas and **Analogical Predication**— TEXTS: Pseudo-Dionysius *Mystical Theology*; Thomas Aquinas *ST* 1a, Q. 13.
7. Late Medievals on the **Theological Discourse**—(Leclercq 71-88) TEXTS: William of Sherwood *Introduction to Logic* 5.1-16; John Wyclif *On the Truth of Holy Scripture* Part I.1; (in class, Meister Eckhart *Sermon* 48).
8. **MIDTERM; Christology**—(Bell 11-13) TEXTS: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* 3 Q. 9, Art. 1-4; Bonaventure *On the Predestination of Christ* Q. 1-3.
9. **Filioque** and **Byzantine Theology**—(Bell 2, 8-10; J. Meyendorff, *Byzantine Theology* [1983], 1-15) TEXTS: Photius of Constantinople *Treatise on the Mystagogy of the Holy Spirit*; Gregory of Palamas *Triads* I.ii.1-9, II.ii.5-9, 12-14, 19-20; (in class, the canons of the Councils of Lyons and Florence [sections on *filioque*]).
10. **Popular Heresies**—(Bell 6) TEXTS: *Henry of Lausanne’s Debate with Monk William* [sections]; Rainier Sacconi *On the Cathars and Waldensians* [sections]; (in class, A. C. Shannon, “A Tabular Comparison of the Principal Doctrines of the Three Religious Bodies” [1984]).
11. **The Eucharist**—(Bell 15-16; Leclercq 37-50) TEXTS: Paschasius Radbertus and Ratramnus of Corbie in G. E. McCracken, *Early Medieval Theology* [1952], 90-147; (in class, Constitutions of the Fourth Lateran Council [sections on the Eucharist]).
12. **Scholasticism**, How to read a scholastic text?—(Bell 4-5; Leclercq 112-150) TEXT: Peter Lombard *Sentences* I.2; (in class, examples of the various *quaestio* formats)
13. **The Proofs of God’s Existence**—TEXTS: Anselm of Canterbury *Proslogion* Pref., 1-4; Thomas Aquinas *SCG* I.10-13; Id., *ST* 1a, Q. 2.
14. **Realism, Conceptualism, and Nominalism; via moderna**—(Bell 7) TEXTS: William of Ockham *Summa Logicae* I.14-17; Id., *Quodlibet* 5, Q. 12-13.
15. **FINAL EXAM**; (Papers due)

**Requirements:**

1. Reading the assignments and class participation (20% of the grade)
2. Exams (each 20% of the grade)
3. Research Paper on a selected primary text (40% of the grade). The paper should be no less than 10 pages, double-space, formatted according to **Turabian's A Manual for Writers** (6<sup>th</sup> edition), with footnotes and bibliography. It has to include a clear thesis statement and a supporting conclusion. As a Research Paper, it is supposed to demonstrate your skill to find the right books and articles (at least five, dictionaries will not count), and to show that you know the current research developments in the particular area. Your topic should be chosen *before* the Midterm. Tardiness will result in a lower grade (A → B, etc.).

**Paper Topics:**

1. Pseudo-Dionysius *Mystical theology* (Apophatic theology)
2. Anselm of Canterbury *Why God Became Man*, Book II (Soteriology)
3. Wycliffe *On the Truth of Holy Scripture* Part I, iv-vi (literal and figurative senses of the Scripture)
4. Cassian *Conferences* 9-10 (Monastic theology of prayer)
5. William of St. Thierry *The Golden Epistle*, Book II (Spirituality)
6. Aquinas *ST* 1a, Q. 22-23 (Divine providence and predestination)