WELCOME!

05-621S = GETS 21-944: RECENT TRINITARIAN THOUGHT
Winter Term, 2002 — T 6:00-9:45
Room 106/107, GETS

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Office Hours and Availability: This term, I will normally be in my office Monday through Wednesday. Feel free to drop by; but if you expect to need more than a few minutes, please use the sign-up sheet, or make an appointment via phone or e-mail.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This course offers an in-depth exploration of the Christian doctrine of God, with particular attention to recent contributions to trinitarian theology by Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox thinkers. We will begin with a brief examination of the origins of the doctrine of the Trinity, focusing on the biblical era and the earliest period of Church history. However, most of the course will be spent reading texts that explore the meaning and significance of this central Christian belief in its contemporary context. We will be particularly interested in the implications of the Christian understanding of God for ethics, spirituality, and worship. We will also pay close attention to the social, political, and ecclesial ramifications of the Christian conception of God, including its relationship to issues of class and gender.

SUGGESTED PRE-READING

Many students will already have read some of these books in a theology course. Those who have not are encouraged to purchase them before the break and read them before the beginning of the term. With the exception of the Boff book, they will not be explicitly discussed in class; but I will expect students to be acquainted with their contents.


Nicholas Lash, *Believing Three Ways In God: A Reading of the Apostles’ Creed* (Notre
REQUIRED BOOKS


Rowan Williams, *On Christian Theology, Challenges in Contemporary Theology* (Oxford and Cambridge, Mass.: Basil Blackwell, 2000) [selected chapters only, but the book is a good investment!]

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING FOR PH.D. STUDENTS

These books will not be read in their entirety, but Ph.D. students (and others who so choose) will read some sections from them. The chapters that we are using will be placed on reserve. However, because they are texts of considerable importance, some students may want to acquire them for their libraries at any rate.


ON RESERVE

A significant number of books will be placed on reserve, including the pre-reading and Ph.D. readings listed above. Among the other books on reserve are the following, which provide introductory material for those who would like additional background and/or review. A list of other books — those that might be useful when preparing the research paper — will be distributed later in the term.


PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Note: In addition to these readings, some reserve readings may be assigned from time to time. A more detailed schedule will be handed out on the first day of class. Authors named in [brackets] are required reading for Ph.D. students — optional for others.
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<td>Biblical Background</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
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<td>The Modern Problematic</td>
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<td>Postmodern Perspectives</td>
<td>Cunningham [Milbank]</td>
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<td>Political Implications</td>
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<td>Gender Implications</td>
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<td>Economic Implications</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Ethical Implications 1</td>
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A more detailed schedule will be distributed at the first class session.

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

1. This course will be run as a seminar. It is not lecture-based. Both the instructor and students will raise broad questions that will initiate wide-ranging discussions, in which everyone is expected to participate. It will take place both in the classroom and on a web-based discussion forum (details of which will be circulated at the first class session).

2. You will be asked to complete a reading assignment before the beginning of each class session. The readings are complex, difficult, and exciting.

3. The average amount of reading is about 100 pages per week (175 pages for Ph.D. students). The success of our discussions, and of the class as a whole, depends upon everyone completing the reading.

4. You will engage at a deeper level with one of the books assigned for the course by completing a piece of writing on that text. Ph.D. students will write a 5-8 page seminar paper which they will present in the class in which that book is discussed; these papers are expected to involve outside research (examining book reviews and exploring related works). M.Div. students will write a 2-3 page book review, directed at a lay audience and intended for a church-related publication.

5. You will write one major paper for the course. Ph.D. students will write a 25-30 page research paper aimed at the audience of an academic journal; M.Div. students will write a
10-15 page paper, aimed at a lay audience, but making some use of outside resources. While the final copy of the paper is not due until Finals Week, your work on it needs to begin early in the quarter. You will be asked to submit your topic and an annotated bibliography by the end of the sixth week of classes, and a partial rough draft by the eighth week.

6. Papers will be graded with attention to four factors: 1. evidence of engagement with the course material and readings; 2. adequacy and depth of research, where applicable; 3. personal reflection and appropriation of the material; and 4. mechanics (grammar, format, style). Further guidelines for the papers will be distributed in class.

7. Special note to Seabury-Western students: Because of the Garrett-Evangelical course schedule, this course DOES meet during Reading Week (February 26).

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**GRADERS**

**WEEKLY WORK: 50%**
- Participation in class discussion: 25%
- Participation on the web-based forum: 15%
- Seminar Paper or Book Review: 10%

**RESEARCH PROJECT: 50%**
- Annotated Bibliography: 10%
- Rough Draft: 15%
- Final Draft: 25%

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AND FINALLY . . .

Thank you for your presence in this course. I hope you will find our time together to be interesting, challenging, and fun. I look forward to an enjoyable and exciting term — working together, teaching one another, and learning from one another.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Materials marked with one or two asterisks (* or **) are on reserve. A single asterisk denotes those books that provide introductory and background material for those who would like additional review. Two-asterisk books are somewhat more advanced and might be useful in preparing presentations and searching for a research topic; these include books that are required reading for M.T.S. and Ph.D. students (but those students should purchase the books, to avoid a run on the reserve copies).

Other books on this list (without asterisks) are not on reserve, but still might prove useful when preparing the presentation paper and the research paper.


Colin Gunton, *The One, the Three and the Many: God, Creation and the Culture of Modernity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993)


**Jürgen Moltmann, *History and the Triune God: Contributions to Trinitarian Theology* (New York: Crossroad, 1992)


**Christoph Schwöbel, ed., *Trinitarian Theology Today: Essays on Divine Being and Act*