

WELCOME!

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

Instructor: Dr. David Cunningham
Professor of Theology and Ethics
Seabury-Western Theological Seminary

Office: Seabury-Western, Wheeler Hall 17
Office Mailbox: at Seabury-Western
E-mail: dscunningham@seabury.edu

Office Phone: 847-328-9300 x33
Facsimile: 847-328-9624
Home Phone: 847-864-5237

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.

Leonardo Boff, *Trinity and Society*, trans. Paul Burns (Tunbridge Wells: Burns and Oates; Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1988) [Read Intro and chaps. 1-3 for first class]

Ruth C. Duck and Patricia Wilson-Kastner, *Praising God: The Trinity in Christian Worship* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1999)

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

Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1992)

REQUIRED BOOKS

James J. Buckley and David Yeago, eds., *Knowing the Triune God: The Work of the Spirit in the Practices of the Church* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 2001)

David S. Cunningham, *These Three Are One: The Practice of Trinitarian Theology* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1998)

Elizabeth A. Johnson, *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse* (New York: Crossroad, 1992)

Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church* (Cambridge: James Clark & Co., Ltd, 1957; reprint, Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1976)

M. Douglas Meeks, *God the Economist: The Doctrine of God and Political Economy* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989)

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.

Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Drama: Theological Dramatic Theory*, selections from volumes I, *Prolegomena*, and III, *Dramatis Personae: Persons in Christ* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990, 1993)

Eberhard Jüngel, *The Doctrine of the Trinity: God's Being is in Becoming*, trans. John Webster (Eerdmans, 2000)

D. Stephen Long, *Divine Economy: Theology and the Market*, Radical Orthodoxy series (London and New York: Routledge, 2000)

John Milbank, selected articles: "The Second Difference: For a Trinitarianism Without Reserve," *Modern Theology* 2, no. 3 (April 1986): 213-234; "Postmodern Critical Augustinianism': A Short *Summa* in Forty Two Responses to Unasked Questions," *Modern Theology* 7, no. 3 (April 1991): 225-237; "Can a Gift Be Given? Prolegomena to a Future Trinitarian Metaphysic," *Modern Theology* 11, no. 1 (January 1995): 119-161; "The Force of Identity" (1997), in *The Word Made*

Strange: Theology, Language, Culture (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1997), 194-216.

John D. Zizioulas, *Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church*
(Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1985)
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.

Thomas Marsh, *The Triune God: A Biblical, Historical, and Theological Study* (Dublin: Columba Press; Mystic, Conn.: Twenty-Third Publications, 1994)

Ted Peters, *GOD as Trinity: Relationality and Temporality in Divine Life* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993)

Gail Ramshaw, *God Beyond Gender: Feminist Christian God-Language* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995)

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.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic for Discussion</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Other Matters</u>
1	January 8	Biblical Background	Boff	Bible texts
2	January 15	Historical Background	Boff, Lossky, Cunningham	
3	January 22	Mystical Theology	Lossky [Zizioulas]	
4	January 29	The Modern Problematic	Williams [Jüngel]	
5	February 5	Postmodern Perspectives	Cunningham [Milbank]	
6	February 12	Political Implications	Boff [Balthasar]	Bibliography
7	February 19	Gender Implications	Johnson	
8	February 26	Economic Implications	Meeks [Long]	Rough Draft
9	March 5	Ethical Implications 1	Cunningham	
10	March 12	Ethical Implications 2	Buckley & Yeago	Final Paper

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).

GRADES

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%

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.

**Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Drama: Theological Dramatic Theory*, particularly volumes I, *Prolegomena*, and III, *Dramatis Personae: Persons in Christ* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990, 1993)

*Ruth C. Duck and Patricia Wilson-Kastner, *Praising God: The Trinity in Christian Worship* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1999)

Colin Gunton, *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1990)

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

**Robert W. Jenson, *The Triune Identity: God According to the Gospel* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982)

**Eberhard Jüngel, *The Doctrine of the Trinity: God's Being is in Becoming*, trans. Horton Harris (Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, Ltd., 1976) [new translation by John Webster: Eerdmans, 2001]

**Eberhard Jüngel, *God as the Mystery of the World*, trans. Darrell L. Guder (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 1983)

**Walter Kasper, *The God of Jesus Christ*, trans. Matthew J. O'Connell (London: SCM Press, 1983)

**Catherine Mowry LaCugna, *God For Us: The Trinity and Christian Life* (San Francisco: Harper/Collins, 1991)

*Nicholas Lash, *Believing Three Ways In God: A Reading of the Apostles' Creed* (Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1992)

*Thomas Marsh, *The Triune God: A Biblical, Historical, and Theological Study* (Dublin: Columba Press; Mystic, Conn.: Twenty-Third Publications, 1994)

**John Milbank, selected articles: "The Second Difference: For a Trinitarianism Without Reserve," *Modern Theology* 2, no. 3 (April 1986): 213-234; "'Postmodern Critical Augustinianism': A Short *Summa* in Forty Two Responses to Unmasked Questions," *Modern Theology* 7, no. 3 (April 1991): 225-237; "Can a Gift Be Given? Prolegomena to a Future Trinitarian Metaphysic," *Modern Theology* 11, no. 1 (January 1995): 119-161; "The Force of Identity" (1997), in *The Word Made Strange: Theology, Language, Culture* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1997), 194-216.

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

**Jürgen Moltmann, *The Trinity and the Kingdom: The Doctrine of God*, trans. Margaret Kohl (New York: Harper and Row, 1981)

*Ted Peters, *GOD as Trinity: Relationality and Temporality in Divine Life* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993)

**Karl Rahner, *The Trinity*, trans. Joseph Donceel (New York: Herder and Herder, 1970)

*Gail Ramshaw, *God Beyond Gender: Feminist Christian God-Language* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995)

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

(Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1995)

**Dimitru Staniloae, "The Holy Trinity: Structure of Supreme Love," in *Theology and the Church*, trans. Robert Barringer (Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1980), 73-108.

**John D. Zizioulas, *Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church* (Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1985)