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 5th century to the 15th
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

It is presumed that all students have two dictionaries and the style-guide from previous
classes:
Turabian, K. L. A Manual for Writes if Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6th ed.
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 Confessions 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).
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).
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.i.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 Sacchoni *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)
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 (6th 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)