

Medieval Theologians

Fall 2010

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M: 6-9pm

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the lives and thoughts of four significant medieval theologians each representing a different medieval context: Prosper of Aquitaine (380-455), Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109), Thomas Aquinas (1225-74), and Julian of Norwich (1342-1423). The course will focus on the theme of grace and human freedom, with attention to how these theologians integrate practice and belief, spirituality and theology.

Goals and Objectives:

The goal of the course is to help students develop their capacity for faithful and coherent theological expression in pastoral practice.

Students will:

1. Gain a basic understanding of four theologians (Prosper, Anselm, Aquinas, Julian) and the ways these theologians understood and integrated their views of grace,
2. sharpen their skills of historical and theological interpretation through the critical reading and discussion of primary sources and historical writings,
3. and begin to reflect on their own theological position on grace.

Required Books:

Prosper of Aquitaine

Prosper of Aquitaine: Defense of St. Augustine. Trans. P. De Letter. Ancient Christian Writers, 32. New York, NY: Newman Press, 1963.

Anselm of Canterbury

Anselm: Basic Writings. Trans. Thomas Williams. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2007.
ISBN 978087220895

Thomas Aquinas

Nature and Grace: Selections from the Summa Theologica of Thomas Aquinas. Trans. A. M. Fairweather. Library of Christian Classics 11. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1954.
ISBN 9780664241551

Julian of Norwich

Showings. Trans. Edmund Colledge and James Walsh. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1978.
ISBN 0809120917

CAMS:

Selected readings will be posted on CAMS.

On Library Reserve:

Aquinas, Thomas. *The Summa Theologica*, vol. 1. Trans. Fathers of the English Dominicans. New York: Benziger Brothers, 1946.

Augustine. *Answer to the Pelagians*, vol. 4. Trans. Roland Teske. Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century, I/26.

Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography* (2000)

Bynum, Caroline Walker. *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*. (1987)

Cantor, Norman. *The Civilization of the Middle Ages*. [hereafter CMA]

Cambridge Companion to Anselm. Eds. Brian Davies and Brian Leftow. [hereafter CCA]

Cassian, John. *The Conferences*. Ancient Christian Writers 57.

Davies, Brian. *The Thought of Thomas Aquinas*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992. [hereafter TMA]

Davies, Brian. *Aquinas's Summa Theologiae: Critical Essays*. 2006 [hereafter AST]

Hide, Kerrie. *Gifted Origins to Grace Fulfillment*. (2001).

Magill, Kevin. *Julian Norwich: Mystic or Visionary?*. (2006).

Visser, Sandra and Thomas William. *Anselm*. Great Medieval Thinkers.

In the Reference Room:

Joseph Strayer, ed. *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. New York: Scribner, 1983.

Rosamond Kitterick, ed. *New Cambridge Medieval History*. 7 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

See also: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html> (The premier internet site for the study of the Middle Ages.)

Requirements:

1. Preparation for class and active participation in discussion (25%)
2. Four reflection papers (3-4 pgs.). A reflection paper based on an assigned primary and a secondary source reading for each of the four theologians. Due weeks 4, 6, 10, 13. (40%)
3. A synthetic paper (10-12 pgs.) that explores the theme of grace and freedom in the four theologians studied in this course, and locates the student's own developing theological stance in relation to this issue. It is due the last day of class. (35%)

D.Min. students will consult with the instructor about additional requirements.

Attendance Policy:

When illness or family emergency makes class attendance impossible, students should contact the instructors, as soon as possible.

Students should bring with them to class the readings assigned for that day and be prepared to discuss them

Citation Policy:

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Academic honesty:

All work you submit in this class is expected to be yours. Any quotation of the words of others must be clearly indicated, and all direct indebtedness must be acknowledged by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of Seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Special Accommodations:

Students requiring accommodation for a learning disability should be in contact with Kathy Mapes in the ASC Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) as soon as possible and should speak with the instructor to arrange appropriate adjustments.

Inclusive Language:

The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuates stereotypes. Do not assume masculine gender when the gender of the person is unknown. When referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors. See

http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

Course Schedule

Pre-Course Reading

Recommended: Cantor, CMA, ch. 2

Optional: Cantor, CMA, ch. 1

9/13 Introductions

Introduction to course

“Introduction to the Middle Ages”

“Introduction to the Resources (books and websites) for the Study of the Middle Ages”

9/20 Prosper and Augustine

Prosper, “Letter to Augustine,” in *Answer to the Pelagians*, vol. 4 (reserve)

Augustine, *On the Gift of Perseverance*, in *Answer to the Pelagians*, vol. 4 (reserve)

Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography* (2000), ch. 33 (reserve)

9/27 Prosper’s Theology of Grace

Prosper, *On Grace and Free Will*, in *Defense of St. Augustine*

Prosper, “Answers to Vincentian Articles,” in *Defense of St. Augustine*

Hwang, “Manifold Grace in Prosper and Cassian,” (CAMS)

10/4 Prosper’s Legacy

Prosper, *Official Pronouncements of the Apostolic See*, in *Defense of St. Augustine*

Vincent of Lerins, *Commonitories* [excerpts] (CAMS)

Documents of the Council of Orange II (CAMS)

Hwang, “The Rule of Faith in Cassian, Vincent, and Prosper,” in *Tradition and the Rule of Faith* (CAMS)

Ralph Mathisen, “Caesarius of Arles, Preventive Grace, and Council of Orange II” (CAMS)

10/8 Prosper Paper Due

10/11 Anselm’s Early Works

Anselm, *Proslogion; On Freedom of Choice*

Brian Davies, “Anselm and the Ontological Argument” in CCA (reserve)

Sandra Visser and Thomas Williams, “Anselm Account of Freedom” in CCA (reserve)

Recommend readings: Leclercq, *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*, ch. 9

Cantor, CMA, ch. 14

Optional: R. W. Southern, *Anselm: A Portrait in a Landscape* (Cambridge, 1991)

10/18 Anselm: Original Sin, Grace, and Salvation

Anselm, *On the Virginal Conception, and On Original Sin; De concordia*

Sandra Visser and Thomas Williams, “Original Sin, Grace, and Salvation,” in *Anselm*. (reserve)

Optional: G. R. Evans, *Anselm* (Chapman, 1989).

10/22 Anselm Paper Due

10/25 Research and Study

11/1 Aquinas: Introduction

(*Summa theologiae* is on reserve and is also available at: <<<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>>>)

Ginther, “There is a Text” [introduction to scholasticism] (CAMS)

Brian Davies, TMA, ch. 1-2, “The Shape of the Saint,” and “Getting to Know God.” (reserve)

Summa theologiae, first part: “Nature and Extent of Sacred Doctrine,” “Existence of God,” qq. 1-2.

Recommended: Cantor, CMA, ch. 19

Optional: Gilson, *God and Philosophy* (Yale, 1941)

11/8 Aquinas: God's Intellect and Will

Summa theologica, first part: God's intellect, qq. 14-16; God's will, qq. 19-21; God's power, qq. 25-26 (qq. 14-16; 19; 25-26 copy from website or reserve)

Davies, TMA, 128-57

Recommended: Gilson, *God and Philosophy*, ch. 2

Optional: Anthony Kenny, "The Nature of the Intellect," [AST]

11/15 Aquinas: Humanity

Summa theologica, first part of second: human will, habit, and sin, qq. 7-17; 79-85 (qq. 7-17; 79-81; 83-84 copy from website or reserve)

Eleanore Stump, "Aquinas's Account of Freedom: Intellect and Will," [AST]

Davies, TMA, 250-62

Recommended: Davies, TMA, chs. 11-12

Optional: Bonnie Kent, "Habits and Virtues," in *Summa Theologiae: Critical Essays* [AST]

11/22 Aquinas: Humanity and Grace

Summa theologica, first part: God's providence and predestination, qq. 21-23

Summa theologica, first part of second part: cause of grace , qq. 109-14

Summa theologica, second part of second part: faith, qq. 1-7

Davies, TMA, ch. 9; 262-73

Recommended: Anthony Kenny, "Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom," in *Aquinas: A Collection of Critical Essay*, ed. Anthony Kenny (Notre Dame, 1969).

11/26 Aquinas Paper Due

11/29 Julian: Female Religious Lives

Julian, *Showings (Short Text)*

Caroline Walker Bynum, "Religious Women in the Later Middle Ages," *Holy Feast and Holy Fast* (reserve)

Kerrie Hide, "Julian of Norwich," *Gifted Origins to Graced Fulfillment* (reserve)

Recommended: Sandra J. McEntire, ed., *Julian of Norwich: A Book of Essays*

12/6 Julian: Humanity and Grace

Julian, *Showings (Long Text)*

Bynum, "Woman as Body and as Food," *Holy Feast and Holy Fast* (reserve)

Kevin Magill, "The Redemptive Body and the Redemption of Vision," *Julian Norwich: Mystic or Visionary?* (reserve)

Recommended: "Introduction," *Showings*

12/10 Paper on Julian due

12/13

Conclusion and Review

12/20

Synthetic Papers Due