



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus FALL 2013

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I THEO 0531

MONDAY, 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: DR. DENNIS NGIEN

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Office Hours: by appointment

To access your course materials, go to your Tyndale email account:

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Systematic Theology I & II are designed to provide an introduction to the thematic study of Christian doctrine according to the evangelical protestant tradition. Systematic I acquaints students with the elemental building blocks of the Christian faith. The nature, sources, and task of theology will be considered, together with the following major doctrines: Revelations, Trinity, Person of Christ, Holy Spirit. Special attention will be given to the development of a missional, Trinitarian theology.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should have:

1. **Attitudes:**
 - a. increased appreciation for the value of theology in ministry and the Christian life.
 - b. increased confidence in the authority of Scripture.
2. **Information:**
 - a. the basic materials for further theological reflection and study.
 - b. familiarity with major theological issues and lines of theological disagreement.
3. **Skills:**
 - a. tools and skills for doing theological research.
 - b. theological insights for practical situations in ministry.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. REQUIRED TEXTS:

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN: 978-1444335149 (hereafter *CT*).

McGrath, Alister E. *The Christian Theology Reader*. 4th ed. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN 978-0470654842 (hereafter *CTR*).

Basil of Caesarea. *On the Holy Spirit*. Popular Patristics. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011. ISBN 978-0881418767.

Thompson, John. *Modern Trinitarian Perspectives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN 978-0195088991.

NB: *Students are encouraged to purchase this book, but it is also available as an e-book from the Tyndale Library. It can be read and "highlighted" online, or downloaded for a two week period (you must first download [Adobe Digital Editions](#)).*

Online Readings (available on the course page):

Grenz, Stanley. "The Nature and Task of Theology." In *Theology for the Community of God*, 1–25. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Moltmann, Jürgen. "The Holy Spirit and the Theology of Life." In *The Source of Life: The Holy Spirit and the Theology of Life*, 10–25. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Two Summaries of Readings from CTR: 30% (15 % each)

Write a two page single spaced page summary of the part of your choice. There are four parts: part 1: Getting started; part 2: The Sources of Theology; Part 3: The Doctrine of God; Part 4: The Person of Christ. Select two out of four. The summary could focus on areas of your interest, or an interaction on various theologians' views on a particular doctrine. For example, you could flesh out the implications of Arian Christology, by comparing the two readings in part 4, i. e., 4.7 Arius in the Status of Christ and 4.8 Athanasius on the Two Natures of Christ.

Due dates: **Sept., 30 (first); Nov. 04 (second)**

2. A Shorter Paper: Caesarea's doctrine of Holy Spirit (20%)

Students are required to read and provide 6 - 8 double-spaced page summary of and interactions with Basil of Caesarea's *On the Holy Spirit*.

As summary contents, students should include these aspects: (a) a summary of the status of the Holy Spirit, Is he of the same substance with the Father and the Son, (b) the operations of the Holy Spirit; and (c) in what sense is the Holy Spirit "worshipped and glorified"? (d) How does Holy Spirit aid in our worship? And (e) the significance of the double movement: descending and ascending.

Due date: **Nov. 18, 2013.**

3. A Major Research Paper: 50%

The paper should be a substantial piece of theological analysis in response to one of the question provided for this assignment. A list of essay topics or questions will be distributed in class. The essay should not simply report, summarize, or review class materials (though you are encouraged to draw from class lectures, discussion and readings). It should, rather, concentrate upon theological (method or history) rather than biblical questions (though an understanding of biblical issues may be relevant to the argument of your paper). It should demonstrate thoughtful reflection, analysis, and should embody a conceptual argument in which various angles of the questions are explored in fairness and at length. The paper should be in the range of 12-15 pages in length, double-spaced, and contain rigorous documentations from at least 15 sources, eight journal articles and seven books. A minimum of 30 footnotes (not endnotes) is required. **Due date: Dec. 05, 2013.**

Note: Library staff and Writing Centre will come to class to provide learning tools on how to do library search and research paper. This will happen at the beginning of the course.

C. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Summaries of Required Readings	30 %
Shorter Paper	20%
Major Research paper	50 %
Total Grade	100%

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>.

2. Students can drop off their assignments in my office mailbox or mail them directly to me at Tyndale Seminary.

3. **Documentation Style:** In all assigned work, proper style guidelines (normally Chicago/Turabian) will be used and followed exactly. Failure to do so will render the submitted assignment unacceptable. Consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

4. **Late papers:** Papers handed in after the due date will receive a one full grade point deduction (i.e., B to C) for each week (or part thereof) following the due date. This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no application for extension has been made.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE, CONTENTS AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

A. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

1. Students must do the assigned readings from McGrath's *Christian Theology* (hereafter designated as CT) and his *Christian Theology Reader* (hereafter designated as CTR). Key figures such as Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa, Origen, Anselm, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Barth, Moltmann, Jenson, etc. will be covered.
2. Students should read part I of CT, 5th ed., pp.1-98, the background materials which identify the periods, themes and personalities of Christian theology.
3. Students should familiarize themselves with *A Glossary of Theological Terms*, CT, pp. 486-494 or CTR pp. 579-585.
4. Classes will be conducted in lecture-format, although occasionally small group discussions on specific topics will occur.
5. Occasionally, there will be guest lecturers when needed.
6. Students should read all CTR readings, parts 1-3, 6:1-18, and acquaint themselves with them although in classes we will focus on selected texts to elucidate the topics discussed.

B. COURSE SCHEDULE:

Sept. 09, 16 & 23: Sources and Methods of Theology

Introduction and Prolegomena

(a) The Nature and Task of Theology

Reading: Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, 1-25 (online).

(b) Defining and the architecture of theology (CT pp. 101-119); (c) reasons and limitations of doing theology.

Sources of Theology: (a) Scripture: authority and inspiration (CT pp.120-135);

(b) Tradition: apostolic, dual-source and the Anabaptists rejection (CT pp.137-141);

(c) Experience: two models and Feuerbach's critique (CT pp.146-151);

(d) Reason: Tertullian vs. Augustine (CT pp.142-145).

Readings from CTR: part 1 & part 2.

Sept., 30, Oct. 07, 14 (no class), & 21: The Doctrines of Revelation and God

- (a) Natural Theology (CT pp.159-172);
- (b) Proofs of God's existence (CT pp.183-192);
- (c) Models of revelation: propositional and personal (CT pp.153-159);
- (d) Language about God: God-talk (CT pp.193-198);
- (e) God as a person: Buber's 'I-thou' (CT pp.197-202);
- (f) Impassibility vs. passibility (CT pp.203-208);
- (g) Divine omnipotence and the two powers (CT pp.209-212).

Readings from CTR: part 3.

Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 04: The Doctrine of the Trinity

- (a) Historical development (CT pp.238-244);
- (b) Heresies: Arian & Modalism (CT pp.244-246);
- (c) Making sense of the Trinity: Cappadocian Fathers, Augustine, Jenson, (CT pp.249-257);
- (d) Patripassianism/Theopaschitism (CT pp.206-207);
- (e) *Filioque* controversy: The Spirit proceeds from the Father "and the Son" (CT pp.247-249);

Readings from CTR: part 3.

Thompson, chapter 1, "Introduction," and 2, "The Trinity: The Mystery of Salvation."

Nov. 11, 18 & 25: The Doctrine of the Person of Christ

- (a) Patristic Christology (CT pp.273-280)
- (b) Luther and *Communicatio idiomatum* (CT pp.280-281)
- (c) Making sense of two-nature Christology: Calvin (CT pp. 287-288; cf. Dorothy Sayers)
- (d) Kenotic Christology (CT pp. 293-294)
- (e) Faith and History (CT pp. 295-314)

Readings from CTR: part 4

Recommended: Thompson, chapter 3, "A Trinitarian Theology of Cross and Resurrection."

Dec. 02: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

- (a) Augustine: the Spirit as the bond of love (CT pp.227-231);
- (b) Functions of the Spirit (CT pp.231-233): revelation (cf. Barth's trinity, CT pp.252-254), redemption and the Christian life: unity, piety, and morality.
- (c) Basil on the Holy Spirit

Readings from CTR: part 3; Basil, *On the Holy Spirit*, 1-122; Moltmann, "The Holy Spirit and the Theology of Life."

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Badham, Roger A., ed. [*Introduction to Christian Theology. Contemporary North American Perspectives*](#). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
- Barth, Karl. [*Church Dogmatics*](#). Vol. I to IV. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1956-1975 ([Tyndale eBook](#)); vol. IV.4, The Christian Life (Lecture Fragments). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1981. ([Tyndale eBook](#))
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- _____. *Dogmatics in Outline*. trans. G. T. Thomson. London: SCM, 1949.
- _____. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1963 ([Tyndale eBook](#); also as [audio book](#)).
- _____. *Learning Jesus Christ Through the Heidelberg Confession*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964. ([Tyndale eBook](#))
- _____. (See also Tyndale's [Barth Reading Room](#)).
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- Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*, 2 vols. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1978. (Congregationalist; USA)
- _____. [*Christian Foundations \[series\]*](#). 7 vols. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992-2004.
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terms, and details of theologians from *The Christian Theology Reader*, cf. www.blackwellpublishing.com/mcgrath/).

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