Course Syllabus
FALL 2013

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II
THEO 0532

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 – 9:20 PM
SEPTEMBER 11 – DECEMBER 6, 2013

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. JAMES BEVERLEY, PhD
Telephone number: 416 876 6012
Email: jbeverley@tyndale.ca

Office Hours: I can see students on Wednesday before or after class or during the week when I am at Tyndale. I will be at the seminary Monday-Thursday most weeks during term. Please email to set up an appointment.

To reach me by phone use my cell phone number. Leave a message on my cell phone. When sending me an email please put Tyndale in subject line.

To access your course materials, go to your Tyndale email account: http://mytyndale.ca. Please note that all official Tyndale correspondence will be sent to your <@MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward Tyndale e-mails to your personal account, see http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Continuation of Systematic Theology I. Acquaints students with the elemental building blocks of the Christian faith. The following major doctrines will be considered: Creation and evil, human nature, sin and grace, salvation, church, sacraments, eschatology and approaches to world religions. Special attention will be given to the implications of a Trinitarian theology for Christian faith and witness.

Prerequisite: Systematic Theology I (0531)

Objectives:
I adopt the words used by Victor Shepherd, my colleague in theology. This course “aims at enabling students to see the truth of God in the interconnection of its various aspects,
and to see the truth of God whole. The student will be equipped to understand the faith once for all delivered to the saints and to express it in contemporary thought-forms.”

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The professor will ensure that students understand various perspectives and options that Christians have chosen on the different doctrines and issues addressed through the course.

By the end of this course students will:

- Be able to think more deeply about their own theological journey;
- Understand options in Christian theology;
- Be able to relate their own journey and theology with the positions of other Christians, and with those in other religions;
- Have further developed their skills of theological reading, reasoning, and reflection;
- Be able to read, understand, and critically engage more advanced works of theology, including works by major theologians.

Students will also learn to address major cultural and social pressures that impact developments and decline in theological work. Theological issues will be related to the Canadian context, the global context and to particular church conditions in our lives.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS


**RECOMMENDED**


B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Attendance, interview and participation (20%)**

   Students who have already done an interview with Professor Beverley will meet with him for an update. Other students will do initial interview. Schedule to be arranged in first or second class.

**Note about the McGrath text**

We will use the McGrath text as a guide through STII. Two or three students will provide an
outline of a chapter for the whole class.

**Attendance** is expected at all classes. The student’s final grade will be adjusted in relation to attendance. **Students who miss three or more classes without exceptional reason will fail the course**

2. **Book Responses (30%)**
Two book responses deal with two separate and huge areas of theology.

First, students are asked to respond to the doctrine of the Trinity through analysis of John Thompson’s *Modern Trinitarian Perspectives* (Oxford, 1994) ISBN: 9780195088984. You can purchase a hard copy or read it in [e-book format from the Tyndale library](#). (1500 words Due Oct. 16)

Second, students are asked to respond to the religions covered in *Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions* (1500 words Due November 9)

Since the Christian response to world and new religions is a huge topic for our day, this second half of Systematic Theology will spend three classes dealing with the topic and students can learn about the religions from this second text for the course.

**Note from Professor Beverley:** Your analysis in relation to my book is to pursue an interaction with the religions covered in the book. It is **NOT** an assessment of my book, so do not write anything about what you think of the book. Rather, deal with the religions covered, the leaders mentioned, and the views and practices of the religion.

3. **Integrative Research (30%)**
For this assignment I have used and edited the wording from Tyndale’s theology department. **NB:** At the request of our accrediting body, all integrative papers will be archived to give evidence of Tyndale students’ capacity to undertake integrative, theological research.

Students will write an integrative research paper, not exceeding 2500 words, on the topic: **“What is the Church? Why does it matter?”** It is expected that all papers will include reflection upon the identity and mission of the Church and seek to ground both within the nature of the Gospel and the mission of the Triune God. This paper will give evidence of active engagement of Thompson’s *Modern Trinitarian Perspectives*, in particular the concepts of social Trinity and *missio dei*.

This assignment is designed to allow you to demonstrate your capacity to reflect theologically, and for your instructor to assess how you have met the learning outcomes set by the Theology Department.

As the final assignment for Systematic Theology II, you will draw upon what you have learned over the duration of Systematic Theology I and II, including the readings, lectures, and discussions, in addition to consulting other scholarly sources beyond those engaged in these courses (academic journals, academic articles, dictionaries of theology, monographs, etc.). The assignment should be characterized by critical theological reflection and not just a matter of reporting what others have said.
An integrative essay should have a **comprehensive**, a **comparative**, and a **social** dimension, and also demonstrate **coherence** of thought.

a. **Comprehensive**: Your integrative paper will critically review and analyze material from Systematic Theology I & II related to the particular issues “What is the church?” and “What is the Gospel?”, and the implications of the questions for the life of the church (“Why does it matter?”).

b. **Comparative**: Your integrative paper will *compare* and *relate* numerous images, concepts, facts, arguments, impressions, conversations that you have meaningfully encountered.

c. **Social Dimension**: Your fellow students and the professor and guests and your readings have introduced you to some perspectives or interpretations very different from your own personal or denominational convictions and practices. Your integrative paper should explicate what you have learned to appreciate from at least two new voices, and how they have expanded your own understanding. This effort is being recommended to you as a model of how to engage in life-long learning.

d. **Coherence and Integration**: The coherence for this paper comes, on the one hand, from the concept of the *missio dei*, the mission of God, as an integrative framework for theological reflection. On the other hand, you are the place where the readings and lectures are being processed and connected with the “dots” of your own experience and concerns with the concrete Christian community. Therefore, unlike the typical research paper, you are encouraged to use the word “I”. Your own voice is critical for an integrative assignment; your lingering questions are just as important as your new insights and conclusions.

4. **Final Exam (20%)**

This exam will be a take home and provide an opportunity for response to all of the major issues presented in class + give an opportunity for overall reflection on course learning.

**Special Note about Assignment Due Dates**

Please do **not** miss class in order to finish an assignment. Every student can ask for an extension without penalty due to extreme circumstances. Please inform Professor Beverley of these special circumstances in writing.

Official Seminary policy on end of term deadlines...

Faculty may NOT grant an extension on assignments beyond the last day of class for the semester. Students who have not submitted an assignment by this date will receive a grade of F for the assignment, unless official permission has been obtained from the Registrar due to extreme and extenuating circumstances (see Academic Calendar).

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. [http://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar](http://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar).
Please submit all assignments by e-mail to Rebekka Paul—she is Prof. Beverley’s administrative assistant. Her email is bekkaries@yahoo.ca

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview, McGrath, attendance</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Responses</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Integrative Paper</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 %</strong></td>
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Professor Beverley expects that by signing up for the course students will fully participate in the class through listening, note taking, and other proper forms of engagement. As well, participation and politeness means that students will refrain from texting during class and using computers or smart phones in ways that distract self and others from learning. Students can use the Internet during class to look up relevant items directly related to class learning. Otherwise, random surfing of the Net and the playing of games on the computer should be avoided.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading and Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Introduction Perspective and Options Basics from ST1</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Salvation in Christ</td>
<td>McGrath 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Salvation in Christ</td>
<td>McGrath 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Human Nature, Sin &amp; Grace</td>
<td>McGrath 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Human Nature, Sin &amp; Grace</td>
<td>McGrath 14</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Doctrine of the Church</td>
<td>McGrath 15 + response to Thompson</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>Doctrine of the Church Sacraments</td>
<td>McGrath 15 + 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Christianity and World Religion (incl. Creation / evil)</td>
<td>McGrath 9 (pp. 212-227); 17 + response to IGR</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
<td>Christianity and World Religions</td>
<td>McGrath, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Christianity and World Religions</td>
<td>McGrath 17</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
<td>Last Things</td>
<td>McGrath 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Last Things/Class party</td>
<td>Integrative Proj. Dec. 9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Revised Aug. 26, 2013
Resources for Theology

I am grateful to my colleague Arnold Neufeldt-Fast for providing the bibliographical list below. See his other resources at Christian Theology online Reading Room.


_______. (See also Tyndale’s Barth Reading Room).


Bonhoeffer, D. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Touchstone, 1995. (Lutheran; German; see also Tyndale’s Bonhoeffer Reading Room)


Grenz, Stanley. Theology for the Community of God. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. (Baptist; Canadian)


Grudem, Wayne A. Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine. Grand


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______. *Word and Church: Essays in Church Dogmatics*. New York: Continuum, 2006. ([Tyndale eBook](#))


**Selected Theological Dictionaries and Encyclopedias at Tyndale**


New Catholic Encyclopedia. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2003 (Tyndale eBook)

Olson, Roger, ed. The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology. Louisville, KY: Westminster

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**Selected Theological Journals**

*Evangelical Review of Theology*

*Evangelical Quarterly*

*Modern Theology*

*International Journal of Systematic Theology*

*Scottish Journal of Theology*

*Theology Today*

*Toronto Journal of Theology*

*Word & World*

**Important Notes**

- To search topically for relevant journal articles, book reviews or collected essays, use the comprehensive ATLA Religion Database – available over Tyndale Library’s eJournal databases. See also Proquest Religious Database, Religious and Theological Abstracts and JSTOR. Full-text versions of many theological journal and book reviews can be downloaded from these databases via Tyndale Library’s eJournals.
- For eResources, see the Tyndale MTS Modular Reading Room for Christian Theology