

**PROVIDENCE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
TS5202**

**Theological Foundations II
Winter Term 2011**

Christology, The Holy Spirit, Christian Life, Ecclesiology and Eschatology

Meeting times: Wednesday 12:40-4:25pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Tim Perry

Office hours: Mon. by appointment; Wed. 8:30-11:15am; Thurs. 8:30-11:15am (except when in Senate)

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course continues the introduction to the major concepts of Christian theology, including the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Christian calling, justification and sanctification, the church, and the last things. Students are expected to develop an ordered understanding of basic Christian doctrine, leading to a personal and critical appropriation of it for ministerial and theological leadership.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of taking this course, I would you to:

- ♦ Become familiar with basic Christian teaching concerning who Jesus is and what he has done;
- ♦ Acquire a coherent understanding of the person and work of Spirit of God, and how the Spirit gives rise to the life of the Christian and creates the Christian community;
- ♦ Learn how to better read theological texts, and to express theological concepts both orally and in writing;
- ♦ Develop a theological imagination;
- ♦ Recognize the importance of theology for the practical shape of Christian life;
- ♦ Cultivate skills as a lifelong learner and teacher of theology;
- ♦ Be better prepared for ministry and to bring a systematic understanding of Christian doctrine to bear on pastoral issues.

III. COURSE TEXTS

The following texts *must* be purchased:

- ♦ McCrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 4th ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007. *Note: you *must* use the 4th edition.

- ♦ Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. Translated by John W. Doberstein. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1954.
- ♦ Placher, William. *Jesus the Savior: The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001
- ♦ Winner, Lauren. *Girl Meets God: On the Path to a Spiritual Life*. New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004.

Text(s) Highly Recommended for Purchase:

- ♦ McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.

All texts are available for purchase in the bookstore.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance

“Regular class attendance is required. Absences of 20% for any reason will be reflected in the grading up to and including a failing mark. Excessive absences may prevent a student from enrolling in future courses.” (*Student Handbook*, p. 17)

B. Assignments

1. Critical Questions

Beginning on Wednesday January 19th and for each class thereafter, students will pose for each class three questions (just 3 please) concerning the McGrath reading to date (as well as Barth for Session 7 and Wainwright for Session 8). The three questions must do at least two of the following things:

- Ask for clarification of a specific question/issue;
- Compare or contrast this reading with other readings (this class or other classes);
- Seek to probe more deeply into an argument or point the author is making;
- Make a thoughtful assessment of what the author has said;
- Point out further questions, implications, problems, issues that are raised by these readings for you;
- Try to tie the reading into concrete experiences and concerns.

The three questions, typed with your name and mailbox clearly designated, will be submitted each week for credit at the beginning of class. No late questions will be accepted or given credit. Your questions will be returned to you with either a Pass (P) or a Fail (F) grade; comments will not be made. DO NOT TURN IN ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS!

2. Reaction Paper—4 pages, 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced with 1 inch margins all around, footnotes (Turabian style), title page and bibliography, stapled in the upper-left hand corner.

Your task is to (1) read through *Girl Meets God* in its entirety, and (2) answer the following questions:

- What impacted you the most about Winner’s telling of her story? And why?
- What are the most important marks of the Christian or “spiritual” life according to Winner?
- In what senses, if any, does Winner’s telling of her story impact your own understanding of Christian existence?

This paper is to be handed in at the beginning of class on February 16th.

3. Critical Book Review—6 pages, 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced with 1 inch margins all around, footnotes (Turabian style), title page and bibliography, stapled in the upper-left hand corner.

The student shall write a six-page critical book review of *Jesus the Savior* by William Placher. The purpose of a critical book review is to engage not only the theological positions and views of the text in its entirety, but also to provide a seasoned theological reflection on its contents and why its contents matter for the practice of Christian ministry.

In greater detail, the assigned task is to provide a careful and thorough examination of the basic issues(s) at stake in the text, and to evaluate the relative strength(s) and/or weakness(es) of the author’s case. With this in mind, a critical book review should proceed in the following way. (1) *Read* the text in its entirety. (2) *Summarize* the dominant issue(s) and argument(s) in the author’s mind and demonstrate your awareness of the *central thesis or theses* of the text. (3) *Critique* the author’s programme: To what extent does the author help (or not help) you to better understand the person and work of Christ? (4) *Reflect* on what the implications of the author’s programme are for your practice of Christian ministry? In short, a book review should include a summary of the position(s) taken in the book, and a critical and thoughtful evaluation of the content, with a view to its implications for pastoral practice.

The critical book review is to be handed in at the beginning of class on February 2nd.

4. Theological Essays—4 pages, 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced with 1 inch margins all around, title page and bibliography, stapled in the upper-left hand corner.

These exercises are intended to assist you with integrating some of the major themes of Christian theology with the practice of Christian ministry. As you write, remember to quote and use sources correctly, and seek to incorporate the vocabulary and basic concepts of *course lectures*, *class discussions*, and *course readings* into your treatment. Note that these are not research papers; you are to only use the sources listed above. Your task in these essays is to demonstrate that you are acquainted with basic Christian teaching and its implications for Christian ministry.

Essay one—“Who is Jesus and what has he done?” (February 23rd)

Please answer the following questions: What is the meaning of the incarnation? What is the message of Jesus’ life, the significance of his words and deeds? In what way(s) is his death a “saving” death? What is the good news of his resurrection? Where is Jesus now and what is he doing?

Essay two—“Who is the Holy Spirit and what does the Spirit do?” (March 16th)

Please answer the following questions: Who is the Holy Spirit? What work does the Spirit accomplish in salvation? How would you describe the Spirit’s action in relation to that of Jesus Christ? In relation to the church? In relation to the Christian?

Essay three—“What *is* the Church and what are the *marks* of a true Church ?” (March 30th)

*Note that it will be especially important for you to have a well-articulated thesis for this assignment.

Hints on writing an essay:

The key to writing a successful essay is to defend a definite proposition (a thesis) in a series of ordered steps. Make sure that you have a thesis, not simply a theme. It will help to state your thesis in a simple sentence near the beginning of your paper. Write for a sympathetic reader who wishes to test your knowledge of the material and the cogency of your argument.

I cannot evaluate ideas which are not clearly communicated in writing. I therefore encourage you to make sure you have proofread your papers before turning them in. Do not assume that because an idea is clear to you, you have communicated it clearly in writing. Make use of the tutors Prov provides—they are available for help and consultation at no cost in the library on a regular basis—or the help of friends. If your paper is not communicating your ideas clearly, I will return in to you without a grade. You will then have *one week* to fix the mechanics of the paper without penalty.

V. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. Matters of Style & Documentation

Your reflection/reaction paper, critical book review, and theological essays must be written in a style consistent with the model set out by Kate L. Turabian in her work *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. Though there are many formatting/footnoting systems, Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers* is the *only* system allowed for use in this class. Should you require tips and illustrations as to what Turabian formatting looks like, please consult Michael Gilmour’s “What do I have to do to get an ‘A’ on my Paper?: Paper Writing Tips and an

Illustration of Turabian Formatting.” It is available in this reserve section of the library and online at: <http://prov.ca/library/turabppr.pdf> . Should you choose not to follow Turabian, your mark will suffer.

Written work ought to be free of spelling mistakes, punctuated correctly, and adhere to basic rules of grammar. It is expected that written work will be submitted in a clear, straight-forward style of academic prose. For accuracy in all things grammatical, please consult John Seely, *Everyday Grammar* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001); and for clarity in expressing one’s ideas in one’s writing, please consult William Strunk, Jr., *The Elements of Style*, 4th edition (Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 1999) or other similar guides.

It is assumed that each student will proofread his/her work carefully, and will seek help from the appropriate sources if the professor indicates that such help is necessary.

2. Plagiarism and Honesty

Plagiarism is a common problem in higher education. Note that Providence College & Seminary’s *Student Handbook* defines plagiarism as “taking and using the thoughts, ideas, and writings, and other creative works of another person, persons, and passing them off as one’s own. A scholar who does so is intellectually dishonest. Scholars should give credit to give credit explicitly and clearly to ideas, thoughts, and writings of another.” See pg. 16f of *The Student Handbook*. Penalties for plagiarism may include repeating the assignment, failing the assignment, or failing the course.

3. Title Page

The title page for all written work ought to include the following:

The title of the paper, name of the course, name of the professor, date of submission, your name and Campus mailbox number.

Ensure that you have accurately and fully documented sources used in your papers.

4. Late Assignments

Assignments are to be completed on time. Permissions for late extensions must be received from the instructor at least two days prior to the due date of a paper. Permission *may* be granted on the basis of an illness or emergency. If a student does not submit his/her assignment on time, that is at the beginning of class on the day that the assignment is due, and has not obtained an extension, he/she will receive a penalty of a 1/3 of a letter grade per working day up to a maximum of two whole letter grades. All assignments must be handed in by the last day of class if credit is to be received.

5. Inclusive Language

It is expected that the student will use inclusive language when referring to other people: for example, “humankind” instead of “mankind,” “brothers and sisters” instead of “brothers,” “he/she” instead of “he.”

VI. GRADE GUIDE

The following is an explanation of the letter grading system:

Excellent (90-100%)

Good (80-89%)

Fair (70-79%)

Passing (60-69%)

Failure (0-59%)

Marking is always difficult. Marks represent an evaluation of actual work—not good intentions, inherent ability, intelligence, personal or moral or spiritual qualities. I am *always* willing to discuss a grade on a paper or project. Please note that your paper will only receive a number grade, not a letter grade. Please see the attached grade guides for further details.

VII. EVALUATION

- ♦ Critical Questions 10%
- ♦ Critical Book Review 30%
- ♦ Reaction Paper 15%
- ♦ First Theological Essay 15%
- ♦ Second Theological Essay 15%
- ♦ Third Theological Essay 15%

**All Assignments must be handed in by the last day of class in order to pass the course.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Session 1, January 12
Topic: Course Introduction
2. Session 2, January 19
Topic: The Doctrine of the Person of Christ I
Reading: McGrath, pp. 272-304
3. Session 3, January 26
Topic: The Doctrine of the Person of Christ II
Reading: 272-304

4. Session 4, February 2
Topic: Faith and History: The Christological Agenda of Modernity
Reading: McGrath, pp. 305-325
5. Session 5, February 9
Topic: The Doctrine of Salvation in Christ I
Reading: McGrath, pp. 326-359
6. Session 6, February 16
Topic: The Doctrine of Salvation in Christ II
Reading: Winner (all of it)
7. Session 7, February 23
Topic: The Christian Life
Reading: Karl Barth, *Evangelical Theology*, ch. 9 (pp. 96-108), 13 (pp.145-158), & 17(pp. 196-206).
8. Session 8, March 2
Topic: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
Reading: Wainright, Geoffrey. "The Holy Spirit." In *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, ed. Colin E. Gunton, 273-296. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
9. Session 9, March 16
Topic: The Doctrine of the Church
Reading: McGrath, pp. 391-418; Bonhoeffer (all of it)
10. Session 10, March 23
Topic: The Doctrine of the Sacraments
Reading: McGrath, pp. 419-444
11. Session 11, March 30
Topic: Christianity and the World Religions
Reading: McGrath, pp. 445-463
12. Session 12, April 6
Topic: The Last Things: Christian Hope
Reading: McGrath, pp. 464-485

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

I consider the following general reference works to be essential to your theological library.

- ♦ **General Reference**

- González, Justo L. *A Concise History of Christian Doctrine*. Nashville: Abington, 2005.
- Gunton, Colin E., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Hart, Trevor A., ed. *The Dictionary of Historical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- McGrath, Alister E., ed. *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Modern Christian Thought*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1993.
- _____. *The Christian Theology Reader*, 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.
- _____. *Theology: The Basics*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008.
- McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.
- _____. *Theological Turning Points: Major Issues in Christian Thought*. Atlanta: Westminster John Knox Press, 1988.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. 5 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971-89.
- _____. *Jesus through the Centuries*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.
- Placher, William C. *A History of Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Webster, John. *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

B. Helpful Introductions to Christian Theology

- Ford, David F. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology since 1918*. Ed. David F. Ford with Rachel Muers. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Gunton, Colin E. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.
- Guthrie, Shirley C. *Christian Doctrine: Revised Edition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993.
- Inbody, Tyron. *The Faith of the Christian Church: An Introduction to Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Jones, Serene, and Paul Lakeland, eds. *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- Markham, Ian S. *Understanding Christian Doctrine*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008.
- McGlasson, Paul C. *An Invitation to Dogmatic Theology: A Canonical Approach*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006.
- McGrath, Alister C. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 3^d ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.
- Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
- Ratzinger, Joseph Cardinal. *Introduction to Christianity*. Translated by J.R. Foster. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2004.
- Stiver, Dan R. *Life Together in the Way of Jesus Christ: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2008.
- Williams, Rowan. *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. London: Canterbury Press Norwich, 2007.

C. On Specific Theologians and Theological Questions

- Anselm of Canterbury. *Basic Writings*. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 1974.
- Athanasius. *St. Athanasius on the Incarnation*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1982.
- Augustine of Hippo. *The Trinity*. Brooklyn: New City Press, 1991.
- Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. 2d ed. Edited by G.W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance. 14 vols. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1975.
- _____. *Dogmatics in Outlines*. Translated by G.T. Thomson. New York: Harper & Row, 1959.
- Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Translated by John Vriend. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003-.
- Benne, Robert. *Ordinary Saints: An Introduction to the Christian Life*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Christ the Center*. Translated by Edwin H. Robinson. New York: Harper & Row, 1978.
- Bloesch, Donald G. *Christian Foundations*. 7 vols. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994-2004.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960.
- Charry, Ellen T. *By the Renewing of Your Minds: The Pastoral Function of Christian Doctrine*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Dunn, James. *Christology in the Making: A New Testament Inquiry into the Origins of the Doctrine of the Incarnation*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Frei, Hans W. *Types of Christian Theology*. Edited by George Hunsinger and William C. Placher. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.
- _____. *The Identity of Jesus Christ: The Hermeneutical Basis of Dogmatic Theology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1997.
- Gregory of Nyssa. *Dogmatic Treatises, Etc.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Rediscovering the Triune God: The Trinity in Contemporary Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- Gunton, Colin E. *The Actuality of the Atonement: A Study of Metaphor, Rationality and the Christian Tradition*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1989.
- _____. *The Triune Creator: A Historical and Systematic Study*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- _____. *Act and Being: Towards a Theology of the Divine Attributes*. Grand Rapids and Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation. History, Politics and Salvation*. Translated by Sister Caridad Ina and John Eagleson. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1988.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *The Hauerwas Reader*. Edited by John Berkman and Michael Cartwright. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001.
- Hodgson, Peter C. *Liberal Theology: A Radical Vision*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.
- Irenaeus. *Against the Heresies*. New York: Paulist Press, 1946.
- Jenson, Robert W. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- _____. *Conversations with Poppi about God: an Eight-year-old and her Theologian Grandfather Trade Questions*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006.

- Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. New York: Crossroad, 2002.
- Jüngel, Eberhard. *God as the Mystery of the World: On the Foundation of the Theology of the Crucified One in the Dispute between Theism and Atheism*. Translated by Darrell L. Guder. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Lindbeck, George A. *The Nature of Doctrine: Religion and Theology in a Postliberal Age*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Kelsey, David H. *Proving Doctrine: The Uses of Scripture in Recent Theology*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press, 1999.
- Lull, Timothy F., ed. *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1989.
- Origen. *On First Principles*. Translated by G.W. Butterworth. New York: Harper & Row, 1973.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.
- McKim, Donald K. *Introducing the Reformed Faith: Biblical Tradition, Christian Tradition, Contemporary Significance*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Newbigen, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Pegis, Anton C., ed. *Basic Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas*. 2 vols. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997.
- Placher, William C. *Unapologetic Theology: A Christian Vision in a Pluralistic Conversation*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1989.
- _____. *Narratives of a Vulnerable God: Christ, Theology, and Scripture*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994.
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- Ray, Stephen G., Jr. *Do No Harm: Social Sin and Christian Responsibility*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
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- _____. ed. *Essentials of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
- Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *The Christian Faith*. Edited by H.R. Macintosh and H.S. Stewart. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999.
- Tanner, Kathryn. *Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity: a Brief Systematic Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.
- Torrance, T.F. *The Mediation of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- _____. *The Doctrine of God: One Being, Three Persons*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996.
- Watson, Francis. *Text and Truth: Redefining Biblical Theology*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997.
- Webster, John. *Essays in Christian Dogmatics*. 2 vols. New York: T & T Clark: 2001-05.
- _____. *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Williams, Rowan. *On Christian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.
- Wilson, John Elbert. *Introduction to Modern Theology: Trajectories in the German Tradition*. Louisville and London: Westminster John Knox, 2007.
- Wright, N. T. *Christian Origins and the Question of God*. 3 vols. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992-.
- Yoder, John Howard. *The Politics of Jesus*. Grand Rapids and Cambridge: Eerdmans, 1994.

THEOLOGICAL ESSAY GRADE GUIDE

Name of Student _____

A. GRAMMAR & WRITING

- i. Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
- ii. Is the text punctuated correctly?
- iii. Does the sentence structure adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
- iv. Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (papers will be returned to the student for “another try” if necessary)

___/5

B. ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE OF IDEAS

- i. Is the paper organized?
- ii. Does the paper flow well and does it make sense?
- iii. Does it follow the directions given in the syllabus?
- iv. Does it answer the required questions?

___/5

C. ANALYSIS—CRITICAL THINKING—FORCE OF ARGUMENT

- i. Does your paper evidence depth of thinking, analytical skills?
- ii. Is there evidence of mature theological and pastoral reflection on the subject matter?
- iii. Does the paper demonstrate sufficient use of the sources, given the nature and level of the assignment?

___/5

Total ___/15
