



TYNDALE
• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

INTERCESSION 2018 LIFE AND THOUGHT OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER THEO 0670

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 – SATURDAY, JANUARY 6
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: ROBERT J. DEAN, THD

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Office Hours: By appointment.

To access your course material, please go to <http://classes.tyndale.ca>. Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward emails to your personal account, see <http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu>.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is one of the most recognizable Christian names of the 20th century. His courageous witness in the face of the horrors of the Nazi regime, coupled with his ability to articulate compelling turns of phrase and author works of penetrating spiritual insight, have contributed to his status as one of the most widely beloved theologians. However, the contours of Bonhoeffer's life and the details of his writings often remain unknown, even to those who claim him as a hero. This course aspires to situate Bonhoeffer in his historical context and, through engagement with primary sources, help students come to an understanding of the predominant concerns and animating center of Bonhoeffer's life and work. The implications of Bonhoeffer's witness for theology, spiritual formation, congregational life, and Christian mission in the 21st century will also be considered.

Recommended Prerequisite: THEO 0531 & 0532 Systematic Theology I & II

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

With diligence in reading, informed reflection, and participation in class discussions, by the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Describe the major themes represented in the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the significance of his contribution to the practice of theology and ministry.
2. Locate the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer within the theological, ecclesial, and political landscape of the early 20th century and be aware of the significant influences upon his work and his place within the historic Christian tradition.
3. Appreciate the integral place of theological reflection in the life of the Christian church and the inseparable connection between theology and all facets of Christian life and ministry (eg. – theology and ethics, theology and evangelism, theology and worship, theology and preaching, etc.).
4. Draw upon resources from within the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer to respond to questions facing Christians and the church in their own particular context.
5. Develop their skills of theological reading, reasoning, and reflection and increase their capacity to respond to current social, cultural and global realities in a theologically-informed way.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING:

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Bonhoeffer Reader*. Edited by Clifford J. Green and Michael P. DeJonge. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013. (Hereafter referred to as *BR.*)

** Note: This book is available to all Tyndale students as an [ebook through the Tyndale library website](#).

Tietz, Christiane. *Theologian of Resistance: The Life and Thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Translated by Victoria J. Barnett. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY READING:

Dean, Robert. *For the Life of the World: Jesus Christ and the Church in the Theologies of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Stanley Hauerwas*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2016.

DeGruchy, John W., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

** Note: All Tyndale students have [electronic access to this volume](#), as well as to the complete *Cambridge Companion* series, through the Tyndale Library website.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Class Participation: 10 % of final grade

It is expected that students will read all of the required readings prior to the scheduled class. Come prepared to engage the group in discussion each class, having carefully read and reflected upon your readings. Good participation includes both substance of content (demonstrating your grasp of the issues and ability to integrate what you've read) and conversational virtues and skills (charity, truthfulness, clarity, persuasiveness, ability to be practical and relevant, etc.). In other words, strive to be an informed and engaging communicator and listener.

Student participation will be graded on a scale of 1 to 4: 1 (or D): present, not disruptive; responds when called on but does not offer much; infrequent involvement; 2 (or C): adequate preparation, but no evidence of interpretation of analysis; offers straightforward information; contributes moderately when called upon; 3 (or B): good preparation, offers interpretation and analysis, contributes well to discussion in on-going fashion; 4 (or A): excellent preparation, offers analysis, synthesis and evaluation of material; contributes significantly to ongoing discussion.

2. Biographical Assignment: Students are encouraged to complete this assignment prior to the first class; however, the assignment may be submitted anytime before Tuesday, January 16, 16% of final grade

Drawing upon Christiane Tietz's *Theologian of Resistance: The Life and Thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, which students are strongly encouraged to read in advance of the first class, students will construct a list of what they believe to be the ten most influential persons, experiences, or events in Bonhoeffer's life. Students will write a short paragraph describing each person, experience, or event they have included and its significance for Bonhoeffer. It will probably be easiest to write your paper using a chronological organizational pattern moving from past to present. For example, if you believe Bonhoeffer's birth in Breslau should be on your list, discuss it first rather than toward the end of your paper. Students should be prepared to share their list with the class on the first day of the course. The paper should not exceed **four pages** in length (excluding cover page).

3. Research Proposal Presentation: Due on Saturday, January 6 in class, 10% of final grade

On the final day in class, students will make a 12-15 minute presentation in which they will share with the class a tentative proposal for their final research paper. Each presentation will be followed by a brief time of discussion during which the student will field questions and receive suggestions from classmates and the professor.

Effective presentations will address the following questions:

- a. What is the topic you are hoping to research?
- b. Why are you interested in this topic?
- c. What do you think some of the important sources will be?

- d. How might Bonhoeffer have something to offer to contemporary theology or the life and ministry of the church in this area?

Please note that students are **not** expected to have completed their research or written their papers by this point. Instead, the research paper proposal presentation is an initial, tentative step, that provides the opportunity for testing ideas out with the professor and fellow students. The feedback you receive on your research paper proposal presentation will help you to frame your research question, provide direction to your research, and circumscribe the central sources for which you will be responsible.

4. Reading Reports: Due on Friday, February 9; 24% of final grade

Students will select one reading from each of the four periods of Bonhoeffer’s life listed below and submit a two-page report on each reading selected. The report will provide a synopsis of the reading. (ThM students will select and submit reports on one reading from each of the first two periods and on both readings from the latter two periods.) In the final paragraph, students will share their personal reflection upon the reading, suggesting where the reading might be relevant to contemporary issues in theology or to the life of the church, and articulating one question that has emerged for them from the reading. Students will submit **4 reports** in total. (ThM students will submit **6 reports** in total.)

Period	Option A	Option B
Doctoral Dissertations (1927-1930)	<i>Sanctorum Communio</i> (BR, 18-19, 34-56)	<i>Act and Being</i> (BR, 92-109)
University Lectures (1931-1933)	<i>Creation and Fall</i> (BR, 210-260)	Christology lectures (BR, 261-313)
Underground Seminary (1935-1939)	<i>Discipleship</i> (BR, 455-459, 469-513)	<i>Life Together</i> (BR, 514-561)
Conspiracy & Imprisonment (1940-1945)	<i>Ethics</i> (BR, 613-630, 636-666, 685-698)	<i>Letters and Papers from Prison</i> (BR, 761-817)

5. Research Paper: Due on Friday, March 2; 40 % of final grade

The research paper presents the opportunity to investigate in greater depth an issue or topic relating to Bonhoeffer’s life and writings that is of particular importance to you. Since this is a research paper, you will be expected to engage with a variety of sources beyond the class materials. Special attention should be given to engaging with the primary sources in the Bonhoeffer corpus, alongside of the judicious use of secondary sources. The paper 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.

Begin by introducing your topic and explaining why it is important and worth your reader’s time and attention. **Detail a clear thesis**, which is a specific position that you

will defend in your paper. Example of a thesis statement: “The person of Jesus Christ is the animating heart of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s theology.” Write an essay that coherently demonstrates your view. Stating and evaluating alternatives with fairness will strengthen your essay. The paper should be between 14-16 pages (20-25 pages for ThM students) in length. Rubrics for the Research Paper will be posted on the course web page.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

All written assignments which are due following the in-class time are due by 11:59 pm (Eastern Time) on the assigned due date. Papers are to be e-mailed to the instructor (rdean@tyndale.ca) in Microsoft Word format. The file name for the document should include the student’s first initial and last name along with the assignment title (e.g. `jdoe_bookreview.doc`). If you do not have Microsoft Word please contact the instructor so alternate arrangements can be made. In accordance with the Academic Calendar, papers that are received after 11:59 pm on the assigned due date without advanced permission will receive a one-third of a grade point deduction (e.g., from A+ to A, or B to B-) for each week or part thereof that they are late. This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no extension has been granted. Extensions will be granted only for serious personal, family, or health situations.

Assignments should be double-spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman font, with 1” or 1.25” margins. The standard citation method for theological papers is footnotes with a complete bibliography in the [Chicago style](#), as explained in the [popular guidebook written by Kate L. Turabian](#). For proper citation style, 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](#).

The bibliographic software **Zotero** is recommended as a helpful citation tool which will save time and help to ensure that proper formatting is followed (available free at <https://www.zotero.org/>).

Academic Integrity

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 policies 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>.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Required Reading and Class Participation	10 %	In class
Bonhoeffer Biographical Assignment	16 %	Due January 2, start of class
Research Paper Proposal Presentation	10 %	January 6, in class
Reading Reports	24 %	February 9
Research Paper	40 %	March 2
Total Grade	100 %	

F. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Tuesday, January 2 (AM): Introduction & Biographical Overview

Required Reading: Tietz, *Theologian of Resistance* (whole book).

Supplemental Reading: F. Burton Nelson, "[The Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)," in *Cambridge Companion*, 22-49.

Tuesday, January 2 (PM): The Times They Are A Changin': Locating Bonhoeffer

Required Reading: "The Theology of Crisis. . ." in *BR*, 143-155.

Supplemental Reading: Dean, *For the Life of the World*, 6-9.
Martin Rumscheidt, "[The Formation of Bonhoeffer's Theology](#),"
in *Cambridge Companion*, 50-70.

Wednesday, January 3 (AM): The Theologian Becomes a Disciple: Bonhoeffer's Turn to the Sermon on the Mount

Required Reading: "Costly Grace," in *BR*, 459-469.

Supplemental Reading: Dean, *For the Life of the World*, 73-84.
Haddon Willmer, "[Costly Discipleship](#)," in *Cambridge Companion*, 173-189.

Wednesday, January 3 (PM): Kingdoms in Conflict: Bonhoeffer and the Third Reich

Required Reading: "The Church and the Jewish Question," in *BR*, 370-378.

Supplemental Reading: Dean, *For the Life of the World*, 241-251.
Ruth Zerner, "[Church, state and the 'Jewish Question'](#)," in
Cambridge Companion, 190-205.

Thursday, January 4 (AM): A New Kind of Monasticism: Bonhoeffer and "Radical" Christian Community

Required Reading: "Community," in *BR*, 515-530.

Supplemental Reading: Dean, *For the Life of the World*, 84-101.
Clifford Green, "[Human Sociality and Christian Community](#)," in
Cambridge Companion, 113-133.

Thursday, January 4 (PM): The (Ir)Relevance of the Gospel: Preaching and Listening to Sermons with Bonhoeffer

Required Reading: "Contemporizing New Testament Texts," in *BR*, 415-431.

Supplemental Reading: Dean, *For the Life of the World*, 17-41.

Friday, January 5 (AM): A Life's Work?: Bonhoeffer's *Ethics*

Required Reading: "Christ, Reality & Good. Christ, Church & World," in *BR*, 594-612.

Supplemental Reading: Dean, *For the Life of the World*, 154-171.
Larry Rasmussen, "[The Ethics of Responsible Action](#)," in *Cambridge Companion*, 206-225.

Friday, January 5 (PM): Sharing in the Sufferings of God: The Prison Letters

Required Reading: "Outline for a Book," in *BR*, 811-815.

Supplemental Reading: Dean, *For the Life of the World*, 171-187.
Peter Selby, "[Christianity in a World Come of Age](#)," in *Cambridge Companion*, 226-245.

Saturday, January 6 (AM): Student Presentations

Research Paper Proposal Presentation Due

Saturday, January 6 (PM): Student Presentations + Course Wrap-up

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources:

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———. *The Collected Sermons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Edited by Isabel Best. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

———. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works*. Edited by Victoria J. Barnett, Wayne Whitson Floyd Jr., and Barbara Wojhoski. 17 vols. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996–2013.

Vol. 1: *Sanctorum Communio: A Theological Study of the Sociology of the Church*. Edited by Clifford J. Green. Translated by Reinhard Krauss and Nancy Lukens. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Vol. 2: *Act and Being: Transcendental Philosophy and Ontology in Systematic Theology*. Edited by Wayne Whitson Floyd, Jr. Translated by H. Martin Rumscheidt. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

Vol. 3: *Creation and Fall: A Theological Exposition of Genesis 1-3*. Edited by John W. de Gruchy. Translated by Douglas Stephen Bax. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Vol. 4: *Discipleship*. Edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly and John D. Godsey. Translated by Barbara Green and Reinhard Krauss. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Vol. 5: *Life Together and Prayerbook of the Bible*. Edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly. Translated by Daniel W. Bloesch and James H. Burtness. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

- Vol. 6: *Ethics*. Edited by Clifford J. Green. Translated by Reinhard Krauss, Charles C. West, and Douglas W. Stott. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Vol. 7: *Fiction from Tegel Prison*. Edited by Clifford Green. Translated by Nancy Lukens. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.
- Vol. 8: *Letters and Papers from Prison*. Edited by John W. de Gruchy. Translated by Isabel Best, Lisa E. Dahill, Reinhard Krauss, and Nancy Lukens. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.
- Vol. 9: *The Young Bonhoeffer: 1918-1927*. Edited by Paul Duane Matheny, Clifford J. Green, and Marshall D. Johnson. Translated by Mary C. Nebelsick and Douglas W. Stott. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
- Vol. 10: *Barcelona, Berlin, New York: 1928-1931*. Edited by Clifford J. Green. Translated by Douglas W. Stott. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.
- Vol. 11: *Ecumenical, Academic, and Pastoral Work: 1931-1932*. Edited by Victoria J. Barnett, Mark S. Bocker, and Michael B. Lukens. Translated by Anne Schmidt-Lange, with Isabel Best, Nicolas Humphrey, and Marion Pauck. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.
- Vol. 12: *Berlin: 1932-1933*. Edited by Larry L. Rasmussen. Translated by Isabel Best and David Higgins. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.
- Vol. 13: *London: 1933-1935*. Edited by Keith W. Clements. Translated by Isabel Best. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.
- Vol. 14: *Theological Education at Finkenwalde: 1935-1937*. Edited by H. Gaylon Barker and Mark S. Bocker. Translated by Douglas W. Stott. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.
- Vol. 15: *Theological Education Underground: 1937-1940*. Edited by Victoria J. Barnett. Translated by Victoria J. Barnett, Claudia D. Bergmann, Peter Frick, and Scott Moore. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.
- Vol. 16: *Conspiracy and Imprisonment*. Edited by Mark S. Bocker. Translated by Lisa E. Dahill and Douglas W. Stott. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.
- Vol. 17: *Index*. Edited by Victoria J. Barnett and Barbara Wojhoski. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.
- . *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Witness to Jesus Christ*. Edited by John W. de Gruchy. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- . *Love Letters from Cell 92: The Correspondence between Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Maria von Wedemeyer*. Translated by John Brownjohn. Edited by Ruth-Alice von Bismark and Ulrich Kabitz. London: HarperCollinsPublishers, 1994.
- . *A Testament to Freedom: The Essential Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Rev. ed. Edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly and F. Burton Nelson. New York: HarperOne, 1995.
- . *Worldly Preaching: Lectures on Homiletics*. Edited and Translated by Clyde E. Fant. New York: Crossroad, 1991.

Secondary Sources:

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- . *Friendship and Resistance: Essays on Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1995.
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- International Bonhoeffer Society. "The Bonhoeffer Center." <http://thebonhoeffercenter.org/>.
- Tyndale Seminary. "Dietrich Bonhoeffer Reading Room." <https://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsm modular/reading-rooms/theology/bonhoeffer>.