Course Syllabus

WINTER 2016
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I
THEO 0531

JANUARY 14 – APRIL 7
THURSDAYS, 6:45 – 9:35PM
INSTRUCTOR: PROF. JAMES BEVERLEY, PhD
Telephone number: 416 876 6012
Email: jamesbeverley@sympatico.ca; jbeveley@tyndale.ca

Office Hours:
I can see students on Thursday 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 or text 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

This introductory course endeavors to acquaint 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: Revelation, Trinity, Person of Christ, and 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 be able to:
1. Understand various perspectives and options that Christians have chosen on the different doctrines and issues addressed through the course.
2. Think more deeply about their own theological journey, about options in Christian theology, and about how to relate one’s own journey and theology with the positions of other Christians.
3. Address major cultural and social pressures that impact developments and changes in theological work.
4. Understand the basic history of Christian theology, the major alternatives in theological outlook
5. Integrate his/her Christian faith with developments and patterns in philosophy and culture.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS


B. SUPPLEMENTARY READING:

McGrath, Alister E., ed. *Christian Theology Reader*, 5th ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. (Students may want to use this for the extra reading BUT it is not mandatory.)


C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance, Participation, and Interview (20%)
   Attendance is expected at all classes. The student’s final grade will be adjusted in relation to attendance. **Students who miss three classes or more without exceptional reason will fail the course.**
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 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.

All students will have a personal interview with Professor Beverley sometime during the term. This will provide an opportunity for the student to share his/her life story and theological views and to set a foundation for further discovery during the term. Students are asked to prepare a one page timeline of the major events in their life, birth to present.

2. Reading AND report on McGrath (20%)
The student is to read the relevant chapter of McGrath for each class and write an answer to the following questions: 1. what did you learn of most value in the chapter? 2. Are there any areas of concern with what McGrath deals with or areas of disagreement? 3. Has you learning on the topics in the chapter changed your mind on anything? 500 words per chapter.

Date each response to the chapter and save the responses in a binder to be shared with Professor Beverley.

3. Reading AND report on Grenz + Holy Spirit (20%)
For our initial thinking on doing theology, read the chapter from Grenz and make a one-page list of your responses to Grenz. Place this list in your binder.

McGrath does not have significant material on the Holy Spirit. To make up for this absence, students are to read Professor Beverley’s book on Holy Laughter & the Toronto Blessing + Moltmann’s chapter on the Holy Spirit + an ancient Christian writer on the Holy Spirit, either Basil the Great or another ancient writer. The student is to avoid a review of the Professor’s book but rather to offer an analysis of the topics raised in the books in connection to their own Biblical analysis of the Holy Spirit and their own research on the topics.

The student is to write a 1500 word free-flowing reaction to what is in this material. The report is NOT to be a review of these books but a commentary on the issues and topics raised in them. Save this report in your binder.

4. Major Research Project (30%)
Written essay...2500 words. This can be on any topic related to any of the issues raised in Systematic Theology I. The topic is to be discussed with Professor Beverley before research begins.

5. Take Home Exam (10%)
The take home exam will give students space for response to overall 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.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Please submit your research project by email to Rebekka Paul—she is Prof. Beverley’s administrative assistant. Her email is rebekkapaul@icloud.com. She does not grade assignments.

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.

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 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.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview, participation, attendance</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response to McGrath</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response on Grenz + Holy Spirit</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Take Home Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td><strong>Total Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 %</strong></td>
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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.

### IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>McGrath 6 Sources of Theology</td>
<td>McGrath response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>McGrath 6 Sources of Theology</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>McGrath 7 Knowledge of God</td>
<td>McGrath response</td>
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<td><strong>Response on Grenz</strong></td>
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<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>McGrath 8 Philosophy and theology</td>
<td>McGrath response</td>
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<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>McGrath 9 Doctrine of God</td>
<td>McGrath response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>McGrath 9 Doctrine of God</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>McGrath 11 Person of Christ</td>
<td>McGrath response</td>
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<td><strong>Report on Holy Spirit</strong></td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>McGrath 11 Person of Christ</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS March Break</strong></td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>McGrath 10 Doctrine of Trinity</td>
<td>McGrath response</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>McGrath 10 Doctrine of Trinity</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>McGrath 12 Faith and History</td>
<td>McGrath response</td>
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<td>Last class...party</td>
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<td><strong>Research Project Due Apr 8</strong></td>
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<td>Take home exam Due Apr 15</td>
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V. RESOURCES FOR THEOLOGY

For web material related to McGrath, go to www.wiley.com/mcgrath Students should use the electronic resources of the Tyndale library. http://www.tyndale.ca/library is the library home page.

Tyndale also hosts reading rooms in theology prepared by my colleague Arnold Neufeldt-Fast. For the general listing of his online reading rooms, go here: http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms

For the specific theology stuff, go here: http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/theology

Also, note the Trinity reading room: http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/theology/trinity