



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus Spring & Summer 2013

Systematic Theology I THEO 0531

April 30 – May 30, 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:30 – 9:20 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Professor James A. Beverley
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Cell phone: 416 876 6012

Office Hours & Contact Information:

I can see students by appointment before and after class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will be on campus those two days during the course. The best way to set up an appointment is by email. Do NOT use my Tyndale email but the symapctico email noted above. The best number to reach me is my cell phone number noted above. Do NOT use my Tyndale extension. When sending me an email please put Tyndale in subject line.

To access your course materials, please go to www.mytyndale.ca. Note that all official Tyndale correspondence will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward Tyndale emails to your personal account, see 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 will:

1. Understand various perspectives and options that Christians have chosen on the different doctrines and issues addressed through the course.
2. Be able to 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. Be able to 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, and
4. Know how to integrate his/her Christian faith with developments and patterns in philosophy and culture.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Grenz, Stanley. "The Nature and Task of Theology." In: *Theology for the Community of God*, 1-25. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000. (Available on course resource page)

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, 5th ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Thompson, John. "The Trinity: The Mystery of Salvation." In: *Modern Trinitarian Perspectives*, 20-43. New York: Oxford Press, 1994. (Available on the course resource page and also as an [e-book](#) from our library. Because the book will be used extensively in Systematic Theology II, students are encouraged to purchase it).

Supplementary Readings

McGrath, Alister E., ed. *Christian Theology Reader*, 5th ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. (Students may want to use this for the extra reading. It is not chosen as a required textbook for this course, but will be used extensively in Systematic Theology II).

Basil the Great. On the Holy Spirit. Popular Patristics No. 42. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1980.

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, MN: Fortress, 1997.

B. 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 half hour **personal interview** with Professor Beverley sometime during the spring 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 **timeline** of the major events in their life, birth to present.

2. Reading + two reports (30%)

For each class students are to read the relevant chapter of McGrath + do one hour of reading in primary material and/or major authors dealt with in each chapter. The student is to keep a dated reading journal which lists the scope of reading in McGrath for each class + the details of other reading, including most important quotes and facts from the other reading material.

Each McGrath chapter + outside reading report: 500 words in total on each, so a total of 2000 words for all 4 chapters and related reading. Lists are fine. Casual writing is okay.

For the opening part of the course students are to read a section from Stan Grenz on the Nature and Task of Theology and react to this as part of the first reading report (available on course resource page).

Supplementary material will also be provided for the Holy Spirit section. To be discussed at first class.

The reading report is submitted twice during the course.

3. 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.

4. Take Home Exam (20%)

The take home exam will assess student interaction with text material plus classroom work.

Special Note about Assignment Due Dates

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

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.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments [*Sample*]

Attendance, participation & interview	20 %
Reading & 2 reports	30 %
Major research project	30%
Take home exam	20 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Date	Topic	Assignments
Tues Apr 30	Introduction to Course; Grenz	
Thurs May 2	Sources of Theology – ch. 6	
Tues May 7	Knowledge of God – ch. 7	
Thursday May 9	Philosophy & Theology –ch. 8	
Tuesday May 14	Doctrine of God – ch. 9	
Thursday May 16	Doctrine of Trinity-ch. 10; Thompson	Reading Report #1 Sat May 18
Tuesday May 21	Person of Christ-ch. 11	
Thursday May 23	Faith and History-ch. 12	

Tuesday, May 28	Holy Spirit ch. 9, pp. 227-233 + supplementary reading: Moltmann and Basil	
Thursday May 30	Summary – – Last class	Reading Report #2 Sat June 1
		Research Project Due June 22
		Exam Due June 29

V. Select Bibliography/Resource Guides on 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. The following can help any of you working on research topics or looking for material to use in the take home exam. As well, these resources are useful for continued reflection on Christian life and beliefs.

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>