



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

**Course Syllabus
SPRING-SUMMER 2013**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II THEO 0532

**JUNE 18 – JULY 18
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM – 9:20 PM**

INSTRUCTOR: ROBERT J. DEAN (Th.D. CAND.)
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Office Hours: By appointment

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

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: Theo 531

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Have a general familiarity with the major doctrines of the Christian tradition;
2. Have further developed their skills of theological reading, reasoning, and reflection;

3. Be able to respond to current social, cultural and global realities in a theologically-informed way;
4. Appreciate the role of theology as a check on biblical interpretation and as a foundation for Christian witness and worship;
5. Be able to read, understand, and critically engage more advanced works of theology, including works by major theologians;
6. Have participated in the great adventure of “faith seeking understanding.”

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th ed. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-4443-3514-9 (hereafter *CT*)

McGrath, Alister E. *The Christian Theology Reader*, 4th ed. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-470-65484-2 (hereafter *CTR*)

Thompson, John. [*Modern Trinitarian Perspectives*](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN: 9780195088984

NB: Students are encouraged to purchase this book. It is also available as an e-book from our library. It can be read and “highlighted” on-line, or downloaded to your computer for a two-week period (you must first download [Adobe Digital Editions](#)).

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Required Reading and Class Participation: 10% of final grade

Students will complete assigned readings each week (see schedule below). Students should come to class prepared to dialogue about what they have read and written. Since reflection and dialogue will be central to the accomplishment of the course objectives, students will be expected to participate in an informed manner in class discussions and engage the perspectives of the text, professor and other students.

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

2. In-Class Presentation: Due as scheduled; 25 % of final grade

The in-class presentations will provide a forum for the class to explore some of the defining theological controversies in the history of the Church. Each student will be responsible for giving a 10 minute presentation from the perspective of a figure engaged in a significant theological controversy at some point in the history of the Church (e.g., Arius or Athanasius on the divinity of the Son). There will also be an opportunity for the presenter to respond 'in character' to other students' presentations and to field questions from the class. In preparing for their presentations, students are expected to have a firm grasp of the materials within the McGrath textbook and reader which pertain to their topic, in addition to consulting other relative material (primary sources, theological dictionaries, journal articles, monographs, etc.). Students may be as creative as they'd like in representing their figure, however the primary objective of the assignment is to 'get inside the head' of the figure and accurately present their thought to the class. (Note that you will not necessarily agree with the figure that you will be portraying. After all, some were determined by the Church to be heretics!) Students will submit a hard-copy of their monologue to the instructor following their presentation.

3. Critical Reflection Paper: Due on July 4; 30% of final grade

Students will write a reflection paper comparing and contrasting Paul Tillich's sermon, "You Are Accepted" (<http://www.religiononline.org/showchapter.asp?title=378&C=84>) with Stanley Hauerwas' sermon "You Are Not Accepted" (in *Unleashing the Scripture* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993), 73-83 (available for download from the course website). Students are free to comment on the style and homiletical approach of both authors, however it is expected that the major emphasis of the paper will be upon the theological analysis of the understanding of salvation presented in both sermons. Students may draw upon course readings and material from lectures and class discussions to assist them in their analysis. The reflection paper will not exceed 1800 words.

4. Integrative Paper: Due on August 13; 35 % of final grade

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 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 problem (“What is the church?”), and the implications of the question 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 (e.g., from the *Christian Theology Reader*) that you have meaningfully encountered.
- c. **Social Dimension:** Your fellow students (as well as the voices collected in the *Christian Theology Reader*) 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 a 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.

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](#).

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>.

All written assignments are to be e-mailed to the instructor (robertdean@rogers.com) in Microsoft Word format by 11:59 pm on the assigned due date. 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.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Required Reading and Class Participation	10 %
In-Class Presentation	25%
Critical Reflection Paper	30 %
Integrative Research Paper	35 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

June 18 – Introduction; Eschatology I: The Eschatological Outlook of the New Testament

- *Introduction to, and overview of, the course. Situating the material to be covered over the length of the course within a missional, Trinitarian framework through a consideration of the eschatological outlook of the New Testament.*

- Readings: CT: chapter 18, pages 444-457.
CTR: 10.21, 10.22.
Thompson: chapter 4, pages 68-72.

June 20 – Creation & Theodicy

- *Creation as a Trinitarian act. The question of natural theology. The problem of science and faith. Approaches to the problem of evil.*
- Readings: CT: chapter 9, pages 212-227; chapter 14, pages 371-374.
CTR: 2.50, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3.14, 3.25, 3.34, 6.25.

June 25 – Soteriology

- *The work of Christ. Biblical and theological understandings of salvation. Models, metaphors, and images of atonement.*
- Readings: CT: chapter 13, pages 315-344.
CTR: 5.2, 5.5, 5.13, 5.14, 5.23, 5.29, 5.30, 5.32, 5.33.
Thompson: chapter 3, pages 44-63.

June 27 – Theological Anthropology & Sin

- *What does it mean to be human? The Imago Dei. Original sin. Total depravity. Biblical and theological understandings of sin.*
- Readings: CT: chapter 14, pages 348-355.
Cherith Fee Nordling, “The human person in the Christian story” in *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology*, ed. Timothy Larsen and Daniel J. Treier (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 65-78.
<Download PDF from course page.>
CTR: 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.13, 6.18, 6.21, 6.34, 6.47, 6.50, 6.57.
Thompson: chapter 6, pages 111-114.

July 2 – Justification

- *The significance of the Reformation debates surrounding justification. What do we mean when we speak of ‘justification by grace through faith.’?*
- Readings: CT: chapter 14, pages 355-371.
CTR: 6.30, 6.32, 6.33, 6.35, 6.37, 6.38, 6.48.

July 4 – The Christian Life

- *Towards an understanding of the Christian life as participation in the life of the Triune God. Including topics such as: sanctification and holiness, discipleship, life in the Spirit.*
- Readings: CTR: 6.1, 6.10, 6.44, 6.49, 7.30.
Thompson: chapter 6, pages 106-111, 117-119, 120-122.

- ***Critical Reflection Paper Due***

July 9 – Ecclesiology

- *The identity and mission of the Church as: the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit.*
- Readings: CT: chapter 15, pages 375-399.
CTR: 7.3, 7.6, 7.9, 7.13, 7.17, 7.26, 7.29.
Thompson: chapter 4, pages 72-89.

July 11 – Christian Worship & Sacraments

- *Exploring the meaning and significance of the sacraments and their place in the life of the worshipping congregation.*
- Readings: CT: chapter 16, pages 400-423.
CTR: 8.1, 8.4, 8.7, 8.14, 8.16, 8.18, 8.19, 8.23, 8.24, 8.26, 8.28, 8.33, 8.34.
Thompson, chapter 5, pages 94-104.

July 16 – Christianity and the Religions of the World

- *The problem of “religion”. Models of Christian approaches to other religions.*
- Readings: CT: chapter 17; pages 424-443.
CTR: 9.1-9.2, 9.4, 9.6, 9.9, 9.12.

July 18 – Eschatology II: The Last Things

- *The personal return of Christ, the resurrection of the body, the last judgment, life everlasting, heaven and hell, the millennium, the new heavens and the new earth.*
- Readings: CT: chapter 13, pages 344-346; chapter 18, pages 457-464.
CTR: 10.1, 10.9, 10.11, 10.14, 10.16, 10.18, 10.19, 10.24, 10.26.
Thompson, chapter 2, pages 33-36.

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Systematic Theologies, General and Introductory Resources

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. trans ed. G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance. 13 vols. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1957-1975. (Reformed; Swiss) (See Tyndale’s [Barth Reading Room](#) and Tyndale’s [Digital Karl Barth Library](#))

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_____. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Translated by Henry Beveridge. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989. (Reformed)

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998. (Broadly Baptist, Evangelical; USA)

- Fackre, Gabriel. *The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine*. Volume 1. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. (Reformed)
- Finger, Thomas N. *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: biblical, historical, constructive*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004. (Contemporary Anabaptist) [Full text available as Tyndale EBSCO ebook: [vol. 1](#); [vol. 2](#)]
- Franke, John R. *The Character of Theology: An Introduction to its Nature, Task, and Purpose*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005. (Reformed, postmodern)
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994. (Baptist)
- Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994 (Conservative Evangelical; Reformed; USA).
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- Oden, Thomas C. *Classis Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 1992 (Wesleyan)
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(See also Tyndale's online [Christian Theology Reading Room](#))