

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

Course	SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING THEO 0531 1P
Date, Time, and Delivery Format	SEPTEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 3, 2024 TUESDAYS, 8:15 AM – 11:05 AM IN-PERSON ONLY
Instructor	PATRICK FRANKLIN, PhD Email: pfranklin@tyndale.ca
Class Information	The classes will be in-person on Tuesdays from 8:15 AM – 11:05 AM. Office Hours: Tuesdays: 2:00 - 3:00 PM (Please email the professor to sign up for a time slot; other time slots might be available upon request, including Zoom meetings).
Course Material	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Equips students to use the tools of systematic theology to understand, proclaim, and live the Christian faith today. We will address such questions as: How can we know God, and how do we adjudicate truth claims about God? How can God be both one and three? How can Jesus be both divine and human? Who is the Holy Spirit and how does the Spirit’s work relate to that of the Father and Son? How does theological knowledge impact our day-to-day lives in the church and in the world?

Prerequisites: HIST 0561 or HIST 0562

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the interconnection and cohesion of Christian doctrines and apply implications for Christian life, vocation, and mission.
2. Evaluate intelligently, graciously, and critically the theological ideas and writings of others, and articulate your own positions in a manner that is informed, coherent, winsome, and charitable.
3. Distinguish between the essentials and non-essentials of the Christian faith through deeper and broader exposure to the historic Christian Tradition.
4. Effectively identify, assess, and analyze theological sources through electronic library research tools.
5. Express their love for God and their worship of God through deeper and more integrated knowledge of God.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Basil of Caesarea. *On the Holy Spirit*. Popular Patristics. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011. ISBN 9780881418767.

Kapic, Kelly M. [*A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology*](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012. ISBN: 9780830839759. Note: this text is available for free as an e-book via Tyndale's library (unlimited access).

McGrath, Alister E. [*Christian Theology: An Introduction*](#). Sixth edition. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016. ISBN: 9781118869574 (hereafter *CT*). Note: this text is available for free as an e-book via Tyndale's library (unlimited access).

McGrath, Alister E., ed. [*The Christian Theology Reader*](#). Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2017. Note: this text is available for free as an e-book via Tyndale's library (unlimited access).

Other assigned readings will be available via the course page, as per the schedule below (IV).

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

D. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Preliminary Research Assignment (4 pages; 20%, Due Oct. 1 at 11:59 p.m. via Moodle)

This assignment is related to Outcome #4.

This assignment will prepare students for the final research thesis paper and provide an opportunity for the instructor to give students feedback and direction. You might think of this assignment as completing a basic research proposal, within which you will identify one topic and one theologian and formulate a preliminary hypothesis (which you will test and defend or reformulate for your final term paper, based on your ongoing research and analysis).

In 4 pages, describe your basic plan for completing your research thesis paper, which will argue a thesis concerning one major theological issue in dialogue with one major theologian.

For more detailed instructions on how to complete this assignment, and where to find research resources, please see the supplementary document uploaded to Moodle.

2. Research Thesis Paper (12-13 pages, 40%; due Nov. 19 at 11:59 p.m. via Moodle)

This assignment is related to Outcomes #1, #3, and #4.

Students will write a 10-12-paged research paper on the topic proposed in assignment 1, above. Students should consult **at least 8** good quality academic sources *beyond the course materials* (i.e., beyond assigned texts & readings), including at least 3 academic journal articles and at least 1 theological monograph (a major work by a theologian). The research thesis paper should demonstrate careful engagement with primary and secondary sources, critical analysis, thoughtful reflection, and should embody a conceptual argument (a thesis) in which various angles of the topic are explored in fairness. Be sure to consult the detailed [Grading Rubric Table](#) and the [Research Paper Instructions](#) documents posted in Moodle.

Read and follow these documents carefully at the beginning of your research and again when you begin writing your paper.

3. Short Theological Paper (25%; due Fridays by 11:59 p.m. via Moodle)

This assignment is related to Outcomes #2 and #3

Of the seven dates listed below, **choose one** on which to submit a 5-6 paged theological reflection on that date's topic.

Drawing on and interacting with the course content for that day (including readings and lectures **as well as** the supplementary readings from McGrath's [Christian Theology Reader](#)), write your own theological response to the question or issue being addressed. Pages 1 – 3/4 should focus on describing the specific concept(s), issue(s), argument(s), and/or person (or people) related to the topic. The final 1-2 pages should articulate your own evaluative (critical and/or constructive) theological response to the topic. You just have 5-6 pages, so please be clear and concise, focusing on central concepts, issues, arguments, and possibly theologians. Dates and topics include the following (**NOTE**: all due dates fall on **Fridays**, via Moodle, by midnight):

- i) Due Sept. 20: What role should Tradition play in theology? Include one paragraph reflecting on the implications of this for your own theological development.
- ii) Sept. 27: What important contributions does reason or experience (choose one) make to theological knowledge? What are the limitations of that source for doing theology?
- iii) Due Oct. 11: Write a reflection on either one of God's attributes or about your preferred approach to theodicy (the problem of evil and suffering).
- iv) Due Nov. 1: Of the atonement theologies discussed, which one do you find to be most important and/or helpful and why? Which do you find least helpful and why? [In answering this question, offer theological reflection based on Scripture (interpreted in light of Tradition, reason, and experience), not just personal preference or 'gut' response.]
- v) Due Nov. 15: Write a reflection on one theological issue related to the Person of the Holy Spirit that interests you from the Basil reading (*On the Holy Spirit*).
- vi) Due Nov. 22: How is our salvation (our 'being saved') related to creation and new creation?
- vii) Due Nov. 29: Why does the doctrine of the Trinity matter, theologically (in terms of doctrine and correct understanding of God) and/or for proper Christian ministry, spiritual formation, and practice?

4. Personal Reflection on Kopic (4-5 pages; 15%; due Dec. 3 at 11:59 p.m. via Moodle)

This assignment is related to Outcomes #1 and #6

Write a reflection paper (4-5 pages) on the practice of theology as it relates to your life as a Christian and to your particular vocation or calling to serve God in the world. Your reflection should interact with Kopic's *A Little Book for New Theologians*. Don't try to say everything that can be said about the topic generally. Limit your discussion to 2-3 key ideas/insights that *you* found to be most important. Reflect on how theology is relevant for *both* Christian life & vocation *and* the importance of our life & vocation being conceived theologically.

E. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to register and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

F. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due	Weight
Preliminary Research Assignment	Oct. 1	20%
Short Theological Paper	See p. 4	25%
Research Thesis Paper	Nov. 19	40%
Personal Reflection Paper on Kopic	Dec. 3	15%
Total Grade		100 %

G. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Due dates & times (and late penalties):

Assignments are to be uploaded to the assignment submission section of the course page in pdf or Microsoft Word format by 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) on the assigned due date. Papers submitted after 11:59 PM on the due date will receive a 1/3 grade deduction (i.e., B+ to B) per day (or part thereof) following the due date (to a maximum of 1.5 GP deduction per week). 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.

Last Possible Date to Submit Assignments (no extensions possible beyond this date):

From the Registrar's Office: Professors may NOT grant an extension to a student past the last day of exams (December 13, 2024). Requests for extensions past this date may be granted only by the Registrar. Students should submit an Extension Request Form, found on the [Office of the Registrar's website](#), by December 13, 2024.

Formatting:

Assignments must be double-spaced, typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font (10-pt for footnotes), with 1" margins. The standard citation method for theological papers uses footnotes (not parenthetical citations or endnotes) with a complete bibliography in the Chicago style (not APA style). For proper citation style, consult the [tip sheet, "Documenting Chicago Style"](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241 from the *Chicago Manual of Style* or reference the [tip sheet, "How to Cite Sources in Theology"](#).

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 (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

For tips on how to conduct proper research, how to do proper citations, and how to quote and paraphrase the work of others legitimately and effectively, please see the following videos provided by Tyndale's Centre for Academic Excellence:

- Video on proper [citations and referencing](#)
- Video on [use of proper quotations](#)
- Video on [effective paraphrasing](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Academic dishonesty also includes submitting academic work which has been written rewritten, or substantially edited by an artificial intelligence program (see the [Academic Calendar](#), p. 167).

Students should also 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.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

H. 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 link can also be found in the left column on the course page. 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

Please complete all readings prior to attending class, so that we can make the most use of class lecture and discussion time. CT = McGrath's [Christian Theology](#). CTR = McGrath's [Christian Theology Reader](#) (available online as an e-book via Tyndale's Library). All other sources are posted online, in the course page on Moodle.

For most weeks, readings from the McGrath *Theology Reader* are optional: students who want to go deeper (or who are majoring in theology) are encouraged to read them.

NOTE: on Weeks 3 and 7, the readings from CTR are mandatory for all.

Week 1 (Sept. 10): Theology is Faith Seeking Understanding

The nature and task of theology; theology as a practice of the church.

CT, Part 1 (chs. 1-4); CT, chapter 5

Optional Reading: CTR, Chapter 1

Week 2 (Sept. 17): Theology's rule is the Bible, interpreted through tradition

Sources of theology I: The doctrine of revelation; Scripture as the un-normed norm of theology; the role of Tradition.

CT, chapter 6

C. S. Lewis, Preface to Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

Erickson on approaches to biblical inerrancy

Smith on the problems of 'biblicism'

Optional Reading: CTR, 2.1-16, 2.18-20, 2.22-25, 2.27, 2.30-32, 2.34-47, 2.49-50

Week 3 (Sept. 24): Theology's rule is the Bible, interpreted through reason and experience

Sources of theology II: the role of reason and experience.

CT chapters 7-8

CTR, excerpts: 1.7 (Anselm), 1.9 (Aquinas), 1.17 (Paschal), 1.27 (Lossky), 1.37 (Polkinghorne), 2.29 (Paley), 2.51 (McGrath)

CTR, excerpts 1.26 (Wittgenstein), 1.31 (McFague), 1.29 (Tillich), 1.34 (Lindbeck), 2.45 (Trible), 9.2 (Feuerbach), 9.3 (Marx), 9.10 (Cobb)

Week 4 (Oct. 1): The Evangelical Character of Theology

What does it mean to be an 'evangelical'? What is evangelical theology?

Larsen on Evangelicalism

Barth on Theology and the Word

Due: Preliminary Research Assignment

Week 5 (Oct. 8): God is One

The God of the Bible and classical theism; divine attributes; theodicy

CT, chapter 9

Webster on God's holiness

Moltmann on theodicy and atheism

Optional Reading: CTR: 3.1-2, 3.4-6, 3.13, 3.18, 3.20-24, 3.26-27, 3.29-31, 3.34-36, 3.40-41, 3.43

Week 6 (Oct. 15): Jesus Christ is God and Human

Who is Jesus? Scriptural foundations; Patristic Christology

CT, chapter 10 (pp. 207-245)

Ezbigio, "Jesus as God's Communicative and Hermeneutical Act"

Optional Reading: CTR, Chapter 4

Oct. 22: NO CLASS: READING DAYS

Week 7 (Oct. 29): Jesus Christ Atoned for our Sin

The work of Christ in salvation; atonement and justification

CT, Chapter 11 (pp. 246-279)

McGrath, CTR (online, Library): 5.2 (Irenaeus), 5.7 (Rufinus), 5.13 (Anselm), 5.14 (Abelard), 5.19 (Calvin), 5.28 (Aulén), 5.32 (Packer), 5.38 (Weaver).

Wesley, Sermons 44 and 45, "Original Sin" and "The New Birth"
Aldred, "An Indigenous Reinterpretation of Repentance"
Optional Reading: CTR, 5.1, 5.3-6, 5.8-12, 5.15-18, 5.20-27, 5.29-31, 5.33-37; 6.8, 6.20-21,
6.26, 6.29, 6.31, 6.35-36

Week 8 (Nov. 5): The Holy Spirit is God

Who is the Holy Spirit? Scriptural foundations; Patristic Pneumatology

CT, chapter 12
Basil, *On the Holy Spirit*, 1-8 (pp. 27-52)
Thomas Oden, "The Person of the Holy Spirit," in *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*
(San Francisco: HarperOne, 2009), 513-525 [67 pages total]
Optional Reading: CTR: 3.8, 3.10, 3.15-16

Week 9 (Nov. 12): The Holy Spirit is Poured Out on All Flesh

The Spirit as pledge of our inheritance; the consummation of God's work of redemption

CT, chapter 18, "The Last Things," 426-447
Basil, *On the Holy Spirit*, 9-20 (pp. 52-89)
Yong, "I Believe in the Holy Spirit: From the Ends of the Earth to the Ends of Time"
Gabriel, "Intensity of the Spirit"

Week 10 (Nov. 19): Creation, Fall, New Creation

The human person, sin and grace, creation and new creation

CT, chapter 14
Bonhoeffer on 'cheap' vs. 'costly' grace
Gunton on the Doctrine of Creation
Middleton, "A New Heaven and a New Earth: The Case for a Holistic Reading of the Biblical
Story of Redemption"
Optional Reading: CTR 6.1-7, 6.9-13, 6.15-18, 6.21-25, 6.27-28, 6.30, 6.32-34, 6.37-41

Due: Research Thesis Paper

Week 11 (Nov. 26): God is Triune

Solidifying the Nicene consensus; Trinity as the "grammar" of the Christian faith

CT, chapter 13
Basil, *On the Holy Spirit*, 21-30 (pp. 89-122)
Optional Reading: CTR: 3.3, 3.7, 3.9-12, 3.14, 3.17, 3.19, 3.25, 3.28, 3.32-33, 3.37-39, 3.42

Week 12 (Dec. 3): The Triune God Invites us to Participate in God's Love, Life, and Mission

The Trinity and the mission of God; human participation; a participatory model of ministry

Torrance, "Worship – Unitarian or Trinitarian?"
Kreider, "'They Alone Know the Right Way to Live': The Early Church and Evangelism"

C. Rosalee Velloso Ewell, "Learning to See Jesus with the Eyes of the Spirit: The Unlikely Prophets of God's Reign"

Due: Reflection Paper on Kopic

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Systematic Theology

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. trans ed. G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance. 13 vols. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1957-1975. (Reformed; Swiss)

_____. *Dogmatics in Outline*. trans. G. T. Thomson. London: SCM, 1949.

Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Bloesch, Donald G. *Christian Foundations*. 7 Volumes. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992–2006. (Evangelical; ecumenical; Barthian)

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)

Finger, Thomas N. *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: biblical, historical, constructive*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004. (Contemporary Anabaptist)

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).

Hall, Douglas John. *Christian Theology in a North American Context*. 3 vols. (*Thinking the Faith, Professing the Faith, Confessing the Faith*). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1989, 1993, 1996. (Lutheran; Canadian).

Horton, Stanley, ed. *Systematic Theology*. Rev. ed. Springfield, MS: Logion, 1995. (Pentecostal)

Jenson, Robert. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997, 1999. (Lutheran)

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- McDermott, Gerald. *The Oxford Handbook of Evangelical Theology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
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- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. 5 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971. (Lutheran; USA)
- Peters, Ted. *God: The World's Future: Systematic Theology for a New Era*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000. (Lutheran; conversant with faith-science discussions)
- Placher, William C, ed. *Essentials of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
- Quash, Ben, ed. *Heresies and How to Avoid Them: Why It Matters What Christians Believe*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2007.
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- Tanner, Kathryn. *Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity: A Brief Systematic Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.
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