



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

Fall 2012

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I
THEO 0531

MONDAY, 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: DR. DENNIS NGIEN
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To access your course material, please go to <http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Systematic Theology I & II are designed to provide an introduction to the thematic study of Christian doctrine according to the evangelical protestant tradition. Systematic I will focus on a study of sources and authority in Christian theology, Scripture, revelation, the doctrine of God, Trinity, Holy Spirit, humanity, creation and sin. Systematic II will focus on a study of Christology, salvation, the Church's approaches to world religions, and the last things.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. **Attitudes:**
 - a. To increase appreciation for the value of theology in ministry and the Christian life.
 - b. To increase confidence in the authority of Scripture.

2. **Information:**
 - a. To introduce students to the basic materials for further theological reflection and study.
 - b. To familiarize students with major theological issues and lines of theological disagreement.

3. **Skills:**
 - a. To provide tools and skills for doing theological research.
 - b. To stimulate students to think and apply theological insights to practical situations in ministry.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. REQUIRED TEXTS: (Must purchase)

McGrath, Alister E. [*Christian Theology: An Introduction*](#). 5th ed. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 2011.

McGrath, Alister E. *The Christian Theology Reader*. 4th ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2011.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. **Three Summaries of Required Readings: 15% (5% each)**

Write a four page summary of part I, II and III of CTR. It could be in point form.

Due dates: **Oct., 01** (part I), **Oct., 29** (part II); **Nov., 19** (part III).

2. A Book Review: 35%

Students are expected to write and submit a critical book review of no more than 10 pages in length. The assigned task is to provide a careful and thorough examination of the basic issues(s) at stake in the text. Seek to review the work critically; don't merely summarize but, rather, seek to express the dominant issues and argument of the work. It should indicate particularly significant or interesting points regarding the author's case, and the benefits you gain from reading it. **Due date: Oct., 15, 2012.**

Books for your selection (students are free to choose other texts, but in consultation with professor):

Achtemeier, P. J. *The Inspiration of Scripture: Problems and Proposals*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1980.

Berkhof, Hendrikus. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1977.

Boff, Leonardo. *Trinity and Society*. London: Burns & Oates, 1988.

Cunningham, David S. *These Three are One: The Practice of Trinitarian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998.

Fiddes, Paul. *The Creative Suffering of God*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988.

Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1994.

Jüngel, Eberhard. [*God's Being is in Becoming: The Trinitarian Being of God in the Theology of Karl Barth*](#). Trans. John B. Webster. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2001.

Kitamori, Kazoh. *Theology of the Pain of God*. London: SCM Press, 1966.

McFague, Sallie. [*Models of God*](#). Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Morgan, Robert. *Biblical Interpretation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Moule, C. F. D. [*The Holy Spirit*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Reid, Daniel. [*Energies of the Spirit: Trinitarian Models in Eastern Orthodox and Western Theology*](#). Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1993.

Richard Swinburne, Richard. *Revelation: From Metaphor to Analogy*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.

Torrance, Thomas F. *The Mediation of Christ*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1992.

Weinandy, Thomas G. *The Father's Spirit of Sonship: Reconceiving the Trinity*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1995.

Wisniewski, Ned. *Our Natural Knowledge of God: A Prospect for Natural Theology after Kant and Barth*. New York: Peter Lang, 1990.

3. A Major Research Paper: 50%

The paper should be a substantial piece of theological analysis in response to one of the questions provided for this assignment (a list of essay topics or questions will be distributed in class. The essay should not simply report, summarize, or review class materials (though you are encouraged to draw from class lectures, discussion and readings). It should, rather, concentrate upon theological (method or history) rather than biblical questions (though an understanding of biblical issues may be relevant to the argument of your paper). It 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. The paper should be in the range of 12-15 pages in length, double-spaced, and contain rigorous documentations from at least 15 sources eight of which must be journal articles. A minimum of 30 footnotes (not endnotes) is required. **Due date: Dec., 17, 2012.**

C. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Summaries of Required Readings	15 %
Book Review	35 %
Research paper	50 %
Total Grade	100%

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. 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>.

2. Students can drop off their assignments in my office mailbox or mail them directly to me at Tyndale Seminary.

3. **Documentation Style:** In all assigned work, proper style guidelines (normally Chicago/Turabian) will be used and followed exactly. Failure to do so will render the submitted assignment unacceptable. 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.

4. **Late papers:** Papers handed in after the due date will receive a one full grade point deduction (i.e., B to C) for each week (or part thereof) following the due date. This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no application for extension has been made.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE, CONTENTS AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

A. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

1. Students must do the assigned readings from McGrath's *Christian Theology* (hereafter designated as CT) and his *Christian Theology Reader* (hereafter designated as CTR). Key figures such as Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa, Origen, Anselm, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Barth, Moltmann, Jenson, etc. will be covered.
2. Students should read part I of CT, 5th ed., pp.1-98, the background materials which identify the periods, themes and personalities of Christian theology.
3. Students should familiarize themselves with *A Glossary of Theological Terms*, CT, pp. 486-494 or CTR pp. 579-585.
4. Classes will be conducted in lecture-format, although occasionally small group discussions on specific topics will occur.
5. Occasionally, there will be guest lecturers when needed.
6. Students should read all CTR readings, parts 1-3, 6:1-18, and acquaint themselves with them although in classes we will focus on selected texts to elucidate the topics discussed.

7. B. COURSE SCHEDULE:

Sept., 10, 17 & 24: Sources and Methods of Theology

- (a) Defining and the architecture of theology (CT pp. 101-119); reasons and limitations of doing theology.
- (b) Scripture: authority and inspiration (CT pp.120-135);
- (c) Tradition: apostolic, dual-source and the Anabaptists rejection (CT pp.137-141);
- (d) Experience: two models and Feuerbach's critique (CT pp.146-151);
- (e) Reason: Tertullian vs. Augustine (CT pp.142-145).

Readings from CTR: part 1 & part 2.

Oct., 01, 08 (no class), 15, 22 & 29: The Doctrines of Revelation and God

- (a) Natural Theology (CT pp.159-172);
- (b) Proofs of God's existence (CT pp.183-192);
- (c) Models of revelation: propositional and personal (CT pp.153-159);
- (d) Language about God: God-talk (CT pp.193-198);
- (e) God as a person: Buber's 'I-thou' (CT pp.197-202);
- (f) Impassibility vs. passibility (CT pp.203-208);
- (g) Divine omnipotence and the two powers (CT pp.209-212).

Readings from CTR: part 3.

Nov., 05 & 12: The Doctrines of Creation and Sin

- (a) Creation *ex-nihilo* and pre-existent matter (CT pp.215-220);
- (b) God as Creator and the implications of God's creation (CT pp.220-221);
- (c) Models of God as Creator (CT 221-222);
- (d) Humanity in God's image (CT pp.348-350);
- (e) The nature of sin (CT pp.350-353);
- (f) Evil and theodicies: Irenaeus and Augustine (CT pp.223-234).

Readings from CTR: part 3, and part 6.1-18.

Nov., 19, 26 & Dec., 03: The Doctrines of the Holy Spirit and Trinity

- (a) Historical development (CT pp.238-244);
- (b) Heresies: Arian & Modalism (CT pp.244-246);

- (c) Making sense of the Trinity: Cappadocian Fathers, Augustine, Jenson, (CT pp.249-257);
- (d) Patripassianism/Theopaschitism (CT pp.206-207);
- (e) *Filioque* controversy: The Spirit proceeds from the Father “and the Son” (CT pp.247-249);
- (f) Augustine: the Spirit as the bond of love (CT pp.227-231);
- (g) Functions of the Spirit (CT pp.231-232): revelation (cf. Barth’s trinity, CT pp.252-254), redemption and the Christian life: unity, piety, and morality.

Readings from CTR: part 3.

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, Ray. [*An Emergent Theology for Emerging Churches*](#). Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Books, 2006.

Badham, Roger A., ed. [*Introduction to Christian Theology. Contemporary North American Perspectives*](#). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

Barth, Karl. [*Church Dogmatics*](#). Vol. I to IV. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1956-1975 ([Tyndale eBook](#)); vol. IV.4, The Christian Life (Lecture Fragments). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1981. ([Tyndale eBook](#))

_____. *Church Dogmatics: A Selection*. Ed. H. Gollwitzer, and trans. G.W. Bromiley. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1961. (Ebook [copy 1](#) and [copy 2](#))

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

_____. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1963 ([Tyndale eBook](#); also as [audio book](#)).

_____. *Learning Jesus Christ Through the Heidelberg Confession*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964. ([Tyndale eBook](#))

_____. (See also Tyndale’s [Barth Reading Room](#)).

Berkhof, Hendrikus. [*Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Study of Faith*](#). Trans. Sierd Woudstra. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986². (Reformed; Netherlands)

_____. [*Introduction to the Study of Dogmatics*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985.

Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*, 2 vols. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1978. (Congregationalist; USA)

- _____. [Christian Foundations \[series\]](#). 7 vols. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992-2004.
- Bonhoeffer, D. [The Cost of Discipleship](#). New York: Touchstone, 1995. (Lutheran; German; see also Tyndale's [Bonhoeffer Reading Room](#))
- _____. [Lectures on Christology](#). Trans. E. Robertson. New York: Harper & Row, 1978.
- Braaten, Carl and Robert Jensen, eds. [Christian Dogmatics](#). 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984. (Lutheran; USA)
- Bromiley, Geoffrey W. [Historical Theology: An Introduction](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Brunner, Emil. [Dogmatics](#). Vol. 1-3 (God, Creation and Redemption, Church, Faith and Consummation). Olive Wyon, trans. Cambridge, UK: James Clarke and Co., 2002-3. (Reformed; Swiss)
- [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#). Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 1994.
- Dorrien, Gary J. [The Remaking of Evangelical Theology](#). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998. ([Tyndale eBook](#))
- Emery, G., and M. Levering, eds. [Oxford Handbook of the Trinity](#). New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2012. ([Tyndale eBook](#))
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- Finger, Thomas. [Christian Theology: An Eschatological Approach](#). 2 vols. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1985. (Mennonite; Tyndale eBooks; [vol. 1](#); [vol. 2](#)).
- _____. [A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: Biblical, Historical, Constructive](#). Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.
- Fiorenza, Francis F. and John P. Galvin, [Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives](#). [Vol. 1](#); [Vol 2](#). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1991. (Roman Catholic; USA)
- Ford, David F. [The Modern Theologians. Introduction to Christian Theology in the 20th Century](#). 3rd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.
- _____. [Theology: A Very Short Introduction](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

- Franke, John R. [*The Character of Theology: An Introduction to its Nature, Task, and Purpose.*](#) Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005.
- Franke, John R. and Stanley Grenz. [*Beyond Foundationalism: Shaping Theology in a Postmodern Context.*](#) Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical and Evangelical.* 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995. (Baptist, Reformed)
- _____. [*Baptist Theology: A Four Centuries Study.*](#) Macon, GA: Mercer, 2009.
- Greggs, Tom. *New Perspectives for Evangelical Theology : Engaging With God, Scripture, and the World.* New York: Routledge, 2010. ([Tyndale eBook](#))
- Grenz, Stanley. [*Theology for the Community of God.*](#) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. (Baptist; Canadian)
- _____. [*A Primer on Postmodernism.*](#) Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.
- _____ and Roger E. Olson. [*Twentieth-Century Theology: God and the World in a Transitional Age.*](#) Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- _____. [*What Christians Really Believe – And Why.*](#) Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1998 ([Tyndale eBook](#))
- Grudem, Wayne A. [*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine.*](#) Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994 (Conservative Evangelical; Reformed; USA)
- Gunton, Colin E. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine.* Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. (Reformed; UK)
- _____. [*The Promise of Trinitarian Theology.*](#) 2nd ed. New York: T & T Clark, 2003.
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McEnhill, Peter, and G.M. Newlands. *Fifty Key Christian Thinkers*. New York: Routledge, 2004.
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Milbank, John, Catherine Pickstock, and Graham Ward, eds. *Radical Orthodoxy: A New Theology*. New York: Routledge, 1998 ([Tyndale eBook](#))

Moltmann, Jürgen. [The Crucified God](#). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2004. (Lutheran; German; See Tyndale's [Moltmann Reading Room](#))

_____. [The Church in the Power of the Spirit](#). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2004.

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- Foreword by Jürgen Moltmann. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 2005. (Originally published by Peter Lang, 1995; reprinted with Wipf and Stock, 2003).
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- Houlden, Leslie, ed. *Companion Encyclopedia of Theology*. New York: Routledge, 1995 ([Tyndale eBook](#)).
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- McGrath, Alister, ed. [*The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Modern Christian Thought*](#). Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1993. (Location: Reference BT 17 .B58 1993)
- McGuckin, John A., ed. [*The Westminster Handbook to Patristic Theology*](#). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2004 (Location: Reference BR 162 .3 .M38 2004)
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Selected Theological Journals

[*Evangelical Review of Theology*](#)

[*Evangelical Quarterly*](#)

[*Modern Theology*](#)

[*International Journal of Systematic Theology*](#)

[*Scottish Journal of Theology*](#)

[Theology Today](#)

Toronto Journal of Theology

[Word & World](#)

Important Notes

- To search topically for relevant journal articles, book reviews or collected essays, use the comprehensive *ATLA Religion Database* – [available over Tyndale Library's eJournal databases](#). See also *Proquest Religious Database*, *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and *JSTOR*. Full-text versions of many theological journal and book reviews can be downloaded from these databases via Tyndale Library's eJournals.
- For eResources, see the [Tyndale MTS Modular Reading Room for Christian Theology](#)