



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

Winter 2012

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II
THEO 0532

JANUARY 14 TO APRIL 15, 2013
MONDAY, 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: DR. DENNIS NGIEN
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Office hours: By appointment

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

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Systematic Theology II is a continuation of Systematic Theology I. It endeavours to acquaint students with the thematic study of Christian doctrine according to the evangelical Protestant tradition. The following major doctrines will be considered: Christology, salvation, ecclesiology, 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, 2007.

McGrath, Alister E., ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*, 4th ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.

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B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Three Summaries of Required Readings: 15%

Write a four page summary of parts 4-10 of CTR. It could be in point form. The reports need not be exhaustive; it could focus on a few areas or figures of your interest. Students could choose three of the following. Note the due dates.

Due dates: Jan., 28 (part 4) or Feb.,25 (parts 5-6) or Mar., 18 (parts 7-8) or April 01 (parts 9-10).

2. A Sermon: 30%

In 8 pages, double-spaced, write a doctrinal sermon, showing the rationality and relevance of a particular doctrine. This exercise on communicating or making sense of doctrine does not require any homiletical training or discipline. Students are free to choose a topic that impassions them. Topics such as: how to make sense of the doctrine of Trinity? What is so good about “Good Friday”? Is two-nature Christology necessary? Why is it so important to be part of a local church? Why is it so crucial to affirm the ontological unity between the Father and the Son? Students are expected to incorporate their readings and understandings into the sermon. Thus **documentations are required**. For a sample of this exercise, students may consult with Peter K. Stevenson and Stephen I. Wright, [*Preaching the Incarnation*](#) (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2010). **Due date: Feb., 13, 2013**

3. A Major Research Paper: 55%

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 range of 35 - 50 footnotes (not endnotes) is required. **Due date: April 05, 2013.**

C. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

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Summaries of Required Readings	15 %
Sermon	30 %
Research paper	55 %
Total Grade	100%

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

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. In all work, you are obliged to pay careful attention to matters of intellectual property, honesty and integrity. Plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs and will not be tolerated in any form whatsoever. See the attached policy on Academic Honesty for a comprehensive discussion of the Seminary's policy on plagiarism.

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.

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.

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

Late papers: Papers handed in after the due date will receive a 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

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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, 4th 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. 465-471 or CTR pp. 579-585.
4. Classes will be conducted in lecture-format, although occasionally small group discussions on specific topics will occur.
5. Students should read all CTR readings, and acquaint themselves with them although in classes we will focus on selected texts to elucidate the topics discussed.
6. Occasionally, there will be guest lecturers when needed.

B. COURSE SCHEDULE:

Jan., 14, 21, & 28: The Doctrine of the Person of Christ

- (a) An illustration of doctrinal preaching: An apologetic for the attractiveness of Jesus Christ
- (b) Patristic Christology (CT pp.273-280)
- (c) Luther and *Communication idiomatum* (CT pp.280-281)
- (d) Making sense of two-nature Christology: Calvin (CT pp. 287-288; cf. Dorothy Sayers)
- (e) Kenotic Christology (CT pp. 293-294)
- (f) Faith and History (CT pp. 295-314)

Readings from CTR: part 4

Feb., 04, Feb., 11 & 25: The Doctrines of Atonement and Grace

**** Note: Feb., 18 Family Day (NO CLASS)**

- (a) Images of salvation (CT 338-339)
- (b) The cross as sacrifice (CT pp. 320-322)
- (c) The cross as a victory (CT pp. 322-326)
- (d) The cross as satisfaction: representation, participation and substitution (CT pp. 326-331)
- (e) The cross as a demonstration of God's love (CT pp. 331-335)
- (f) Pelagian controversy on grace (CT pp.351--355)
- (g) Reformation and Council of Trent's understanding of grace (CT pp.358-365)
- (h) Predestination models: Augustine, Calvin, Arminius and Barth (CT pp.365-370; The scope of Salvation (CT 356-359)

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Readings from CTR: parts 5 & 6.

Mar., 04 & Mar., 18 & 25: The Doctrines of the Church and Sacraments:

**** Note: Mar., 11-15 March Break**

- (a) The Donatist controversy (CT pp. 378-381)
- (b) Reformers' view and radical view (CT pp. 381-385)
- (c) The notes or marks of the Church (CT pp. 390-399)
- (d) Definition of a Sacrament (CT pp. 402-405)
- (e) Donatist controversy: sacramental efficacy (CT pp.405-407)
- (f) Multiple functions of the Sacraments (CT pp. 407-411)
- (g) A case Study in Complexity: Theological Functions of the Eucharist (CT pp. 411-414)
- (h) The Lord's Supper and the real presence (CT pp.414-420)
- (i) Infant baptism vs. believer baptism (CT pp.420-423)

Readings from CTR: parts 7 & 8

April 01: Christianity and World Religions

- (a) Approaches to Religions: Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Trinitarian theologies of religion (CT p. 432-435)
- (b) Christian Approaches to other religions (CT pp. 435-443)

Readings from CTR: part 9

April 08 & 15: The Doctrine of the Last Things

- (c) New Testament foundations of Eschatology (CT pp.445-446;452)
- (d) The last things: hell, purgatory/intermediate state (CT pp. 457-460)
- (e) Dispensationalism (CT pp. 455-456)
- (f) Millennium (CT pp.460-461)
- (g) Heaven and Resurrection Body (CT pp. 461-464; Rev. 21:1-22:6)

Readings from CTR: parts 10

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

(See also Tyndale's [Christian Theology online Reading Room](#) and selected bibliography of [Tyndale e-books for Systematic Theology](#)).

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Selected Theological Journals

Evangelical Review of Theology

Modern Theology

Theology Today

International Journal of Systematic Theology

Scottish Journal of Theology

Theology

Theology Today

Toronto Journal of Theology

To search topically for relevant journal articles, book reviews or collected essays, use the comprehensive *ATLA Religion Database* – available via 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.

For relevant ebooks topically arranged, see [Netlibrary Ebook list](#). For **detailed bibliographies** to support *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, a **glossary** of theological terms, and **details of theologians** from *The Christian Theology Reader*, cf.

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/mcgrath/> or www.wiley.com/mcgrath