

“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.”

Semester, Year	Fall 2026
Course Title	THEOLOGY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
Course Code	THEO 0646 1A
Date	From Sept 14, 2026 to Dec 11, 2026
Delivery Format	ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
Class information	The course is web-based asynchronous with no fixed class time. BI-WEEKLY COFFEE HOUR (Online): Every other Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM (EST) on the dates indicated on the course page in Moodle, along with the meeting link. Alternative arrangements to meet with the instructor can be made for those who are unable to join during these times.
Instructor	ALEX TREW, PhD Email: atrew@tyndale.ca
Office Hours	By appointment only.
Course Materials	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca email account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course endeavours to acquaint students with the theology of the human person. It focuses on biblical and doctrinal issues that bear on such questions as “What does it mean to be a human being?”, “What is meant by the ‘image of God’?”, and “How is the Person of God related to the personhood of human beings?”

Prerequisite: THEO 0531 Systematic Theology

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Analyze presuppositions about human personhood in various theologies, philosophies, ideologies, and approaches to community/sociality

2. Identify and discuss contemporary issues in understanding the human person in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences and assess them theologically
3. Articulate the implications of one's view of personhood for theology, spirituality, ethics, and ministry
4. Apply insights gained from the course to understand and frame their own lives, their own journey of being and becoming human, theologically
5. Apply implications of theological anthropology to one's discipline of study and vocation

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Patout Burns, J., Joseph W. Trigg, Robin Darling Young, and Jeffrey T. Wickes, eds. *Theological Anthropology*. Revised and expanded edition. Fortress Press, 2023. (*Do make sure it is the newer, revised edition, not the older edition of 1981*)

Williams, Rowan. *Being Human: Bodies, Minds, Persons*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2018.

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

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends [STEPBible](#) – 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. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

NOTE: Marking rubrics for all assignments will be posted on our course page on Moodle.

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 grade deduction (i.e., A to B) for each day (or part thereof) following the due date.** 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.

1. Group Discussions (20% of Final Grade).

Attendance in this course is demonstrated by regular log-ins and up-to-date participation in forums. During weeks 3, 4, 6, 9, and 11 students will be expected to participate in online

group discussions. The purpose of the discussions is to engage the theological content of the course and explore the implications of the material covered for discipleship and ministry. The instructor will post a question each week for group reflection.

Students are expected to post their own response to the question (300-400 words) by 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) on Tuesday evening of the week in question, and then reply to the reflections of each of the other students in their group by 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) on Thursday of that same week.

Students will be assessed individually for their contributions to each weekly discussion.

2. Short Reflection Paper 1 (20%; due Nov 6 11:59pm [Eastern Time])

Write a personal reflection paper (4-5 pp.) interacting with the course material up to this point in the semester. Share 2-3 insights emerging from the lectures and readings about your own journey of being and becoming human. It is best to reflect on your journey in light of key ideas, concepts, and reflections discussed in the lectures or readings.

3. Short Reflection Paper 2 (20%; due Nov 27 11:59pm [Eastern Time])

Write a personal reflection paper (4-5 pp.) interacting with Karen Kilby's essay "Perichoresis and Projection: Problems with Social Doctrines of the Trinity" (available on Moodle). Share 2-3 insights emerging from your reading of Kilby about how you understand human personhood in relation to the way we might about the persons of the Trinity. It is best to reflect on your interaction with the essay in light of key ideas, concepts, and reflections discussed by Kilby. You may also draw on other ideas and insights gained from class materials - lectures and readings - that are relevant and applicable to the 2-3 themes/insights you discuss.

4. Short Research Paper (40%; due Dec 11 11:59pm [Eastern Time])

Write a concise (12 pp.) research paper on one of the themes treated by theological anthropology. Discuss your conclusions on the topic based on your engagement with the subject matter and in dialogue with a theologian who has written a book on that topic.

Choose one of the following topics (or, if you wish, you may propose an alternate topic to the professor):

- Human origins
- Theological anthropology in relation to race (or racism)
- Theological anthropology in relation to human sexuality and/or gender
- Theological anthropology and the ethics of ending life (e.g., abortion, MAID, war)
- Theological anthropology and technology

- The relationship between theological anthropology (TA) and another area of Christian doctrine (e.g., TA and eschatology; TA and soteriology; TA and Christology; TA and ecclesiology; TA and missiology; etc.)

Narrow your focus to identify a key theological issue that needs to be resolved. This will probably be something that occurs at the basic theological convictions / worldview level, with ripple effects on one’s overall theology, including implications for belief, teaching, and practice.

A detailed marking rubric will be provided on the course page. The research paper should demonstrate thoughtful reflection, critical analysis, and should embody a conceptual argument (thesis) in which various angles of the topic are explored in fairness.

The paper should be double-spaced, in 12 pt Times New Roman font, with 1” margins. The standard citation method for theological papers is **full footnotes with a complete bibliography** in the **Chicago 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”](#).

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due	%
1. Group Discussions	Various	20 %
2. Reflection Paper 1	Nov 6	15 %
3. Reflection Paper 2	Nov 27	30 %
4. Short Research Paper	Dec 11	40 %
Total Grade		100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week 1 (Sept 14-18): ‘The Law of Undulation’: Spirit and Flesh

Patout Burns, ‘Introduction’, *Theological Anthropology*, 1-30.
CS Lewis, ‘Letter VIII’, *Screwtape Letters*

Week 2 (Sept 21-25): Where is the Creation Story?

Patout Burns, ‘Irenaeus’, 31-38
Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, V.15.1-4
Hans Boersma, *Scripture as Real Presence: Sacramental Exegesis in the Early Church* (Baker Academic, 2018), 1-26

Week 3 (Sept 28-Oct 2): The Loss of the Human in the Modern World

Mandatory Forum Discussion #1

Patout Burns, 'Clement of Alexandria', 39-46

Rowan Williams, *Being Human*, 1-27

Jens Zimmermann, *Incarnational Humanism: A Philosophy of Culture for the Church in the World* (IVP Academic, 2012), 21-43

Week 4 (Oct 5-9): *Imago Adami*

Mandatory Forum Discussion #2

Patout Burns, 'Origen', 47-50

Williams, *Being Human*, 28-48

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Creation and Fall: A Theological Exposition of Genesis 1-3* (Fortress Press, 2004), 111-114

Susan Grove Eastman, *Paul and the Person: Reframing Paul's Anthropology* (Eerdmans, 2017), 109-125

Week 5 (Oct 12-16): *Imago Christi* 1

Patout Burns, 'Origen', 52-65

Williams, 49-68

Michelle Gonzalez, 'Created for God and For Each Other: Our *Imago Dei*', in *T&T Clark Handbook of Theological Anthropology*, ed. Mary Ann Hinsdale and Stephen Okey (Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2023), 61-70

John Barclay, 'Kenosis and the Drama of Salvation in Philippians 2' in *Kenosis: The Self-Emptying of Christ in Scripture and Theology*, ed. Paul T. Nimmo and Keith

L. Johnson (Eerdmans, 2022), 15-27

Week 6 (Oct 19-23): *Imago Christi* 2

Mandatory Forum Discussion #3

Origen, *On First Principles*, 2.6.1 – 2.6.7

Nonna Verna Harrison, 'God and Christ', *God's Many-Splendoured Image: Theological Anthropology for Christian Formation* (Baker Academic, 2010), 33-46

George MacDonald, 'The Truth', *Unspoken Sermons*, 282-296

READING DAYS (Oct 27-Nov 1) – No class

Week 7 (Nov 2-6): Wonders: Rethinking Disability

Short Reflection Paper 1 due Nov 6 11:59pm ET

Brian Brock, *Wondrously Wounded: Theology, Disability and the Body of Christ* (Baylor University Press, 2019), 15-38

Cynthia Tam, "Faithful Presence: A Practice of Belonging with People Experiencing Profound Autism", *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church* 22, no. 1 (2022): 21-34

Louise Gosbell, "Locating Disability in the Resurrection", *Journal of Disability and Religion* 26, no. 2 (): 149-161

Week 8 (Nov 9-13): Ethnos: Rethinking Race

Luis N. Rivera-Pagán, "The Political Praxis of Bartolomé de las Casas", in *T&T Clark Handbook of Political Theology*, ed. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez (Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2019), 131-145

Nicholas Rowe and Ray Aldred, 'Two Reflections', in *Evangelical Postcolonial Conversations: Global Awakenings in Theology and Praxis*, ed. Kay Higuera Smith, Jayachitra Lalitha, L. Daniel Hawk (IVP Academic, 2014), 211-223

Willie James Jennings, *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible* (Presbyterian Publishing, 2017) 27-40

Kirsteen Kim, "Globalisation after Empire", in *The Edinburgh Critical History of Twentieth-Century Christian Theology*, ed. Philip G. Ziegler (Edinburgh University Press, 2023) 262-276

Week 9 (Nov 16-20): Machines: Rethinking Technology

Mandatory Forum Discussion #4

Williams, 87-111

Martin Heidegger. "The Question Concerning Technology." In *Basic Writings: From Being and Time (1927) to The Task of Thinking (1964)*, ed. David Farrell Krell, trans.

William Lovitt, rev. and expanded ed. (Harper Perennial Modern Thought, 2008), 311-322

Celia Deane-Drummond, 'Technologisation of Life', in *Technofutures, Nature and the Sacred: Transdisciplinary Perspectives*, ed. Celia Deane-Drummond, Sigurd Bergmann, Bronislaw Szerszynski (Routledge, 2015), 139-158.

Week 10 (Nov 23-27): Desire 1: Garments of Flesh

Short Reflection Paper 2 due Nov 27 11:59pm ET

Patout Burns, 'Gregory of Nyssa', 103-114

Christos Yannaras, *Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology*, trans. Keith Schram (T&T Clark, 1991), 66-83

Lousie Perry, *The Case against the Sexual Revolution: A New Guide to Sex in the Twenty-First Century* (Polity, 2022), 1-20

Week 11 (Nov 30-Dec 4): Desire 2: God's Love

Mandatory Forum Discussion #5

Bernard McGinn, 'Johann Arndt', *Essential Writings of Christian Mysticism* (The Modern Library, 2006), 276-280

Zahl, *The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience* (Oxford University Press, 2020), 183-231

Lewis, 'Letter XVIII', *Screwtape Letters*

Week 12 (Dec 7-11): Anxiety

Short Research Paper due Dec 11 11:59pm ET

Selections from Kierkegaard's *Concept of Anxiety*

Selections from von Balthasar's *The Christian and Anxiety*

Selections from Augustine

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, Ray S. *On Being Human: Essays in Theological Anthropology*. Pasadena: Fuller Seminary Press, 1982.

Augustine. *The Literal Meaning of Genesis. Volume 13 of The Works of St. Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century*. Translated by Edmund Hill. Edited by John E. Rotelle. New York: New City, 2002.

Barrigar, Christian J. *Freedom All the Way Up: God and the Meaning of Life in a Scientific Age*. Victoria: Friesen Press, 2017.

Barth, Karl. *The Doctrine of Creation: Church Dogmatics III/1*. London: T & T Clark, 2009.

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Ecology: Rediscovering the Community of Creation*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2010.

Behr, John. *The Mystery of Christ: Life in Death*. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2006.

Berkouwer, Gerrit C. *Man: The Image of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.

Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Creation and Fall: A Theological Exposition of Genesis 1–3. Volume 3 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works*. Edited by John W. de Gruchy. Translated by Douglas Stephen Bax. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997.

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Brunner, Emil. *Man in Revolt: A Christian Anthropology*. Translated by Oliver Wyon. London: Lutterworth, 1939.

Carter, J. Kameron. *Race: A Theological Account*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality and the Self: An Essay 'On the Trinity'*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

- Clayton, Philip. *In Quest of Freedom: The Emergence of Spirit in the Natural World*. Göttingen [Germany]: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2009.
- Cortez, Marc. *Christological Anthropology in Historical Perspective: Ancient and Contemporary Approaches to Theological Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.
- Cortez, Marc. *Theological Anthropology: A Guide for the Perplexed*. New York: T & T Clark, 2010.
- Cortez, Marc and Michael P. Jensen, eds. *T&T Clark Reader in Theological Anthropology*. London: T&T Clark, 2018.
- Deane-Drummond, Celia. *The Wisdom of the Liminal: Evolution and Other Animals in Human Becoming*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.
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- Gay, Craig M. *Modern Technology and the Human Future: A Christian Appraisal*. DownersGrove: IVP Academic, 2018.
- Green, Joel B. *Body, Soul, and Human Life: The Nature of Humanity in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
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- Gregory of Nyssa. *On the Human Image of God*. Edited and Translated by John Behr. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.
- Grenz, Stanley. *The Social God and the Relational Self: A Trinitarian Theology of the Imago Dei*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
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VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COURSES

A. 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.

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTREAM INTERACTION (SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSE ONLY)

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
- Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
- A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*

**exceptions with permission from professor*

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. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Grading Rubric

Please consult the rubric provided for each assignment on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

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 must review the policies and procedures regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) outlined in [Academic Calendar](#) and consult guidance from their course instructors.

For proper citation style, consult [Citation Guides](#) for different styles. Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for policies and expectations on Attendance and Classroom Expectations, Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Turnitin Text-Matching Software

Tyndale has a subscription to Turnitin, a text-matching software that ensures the originality of academic writing and verifies the proper citation of all sources. The instructor for this course will use Turnitin for assignments submitted through your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca. Upon submission, you will receive a summary that includes your submitted files along with a similarity report generated by Turnitin. Please be aware that Turnitin can also detect AI-generated content from tools like Grammarly, so students should be mindful of when using such software. It's advisable to confirm with your instructor before using any AI tools into your assignments. Below are some useful resources:

- [Student](#) Guides for Turnitin via classes.tyndale.ca course resource page
- Interpreting Similarity ([Guide](#), [Video](#), [Spectrum](#))

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 (seminaryoffice@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

Late Papers and Extensions Policy

All papers and course assignments must be submitted by the due dates indicated in the course syllabus. Unless the instructor already has a policy on grading late papers in the course syllabus, grades for papers submitted late without an approved extension will be lowered at the rate of two-thirds of a grade per week or part thereof (e.g., from "A+" to "A-," from "B" to "C+"). Please note that some programs, such as cohort-based or intensive courses, may follow a different policy due to the nature of the program.

Faculty may not grant an extension beyond the last day of exams for the semester. Requests for extensions beyond this date must be addressed in writing to the Registrar by filling out the [Extension Request Form](#). The application will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, medical emergency, hospitalization of oneself or immediate family member or prolonged illness requiring treatment by a physician. Factors such as assignments for other courses, holidays, and technology-related difficulties are insufficient grounds for requesting an extension.

A temporary grade of incomplete (“I”) may be granted by the Registrar. Once an extension is granted, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor and make satisfactory arrangements to complete the outstanding work. A grade of “F” will be recorded for students who do not complete the outstanding work by the deadline.

E. 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.

F. LIBRARY RESOURCES

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

G. GRADING SYSTEM & SCALE

For each course’s grading rubric, please refer to your course syllabus or [classes.tyndale.ca](#). For general grading guidelines, refer to Seminary [Grading System & Scale](#).