



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYT 1101HF L0101
Course Name: THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I
Campus: St. George
Meeting Times: Tutorial, Monday, 10:00 – 10:50 am
Lecture & Discussion, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Joseph Mangina PhD Teaching Assistant: David Barr
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

None.

Course Description

An introduction to the discipline of “systematic” theology, also known as Christian doctrine or dogmatics, covering the following major topics: (1) the nature and sources of theology, (2) the doctrine of the Trinity, (3) the person and work of Jesus Christ. While the approach adopted in this course reflects the traditions of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation, including Anglicanism, the course is broadly ecumenical in scope and purpose. Students will attain facility in the basic grammar of Christian confession as grounded in Scripture and articulated in the ecumenical creeds/definitions (e.g. Nicea, Chalcedon) as well as the wider catholic tradition. The course assumes that theology is a difficult science, because God is not easy to understand, but also a joyful science, because there is no greater delight than letting the mind dwell on the beauty and the mystery of God or excite to the proclamation of the gospel.

Course Methodology

Lectures, tutorials, readings

Course Outcomes

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

The primary course textbook is:

- David Yeago, *The Apostolic Faith: A Catholic and Evangelical Introduction to Christian Theology* (unpublished MS). Available for purchase at Image Xpress, 193 College Street, Toronto, just east of St. George).

It will be supplemented by:

- Paul C. McGlasson, *Church Doctrine volume I: Canon* (Cascade Books, 2013), and idem., *Church Doctrine volume II: God* (Cascade Books, 2014)

Other Required Texts:

- Robert W. Jenson, *Can These Bones Live? An Outline of Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2015)
- Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (St. Vladimir's Press, 2003)

Recommended Texts:

- Beth Felker-Jones, *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically* (Baker Academic, 2014). This is a very basic textbook, written for undergraduates, but may be useful especially if you lack a strong background for theological study.
- Colin Gunton, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine* (Cambridge, 1997). Short, accessible essays by an ecumenical team of scholars.
- Donald McKim, ed., *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Westminster, 2nd ed. 2014).
- *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, ed. John Webster, Kathryn Tanner, and Iain Torrance (Oxford, 2007). Similar to the Cambridge Companion, but essays are longer and thematically more diverse. Available as an electronic resource via the Blackboard site for this course. Alternatively, you can access the work via the U of T online catalogue – click on “E-Resources.”

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>. This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (September 12) Introduction to the course.

Primary Readings: Augustine, *Confessions*, Book I, i-vi, available as PDF on Blackboard; Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I, Prologue and Question I: “The Nature and Extent of Sacred Doctrine,” available via link on Blackboard

Week 2 (September 19) What is Theology?

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, Preface & ch. 1, What Is Theology?, pp. 1–29 (Part One: The Apostolic Church as the Place of Theology and Part Two: Theology and Holy Scripture)

Supplemental Readings: Barth, “Commentary,” “The Word,” and “The Witnesses,” in *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*, available via link on Blackboard

Week 3 (September 26) Beginning with the Gospel.

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, ch. 2: The Centrality of Jesus of Nazareth

Supplemental Readings: McGlasson, *Church Doctrine: God*, ch. 1: The Knowledge of God

Week 4 (October 3) The One God.

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, ch. 3: The God of Israel; Katherine Sonderegger, “The Perfect Oneness of God,” *Systematic Theology* I, PDF on Blackboard

Week 5 (October 10) Thanksgiving Day, no class.

Week 6 (October 17) God as Trinity (I).

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, ch. 4, The Doctrine of the Trinity, 129-160

Supplemental Readings: Paul McGlasson, *Church Doctrine: Canon*, chapter on the Trinity

Jenson Paper Due Today

Week 7 (October 24) Reading Week, no class.

Week 8 (October 31) God as Trinity (II).

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, ch. 5, The Mystery of the Triune God, pp. 189–224; Karen Kilby, “Perichoresis and Projection: Problems with Social Doctrines of the Trinity,” PDF on Blackboard

Supplemental Readings: McGlasson, *Church Doctrine: God*, ch. 2, The Perfections of God

Week 9 (November 7) The Christological Dogma (I).

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, chapter 6, part one: The Christological Dogma and part two: One Person in Two Natures

Week 10 (November 14) The Christological Dogma (II).

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, chapter 6, Part Three: The Act of Incarnation and Part Four: The Mystery of Christ’s Humanity; George Hunsinger, “Salvator Mundi: Three Types of Christology,” PDF on Blackboard

Supplemental Readings: Karl Barth, “The Miracle and Mystery of Christmas,” *Church Dogmatics* 1.2, Digital KB Library, link on Black-board

Week 11 (November 21) Jesus, Messiah, Israel, and History.

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, chapter 7

Athanasius Paper Due Today

Week 12 (November 28) Christ Died for Our Sins: The Crucifixion (I).

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, ch. 8, pp. 305-339; Anselm, “A Meditation on Redemption,” from *Prayers and Meditations of St. Anselm*, PDF on Blackboard

Week 13 (December 5) Christ Died for Our Sins: The Crucifixion (II).

Primary Readings: Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion*, “Substitution,” PDF on Blackboard

Supplemental Readings: Karl Barth, “The Judge Judged in Our Place,” *Church Dogmatics* 4.1, Digital Karl Barth Library, link on Blackboard

Week 14 (December 12) The Lord is Risen: The Resurrection.

Primary Readings: Yeago, *Apostolic Faith* I, ch. 8, part three: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Reflection Paper Due Today

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Evaluation

Requirements

Evaluation is based on the following assignments.

- 1) a *weekly* assignment. Each week you will post two questions, arising out of the readings, on the Blackboard site for the course. The questions are due by 10 p.m. on the evening before class (20%)
- (2) a précis of a chapter from Yeago. It may be on any of the chapters assigned for discussion prior to reading week, i.e. choose from chapters 1– 4. See the handout titled “How to Write a Précis,” available on the course web site. (15%)

Précis are to be sent electronically to your tutorial leader prior to the class on the day we discuss the chapter in question. The reason you write these papers in advance is so that they may inform and enrich your participation in the tutorial. For this reason, late précis will not be accepted. Plan ahead, so that your précis submissions do not fall on weeks when other major assignments come due or when you have major field work responsibilities, etc. This assignment may be submitted electronically.

Due: any time before reading week.

(3) Two papers engaging short dogmatic treatises by important Christian thinkers, one ancient and one modern. The ancient work is St. Athanasius’ classic *On the Incarnation*. The modern work is Robert W. Jenson’s *Can These Bones Live? An Outline of Theology*. Read each work carefully, taking careful notes, in order to carry out the following tasks:

1. *Exposition*: 4-5 pages either (a) summarizing the primary argument or (b) focusing on one particular issue that arose through the reading. Secondary sources may be utilized as aids for understanding, but keep the focus on the text itself. This is not a research paper!
2. *Analysis*: 2 pages highlighting the theologically and philosophically significant ideas and issues which you observe in the text.
3. *Application*: 2-3 pages answering questions such as: i) does this text teach us anything that you see missing from contemporary ecclesial thinking about the Christian faith? How would this text aid you in ministry? How would you teach this text to others? Etc. You may orient this application either to the academic setting or to the church’s context of ministry and mission in which you are engaged. (35%)

Jenson paper due: October 17. Athanasius paper due: November 21.

(4) A critical reflection paper, limited to 1500 words, on a key theological topic arising from the readings. The only limitation on topic is that the paper should address some aspect of the main themes of the course: the character of theology, the nature of Scripture, God, Trinity, the person and work of Jesus Christ. The paper should advance a thesis that you deem to be important for the church’s life and witness, and superior to some alternative view: on topic X, we ought to believe Y (rather than Z). Please consult with the instructor or the TA if you are uncertain. A short handout will be made available on how best to approach this paper. (30%)

Due: December 12

Grading System

| Letter Grade | Numerical Equivalent | Grade Point | Grasp of Subject Matter |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| A+ | 90–100% | 4.0 | Profound & Creative |
| A | 85–89% | 4.0 | Outstanding |
| A- | 80–84% | 3.7 | Excellent |
| B+ | 77–79% | 3.3 | Very Good |

| | | | |
|----|--------|-----|--------------|
| B | 73–76% | 3.0 | Good |
| B- | 70–72% | 2.7 | Satisfactory |
| FZ | 0–69% | 0 | Failure |

Grades without numerical equivalent:

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| CR | Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value |
| NCR | Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation |
| SDF | Standing deferred (a temporary extension) |
| INC | Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value |
| WDR | Withdrawal without academic penalty |
| AEG | May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value |

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the

University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013), which is available at Crux Books.

Course Evaluations. At the end of the course students are expected to complete a course evaluation. The evaluation is done online and instructions will be contained in an e-mail message that will be sent out by the Wycliffe College registrar.

Bibliography

Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*.

Barth, Karl. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*.

Braaten and Jenson, eds. *Christian Dogmatics*.

Ford, David. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology in the Twentieth Century*.

Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*.

Gunton, Colin. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*.

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Harvey, Van. *A Handbook of Theological Terms*.

Jenson, Robert. *Systematic Theology*, vols. I-II.

Jones, Gareth, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Modern Theology*.

Kapic, Kelly and Bruce L. McCormack, eds. *Mapping Modern Theology: A Thematic and Historical Introduction*.

Leith, John H. *Basic Christian Doctrine*.

Livingston, James. *Modern Christian Thought*, 2nd ed.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*.

McIntosh, Mark A. *Divine Teaching: An Introduction to Christian Theology*.

McKim, Donald L. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*.

Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*.

Morse, Christopher. *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Disbelief*.

Oden, Thomas. *Systematic Theology*, vols. 1-3.

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Placher, William. *The Triune God: An Essay in Postliberal Theology*.

Sonderregger, Katherine. *Systematic Theology. Vol. 1: The Doctrine of God*.

Tanner, Kathryn. *Jesus, Humanity, and the Trinity*.

Wainwright, Geoffrey. *Doxology*.

Williams, Rowan. *On Christian Theology*. Anglican.

Williams, Rowan. *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Faith*.

Wilson, Jonathan. *God So Loved the World: A Christology for Disciples*. Evangelical-Free Church.

Wilson, Jonathan. *A Primer for Christian Doctrine*.

Yoder, John Howard. *Preface to Theology: Christology and Theological Method*.