



# 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***

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Course Number : WYT3215HF  
Course Name: The Image of God  
Campus: St. George

## ***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Peter Robinson  
E-mail: [probinson@wycliffe.utoronto.ca](mailto:probinson@wycliffe.utoronto.ca)  
Office Hours: by appointment

## ***Course Prerequisites or Requisites***

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This course is part of the Honor's M.Div. stream and is intended for students in their third year.

## ***Course Description***

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To explore what it means to 'be in Christ' with particular reference to the question of the Imago Dei. Students will read from a wide variety of sources and explore different understandings of the Imago Dei from Western and Eastern Orthodox theologians. We will look at how these varied perspectives on the Imago Dei have informed classical theological categories including Trinitarian theology, Christology, Pneumatology, Theological Anthropology, Ecclesiology and Soteriology. These theological understandings will then be applied to appraise concepts of sanctification, a variety of ecclesial models and other issues of praxis.

## ***Course Methodology***

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Lectures, readings, précis, discussion, discussion leadership, final project or paper

## ***Course Outcomes***

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COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)

• cultivate a critical appreciation for a variety of theological perspectives from East and West, from patristic writers until today;	Readings, lectures, final project or paper	<b>MDiv:</b> 1.3–1.5
• learn how to carefully read theological papers in their context including identifying and describing key issues in a theological argument;	Readings, précis, weekly questions	<b>MDiv:</b> 2.1, 2.2
• develop the skill of writing précis as a tool in refining their skills in reading and summarizing theological arguments;	Précis	<b>MDiv:</b> 2.1, 2.2
• grapple with major theological categories and their interrelatedness through focusing on a central theological category;	Lectures, readings, discussion	<b>MDiv:</b> 1.3
• nurture their understanding of how theology informs ministry praxis.	Readings, discussion leadership	<b>MDiv:</b> 3.1, 3.2

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Required Course Texts**

- A Course Reader will be available from the Wycliffe College Front Desk.

### **Course Website(s)**

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the U of T Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> .

## ***Class Schedule***

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**Week 1 (September 13)** Introduction; Read Genesis Chapters 1–12.

**Week 2 (September 20)** Read chapter 1 of Richard Middleton, *The Liberating Image*. Look up passages from the bible on the term 'image of God' and put together a short reflection on it. E.g., Genesis, 1 Corinthians 15:45–49.

**Week 3 (September 27)** Augustine on the Trinity (Augustine – Book 12: 5–7 and Books 14:6–19).

**Week 4 (October 4)** Calvin – Institutes Bk 1 ch XV Discussion of Human nature as created... pp. 183–96, Bk 2 Ch 12:3–7, Calvin’s Commentary on Genesis chapter 1:26,27.

**Week 5 (October 11)** Irenaeus Against Heresies III.18, IV. 38, V. 1,2, 6, 7, 8, 16.

**Week 6 (October 18)** Vladimir Lossky – *Image and Likeness* ch7 pp 125–39 (“The Theology of the Image”) and Ch 6 In *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, pp 114–34.

**Week 7 (October 25)** Reading Week.

**Week 8 (November 1)** Panayiotis Nellas – *Deification in Christ* – ch 1. p.21–42 image, and p.109–14.

**Week 9 (November 8)** – Karl Barth – *Church Dogmatics* 3.1, pp 182–206.

**Week 10 (November 15)** John Zizioulas – Human Capacity and Incapacity, SJT 1972.

**Week 11 (November 22)** Miroslav Volf – *After our Likeness*, chapter 5 ‘Trinity and Church’.

**Week 12 (November 29)** Colin Gunton – “Trinity, Ontology and Anthropology: Towards a Renewal of the Imago Dei” in *Persons Divine and Human*

**Week 13 (December 6)** McFarland, Ian – The Image of God in Human Beings – Chapter 4 pp. 51-77 in *The Divine Image: Envisioning the Invisible God*.

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements**

- 1. Class Participation** (including submission of questions on Quercus each week) 20%
  - Read in detail the assigned reading taking notes and recording questions for clarification and questions on theological issues.
  - Post two questions on the assigned readings on Quercus by the Tuesday evening before the class.
  - Be prepared to discuss the assigned reading in class.
- 2. Précis-** (see handout on Quercus). 15 %
  - Write a précis on the assigned reading (at least five times during term). Maximum length is to be one side of a single page 8.5 by 11 size 12 font (Times New Roman), 1.5 line spacing. Précis are due at the beginning of class each week. Instruction on writing a precis will be available on Quercus.
- 3. Leadership of discussion** (at least twice during the term.) 40%

You will provide:

- a brief overview of the reading – not just a survey or an outline but drawing out key theological issues. A copy should be sent to the instructor at least 24 hours before class.
- Highlights of underlying concerns/terms or other thinkers that must be addressed.
- Comment on assigned reading in the context of issues previously discussed in class.
- This overview will take ½ hour to 45 minutes at the beginning of the class.

Discussion time – approximately 1.5 hours.

- Develop questions that facilitate a discussion on the assigned readings. Including a question on the relationship of theology to praxis in the context of the assigned reading. You may incorporate your classmates questions into the discussion time.

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**4. Final Research Paper** - due on the Thursday of exam week and will be approximately 3500 words in length. 25%

The final paper is intended to further your studies in the area of the Imago Dei and the implications for theological issues and practical ministry. You may choose to do further research on one of the authors we have studied, you may choose to do a topical paper or you may choose to compare two or more theologians on this issue. Whatever approach you choose you should devote at least part of the paper to one or more practical issues which arise out of your research. The final topic for your research paper will be determined in consultation with the instructor.

You will engage with a variety of theological resources for your paper. The short bibliography below provides a starting point for your research it is not intended to be exhaustive. You may use a combination of journals, online resources as well as theology texts. It is fine to agree in part and disagree in part with the theologians you engage with. The key is to offer solid reasons for your position. Your paper must be properly referenced with either footnotes or endnotes. It will also include a bibliography listing all the sources accessed for the paper.

You will be graded on the following four criteria:

- Evidence of adequate research.
- Theological development of the issue
- Structure of your argument
- Creativity.

**Grading System**

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	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:

- 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***

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**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](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm)).

**Turnitin.com.** Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**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*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

## ***Bibliography***

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- Graham, Jeannine Michele, A Response to Andrew Purves' Paper – "I Yet Not I But Christ: Galatians 2:20 and the Christian Life in the Theology of T.F. Torrance." (Deals with the image and suffering) [http://www.tfortrance.org/meetings/purves\\_response-aar05.pdf](http://www.tfortrance.org/meetings/purves_response-aar05.pdf)
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