

Course Syllabus
WYT 3325H – The Holy Spirit: Exploring Pneumatology
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2018

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jonathan Slater, PhD
Office Location:
Telephone: (416) 802-8534
E-mail: jonathan.slater@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Skype office hours: TBA

Course Identification

Course Number: WYT 3325H F
Course Format: Online
Course Name: The Holy Spirit: Exploring Pneumatology
Course Location:
Class Times:
Prerequisites: WYT1101—The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I, or equivalent

Course Description

This course explores the identity and mission of the Holy Spirit through listening to the witness of the Scriptures and the early church, and through critical engagement with contemporary conversations about the Spirit. The first half of the course addresses Biblical foundations and patristic developments, with a particular focus on the Spirit in relation to the doctrine of the Trinity. The second half explores a number of contemporary issues in pneumatology. Topics to be covered include: the Spirit in relation to creation and contemporary cosmology; the Spirit in relation to the Church, Scripture, prayer, and the Christian life; Pentecostal and charismatic perspectives on the Spirit; and the task of discernment of the Spirit in the church and the world.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

- Daniel Castello, *Pneumatology: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015)
- Anthony Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit: Bible, Doctrine, Experience* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016)

Texts will be available through UofT bookstore.

Course Website

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

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT 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>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [insert college contact] for further help.]

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

| 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) |
| Identify and assess significant theological moves in patristic and contemporary discussions of the Holy Spirit | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeks 4, 5, 6• Discussion forums• Short papers | MTS: 1.2, 2.1; MDiv: 1.3, 2.1 |
| Articulate an understanding of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in relation to the doctrines of the Trinity, creation, the church, and the Christian life | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeks 6, 7, 8• Discussion forums• Short papers | MTS: 1.2, 2.1, 2.2; MDiv: 1.3, 2.1, 2.2 |
| Articulate an awareness of the ways that diverse theological traditions have understood the Holy Spirit, with particular reference to the rise of Pentecostalism and the charismatic movement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeks 10, 11, 12• Discussion forums• Short papers | MTS: 1.3; MDiv: 1.5 |
| Engage in critical and respectful discussion of assigned readings in an online learning environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Forums• Reading Responses• Short Papers | MTS: 3.1; MDiv: 2.2 |

| Course Outcomes | Course Element | Program Outcomes |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Gather, analyze and assess material from both primary and secondary literature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses • Short Papers | MTS: 2.1, 2.2; MDiv: 2.1 |
| Express themselves effectively both orally and in writing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses • Short Papers | MTS: 2.1, 2.2 MDiv: 2.1 |

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas:

- (1) Reading Responses (20%) – As the name suggests, your reading response should be oriented toward one or more of the assigned readings, including the course notes. While you are welcome to underscore important points from the readings, your response should not simply consist of a summary. Rather, in your response you are invited to raise questions, express curiosity or puzzlement, and flag things you strongly agree or disagree with. You are encouraged to relate themes in the reading to your own experience, as well as to issues and questions raised in other courses, so long as this does not detract from the primary focus on the text. You are not trying to come up with definitive answers to theological questions, simply to respond to the things you've read with as much critical intelligence and sensitivity as you can muster. Reading responses should be 500 to 700 words. You will be graded on the basis of the quality and not simply the quantity of your notes. To receive full credit for this requirement you must submit notes through Quercus by 10 pm on Tuesday in at least eight of weeks of the course. This gives you some latitude to balance your work in Systematics with requirements in other courses, and to deal with issues arising at home, etc.
- (2) Online Conversation (30%) – Participating in online discussion will form a key element of the course, providing opportunity for students to learn from one another and to clarify their thinking as they engaging with one another and with the course material. Students will be assigned to discussion groups of 5 to 7 persons. For each unit, one of the group members will initiate discussion of the week's topic by midnight on Monday with a post of approximately 500 words. The post should identify and briefly develop one or two questions for discussion. Initiating discussion will rotate between group members. Each member of the group will be responsible to contribute at least two substantive comments of between 250 and 300 words to the discussion. One of these comments must be a response to the initial post. The person who makes the initial post only needs to make one other post that week. The other comment must be a response to one of the other students in the group. The deadline for completing these contributions is midnight on Friday.
- (3) Short Papers (25% each) – Students will submit a mid-term paper which addresses some aspect of the pneumatological themes explored in the first half of the course, as well as a final paper which addresses some aspect of the pneumatological themes explored in the second half of the course. Each paper will be approximately 1800 words. The topics of these papers will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Students who wish to explore a topic in greater depth may choose to combine the two papers and submit a single final paper of approximately 3600 words. This decision will be made in consultation with the instructor.

Grading System

A+ (90-100)
A (85-89)
A- (80-84)
B+ (77-79)
B (73-76)
B- (70-72)
Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work. Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

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/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs 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* and the Graduate program Handbooks (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/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. A student who plagiarizes in this course 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>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Week 1

September 8 - 14 Course introduction

Week 2

September 15 - 21 The Spirit in Scripture (I): Old Testament, Synoptic Gospels, and Acts
Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 21-39
Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit*, 1-26; 49 – 58

Week 3

September 22 - 28 The Spirit in Scripture (II): Paul, John, and other New Testament Texts
Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 40-43
Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit*, 27-48; 59-78

Week 4

September 29 –
October 5

Pneumatology in the fourth-century
Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 45 - 57
Athanasius, *Letters to Serapion on the Holy Spirit* (selections)
Basil, *On the Holy Spirit* (selections)

Week 5

October 6 - 12

Augustine and the *Filioque*
Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 57-64
Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit*, 79 – 93
Augustine, *The Trinity* (selections)
Augustine, *Homilies on the First Epistle of John* (selections)

Week 6

October 13 - 19

The Spirit and the Trinity in Contemporary Theology
Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit*, 94 – 98
Karl Barth, "The Eternal Spirit", *Church Dogmatics* I/1, 479- 489
Vladimir Lossky, *In the Image and Likeness of God* (selections)
David Coffey, "The Roman 'Clarification' of the Doctrine of the *Filioque*", *IJST* 5.1 (2003), 3-21
Kathryn Tanner, "Beyond the East/West Divide," in Myk Habets (ed), *Ecumenical Perspectives on the Filioque for the Twenty-first Century* (London; New York: Bloombury T&T Clark, 2014), 198-210.

October 20 – 26

Reading Week

Mid-Term Paper: Due October 27

Week 7

October 27 –
November 2

The Spirit and Creation
Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 65-80
Theodore Whapham, "Spirit as field of force", *SJT* 67.1 (2014), 15 – 32
Steven Studebaker, "The Spirit in Creation: A Unified Theology of Grace and Creation Care", *Zygon* 43.4 (December 2008), 943 – 960.

Week 8

November 2 – 9

The Spirit and the Church
Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 81 – 90
Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit*, 99 – 109
Theodora Hawksley, "The Freedom of the Spirit: The Pneumatological Point of Barth's Ecclesiological Minimalism", *Scottish Journal of Theology* 64.2 (2011), 180 – 194.
Oliver Davies, "Holy Spirit and Mediation: Towards a Transformational Pneumatology", *IJST* 162 (April 2014), 159 – 176.

Week 9

November 10 - 16

The Spirit and Scripture

Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 90-94

Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit*, 110-115

Stephen Fowl, "How the Spirit Reads and How to Read the Spirit", in Eugene Rogers, ed., *The Holy Spirit: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 301 – 315

Amy Plantinga Pauw, "The Holy Spirit and Scripture" in Jensen, ed., *The Lord and Giver of Life*, 25 – 39

Week 10

November 17 - 23

Receiving the Spirit

Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 95-116

Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit* 116 – 167

Week 11

November 24 - 30

Discerning the Spirit

Castelo, *Pneumatology for the Perplexed*, 117 - 134

Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit*, 168 – 183

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, "Testimonies from Asia", in *Holy Spirit and Salvation: The Sources of Christian Theology* (WJK 2010), 417 – 441

Week 12

December 1 - 7

Worship in the Spirit

Thiselton, *A Shorter Guide to the Holy Spirit* 184 – 191

Sarah Coakley, "The Charismatic Constituency: Embarrassment or Riches?", in *God, Sexuality, and the Self* (Cambridge University 2013), 152 – 189.

Final Paper: Due December 14