

**Course Syllabus**  
**WYT 1101H – The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I**  
**Wycliffe College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Winter 2023**

***Instructor Information***

---

Instructor: Michael Brain, PhD.  
Office Location: N/A  
Telephone: N/A  
E-mail: [michael.brain@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.brain@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours; by appointment

***Course Identification***

---

Course Number: WYT 1101H  
Course Format: *Online*  
Course Name: The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I  
Course Location: Quercus  
Class Times: N/A  
Prerequisites: None, although it is highly recommended that you have taken “Life Together” and/or at least one course in biblical studies at Wycliffe College

***Course Description***

---

This course is 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. You will attain facility in the basic grammar of Christian confession as grounded in Scripture and articulated in the ecumenical creeds/definitions (e.g., Nicaea, 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.

***Course Resources***

---

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

- David Yeago, *The Apostolic Faith: A Catholic and Evangelical Introduction to Christian Theology, Part I: The Gift of the Life of the Triune God in Jesus Christ* (unpublished MS, contracted to Wm. Eerdmans Publishing). Available through the course website.
- Additional readings will be available online through the course website.

Course Website(s)

- 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 Quercus should ask the Registrar's Office for further help.]

***Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes***

| Course Outcomes  | Course Element  | Program Outcomes   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>By the end of this course students will:</b>  | <b>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</b> | <b>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)</b> |
| Articulate an understanding of the aims and character of Christian theology, and of the basic content and "logic" of the doctrines of the revelation, the Trinity, the person of Christ, and the work of Christ. | Course notes<br>Discussion forums<br>Short papers                   | MTS: 1.2, 2.1<br>MDiv: 1.3, 2.1  |
| Articulate an awareness of their own ecclesial tradition in relation to the ecumenical faith of the church.  | Course notes<br>Discussion forums<br>Short papers                   | MTS: 3.1<br>MDiv: 1.5  |
| Engage in critical and respectful discussion of assigned readings in an online learning environment.   | Discussion Forums<br>Reading Responses<br>Short Papers              | MTS: 3.1;<br>MDiv: 2.2   |
| Gather, analyze and assess material from both primary and secondary literature   | Reading Responses<br>Short Papers                                   | MTS: 2.1, 2.2;<br>MDiv: 2.1  |
| Express themselves effectively both orally and in writing  | Reading Responses<br>Short Papers                                   | MTS: 2.1, 2.2<br>MDiv: 2.1   |

## Evaluation

---

### Requirements

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

- (1) *Précis (25%)* – At the heart of the course is careful reading and understanding of the concepts set forth in the primary readings. As a consequence, the core assignment for the course will consist in writing a series of one-page précis of particular chapters or parts of chapters of the required readings. You will write **five précis** in all, in weeks of your own choosing. The only constraint is that you must hand in two of your précis prior to Reading Week and two afterwards; this is to insure an evenly distributed workload for the instructor. Your fifth précis can be submitted in either half of the course. Further guidelines and the grading rubric will be available on Quercus.
- (2) *Online Conversation (25%)* – 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 engage with one another and with the course material. You will be assigned to discussion groups of 4-5 persons. Five weeks throughout the course, students will respond to a prompt related to the course readings and lectures. The post should develop an argument or a question for discussion. Each member of the group will then contribute responses to each of their group members. Further guidelines and the grading rubric will be available on Quercus.
- (3) *Two Short Papers (1800 words; 25% each)* - You will submit two *credo* papers. The first one will be on the doctrine of the Trinity, and the second one will be on one of the topics addressed in second half of the course (modules 7 to 12). The point of these papers is for you formulate and defend a thesis in which you have some personal investment; hence the name *credo*, “I believe.” Your task is to identify some question or issue within the given doctrine and argue for or against some particular way of thinking about that question or issue. The paper should consider possible objections to your own viewpoint, and it should seek to shed light on the doctrine as a whole, i.e. you should try to identify an issue that is of broad interest and is not narrow or idiosyncratic. While the paper may engage the course notes and/or readings, it should do so in ways that help to clarify and advance your own position. Paper 1 is due February 23, and paper 2 is due April 10. You should consult with the instructor at least two weeks before the paper is due concerning their paper topic.

### Grading System

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 90-100 (A+) | Exceptional |
| 85-89 (A)   | Outstanding |
| 80-84 (A-)  | Excellent   |
| 77-79 (B+)  | Very Good   |
| 73-76 (B)   | Good        |
| 70-72 (B-)  | Acceptable  |
| 0-69 (FZ)   | Failure     |

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

**Late Work (BD).** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); 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 and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week 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 to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf), policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, 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](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](http://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 must 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**

---

### **Module 1**

Jan 9 - 13

#### **What is Theology (I)**

McFarland, "Systematic Theology" in *Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*  
Barth, *Evangelical Theology*, 3 - 47

### **Module 2**

Jan 16 - 20

#### **What is Theology (II)**

Barth, *Evangelical Theology*, 48 - 59  
Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Preface and Chapter 1: What is Theology

### **Module 3**

Jan 23 - 27

#### **Beginning with the Gospel**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 2: The Centrality of Jesus of Nazareth

### **Module 4**

Jan 30 -

Feb 2

#### **The One God**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 3: The God of Israel

### **Module 5**

Feb 6 - 10

#### **God as Trinity (I)**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 4, The Doctrine of the Trinity

### **Module 6**

Feb 13 - 17

#### **God as Trinity (II)**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 5, The Mystery of the Triune God

**Reading Week: February 20-24**

**Paper 1: Due February 24**

**Module 7**

Feb 27 -  
Mar 3

**The Christological Dogma (I)**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 6, parts I and II  
Oliver Crisp, "Incarnation", *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*

**Module 8**

Mar 6 - 10

**The Christological Dogma (II)**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 6, parts III and IV  
Ian McFarland, "Spirit and Incarnation: Toward a Pneumatic Chalcedonianism",  
*International Journal of Systematic Theology* 16.2 (April 2014), 143 – 158.

**Module 9**

Mar 13 - 17

**Jesus, Messiah, Israel, and History**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 7, Jesus, Messiah, and the Reign of God

**Module 10**

Mar 20 - 24

**Christ Died for our Sins: The Crucifixion (I).**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 8, parts I and II

**Module 11**

Mar 27 - 31

**Christ Died for our Sins: The Crucifixion (II)**

Paul Fiddes, "Salvation", *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*.  
Oliver Crisp, "Is Ransom Enough?", *Journal of Analytic Theology* 3 (May 2015), 1 –  
16.292 – 342

**Module 12**

Apr 3 -  
Apr 6

**The Lord is Risen: The Resurrection**

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 8, part III  
George Hunsinger, "The Daybreak of the New Creation: Christ's Resurrection in Recent  
Theology", *Scottish Journal of Theology* 57.2 (2004), 163 - 181.

**Paper 2: Due April 13**