

SYT 188/STD 451 Theology of God

Winter 2019

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Thursday, January 3, 2019. Final class date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Tuesdays 10:30-11:20 and Thursdays 9:30-11:20, St. Francis Rm, NTC

Instructors Name: Fr. Don MacDonald, OFM
Office: 2-04
Office Hours: Before classes Tuesdays and Thursdays. Otherwise, by appointment.
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Course Description

Aspects of the problem of God in the modern era. Preparations for belief in the Trinity in the history of Israel. The Christ event and the Trinity. The Trinity and the early Church Councils. "Explanations" of the Trinity old and new. Special questions regarding the Trinity (the Trinity and the immutability of God, creation, modern science, evil, gender, Christian worship and spirituality). Pneumatology.

Course Objectives

Formulated to address one or more of the four goals of theological education at NTC as articulated in the context and scope section of the catalogue.

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course seeks to deepen students' knowledge of the Triune God as revealed in Scripture and the Church's Tradition. This is achieved through class lectures and discussions as well as assignments involving research and personal reflection.
- b) **Cultural Context** - This course will take account of the diversity of contemporary culture in which faith in the triune God is both challenged and lived. Consideration will be given to the negative effects of contemporary relativism and individualism as well as the positive search for authenticity and freedom in the "reception" of this faith.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course will offer an understanding of the triune God that fosters a mature moral and spiritual life.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The course will seek to demonstrate the importance of a sound faith understanding of the triune God for effective pastoral leadership in today's Church. It will also seek to demonstrate how this doctrine is central to a theological synthesis.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

1. Read two of the following four books:

Kasper, W. **The God of Jesus Christ**. New York: Crossroad, 1984.

O'Collins, G. **The Tripersonal God. Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity**. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.

O'Donnell, J.J. **The Mystery of the Triune God**. New York: Paulist Press, 1990.

Hunt, Ann, **Trinity. Nexus of the Mysteries of Christian Faith**. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005.

2. A 4 page reflection paper on the professor's notes for III, A. of course schedule ("The Emergence of the Easter Faith", cf. *infra*), worth 10% of the final mark. To be handed in no later than Thursday, January 24, 2019.
3. One term paper between 15 and 18 pages to be handed in no later than Thursday, March 28, 2019 (worth 40% of final mark) or two term papers between 8 and 12 pages, the first to be handed in no later than, Thursday, February 14th, 2019, the second no later than Thursday, April 4th, 2019 (each worth 20% of final mark). Topics for the shorter papers will be discussed at the beginning of the course.
4. A final exam (written take-home) at the end of the course (worth 50% of final mark.)

Term paper topics:

- The Trinitarian theology of St. Augustine, Aquinas, Rahner, von Balthasar or Moltmann
- The Trinity and the Paschal Mystery (cf. bibliography *infra*)
- The relationship between the immanent and economic Trinity
- One of the topics under Part V of the course outline

Another topic which interests you, with professor's permission

FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

1. Read one of books listed above (Course Assignments "1") for graduate students.
2. A 4-page reflection paper (cf. "2" of Graduate Assignments, *supra*). Also worth 10% of final mark.
3. One term paper between 8 and 12 pages to be handed in no later than, Thursday, March 21, 2019 (worth 40% of final mark). Topics will be discussed at the beginning of the course.
4. A final exam (written take-home) at the end of the course (worth 50% of final mark).

Textbooks

(for both graduate and undergraduate students)

1. The professor's personal notes for each section of the class
2. Cf. "ASSIGNMENTS" for graduate students ("1").

Recommended Reading

Dominum et Vivificantem (encyclical of Pope John Paul II on Holy Spirit (1986))
Pope John Paul II. *Celebrate 2000! Reflections on Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father*. Ann Arbor: Servant Publications, 1996.
Select Questions on the Theology of God the Redeemer (Int'l Theological Commission, 1995)
Catechism of the Catholic Church (articles 232-267).

Course Schedule

Introduction: Aspects of the God Problem in the Modern Era

I The Twentieth Century Shift in Trinitarian Theology

II God in the Old Testament: "Preparations" for Belief in the Trinity

III The Christ Event and the Trinity

- A. The Ministry, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and the Emergence of Trinitarian Faith
- B. The Risen Jesus as the Exalted Lord
- C. The Trinity in St. Paul
- D. The Johannine Interpretation of the Trinity

IV The Trinity and the Early Church Councils; other documents of Magisterium on Trinity

V "Explanations" of the Trinity, Old and New: Augustine, the Cappadocians, Aquinas, Bonaventure, von Balthasar, Moltmann and Rahner.

VI Special Questions Regarding the Trinity

- A. The Trinity and the Immutability of God
- B. The Trinity and Creation
- C. The Trinity and Modern Science
- D. The Trinity and the Mystery of Evil
- E. Pneumatology (Theology of the Holy Spirit, including the question of the *filioque*).
- F. Trinity and Gender
- G. The Trinity, Christian Worship and Spirituality

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Extensions: To be dealt with on a personal basis

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu.

Bibliography

- Anatolios, K. **Retrieving Nicaea. The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine.** Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Badcock, G. D. **Light of Truth and Fire of Love.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Boff, L. **Trinity and Society.** Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988
- Bracken, J. **The Triune Symbol: Person, Process and Community.** Washington: University of America Press, 1985.
- Burgess, S. M. **The Holy Spirit: Medieval Roman Catholic and Reformation Traditions.** Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997.
- Brown, D. **The Divine Trinity.** London: Duckworth Press, 1985.
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- D'Costa, O. **The Meeting of Religions and the Trinity.** Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2000.
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- Fatula, M. A. **The Holy Spirit: Unbounded Gift of Joy.** Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1998.
- Fatula, M. A. **The Triune God of Christian Faith.** Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1990.
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- Weinandy, T. G. **The Father's Spirit of Sonship. Reconceiving the Trinity.** Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. 1995.

Bibliography for term paper on Trinity and Resurrection

- F. X. Durrwell, *The Resurrection. A Biblical Study* (two copies - one mine, one OFM library)
- D. M. Stanley, *Christ's Resurrection in Pauline Soteriology* (one copy - mine)
- Hunt, Anne, *The Trinity and the Paschal Mystery* (two copies - both mine)
- Hunt, Anne, *Trinity. Nexus of the Mysteries of Christian Faith* (ch. 4) - two copies, one mine, one OFM library
- Hunt, Anne, *What are They Saying about the Trinity?* Two copies, both mine
- J.J. O'Donnell, *The Mystery of the Triune God* (ch IV) -two copies, both OFM library
- M. A. Fatula, *The Triune God of Christian Faith* (Ch. II) - one copy OFM library
- H. U. Von Balthasar, *Mysterium Paschale. The Mystery of Easter* (Ch. 5) - two copies both in OFM library