

**Systematic Theology 5103A /
Theological Studies 2207F**



Introduction to Systematic Theology

Location: W108

Days: Tuesdays 3:30—5:20, Thursdays 2:30—3:20

Instructor: Dr. Gary D. Badcock

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Office A221

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m., or by appointment/ drop-in

Prerequisites Required for this Course:

None

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

- Exhibit a deeper understanding of the character and content of the Christian theological tradition;
- Demonstrate an ability to explain the cultural and philosophical contexts in which Christian ideas have been, are, and might be formulated;
- Critically evaluate some of the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of theological standpoints, appreciating the importance of the specific literary traditions in which these standpoints are rooted;
- Engage in continuing study of systematic theology in the university setting.

Course Syllabus:

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to systematic theology by way of a study of a series of central themes in historical and contemporary Christian thought. The nature of theology, the doctrine of God, theological anthropology and approaches to the interpretation of scripture will be the particular foci, though a range of related subjects will be touched upon along the way.

Course Outline

I. Prolegomena

Week 1: September 7 **Faith and Reason in Systematic Theology**

Reading:

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 1

Gunton, *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, Chapter 1

Alternative Reading

M Wiles, *Explorations in Theology*, vol. 4, pp. 1-40

S. Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, “Introduction: The Nature and Task of Theology”

Week 2: September 12, 14 **The Idea of Revelation and the Problem of Religious Language**

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 2

Alternative Reading

G MacGregor, *Introduction to Religious Philosophy*, pp. 290-313

J McIntyre, *Faith, Theology and Imagination*, pp. 19-39

J Pelikan, *Christianity and Classical Culture*, pp. 40-73

K. Vanhoozer, *First Theology*, Chapter 6

Week 3: September 19, 21 **Theology in the Modern/ Postmodern Context**

Reading

Gunton, *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, Chapter 3

Alternative Reading

A Plantinga and N Woltersdorff, eds., *Faith and Rationality*, pp. 135-186

S Hauerwas, “The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ Her Lord; or, In a World Without Foundations, All We Need is the Church,” in Hauerwas et al, eds., *Theology Without Foundations*, pp. 143-162

K. Vanhoozer, *First Theology*, Chapter 1
 S. Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, pp. 43-52

II. The Doctrine of God

Week 4: September 26, 28 The Shape of Classical Theism

Reading

Gunton, *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, Chapter 7

Alternative Reading

B Ramsey, *Beginning to Read the Fathers*, pp. 42-55

P Brown, *Augustine of Hippo*, pp. 79-100

EL Mascall, *Existence and Analogy*, pp. 1-43

S. Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, pp. 29-43

Week 5: October 3, 5 A Suffering God?

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 6

Alternative Reading

J Moltmann, *The Crucified God*, pp. 207-278

T Weinandy, *Does God Suffer?* pp. 172-213

J Macquarrie, *In Search of Deity*, pp. 30-56

G Badcock, "The Concept of Love: Divine and Human," in K Vanhoozer, ed., *Nothing Greater, Nothing Better*, pp. 30-46

Week 6: Faculty of Theology Reading Week – no classes

Week 7: October 17, 19 The Trinitarian Doctrine of God

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 4

Alternative Reading

T Peters, *God-the World's Future* pp. 82-121

G Badcock, *Light of Truth & Fire of Love*, pp. 170-179

Week 8: October 24, 26

“God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth”

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 5

Gunton, *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, Chapter 8

Alternative Reading

S McFague, *Metaphorical Theology*, pp. 145-192

E Achtemeier, “Exchanging God for 'No Gods': A Discussion of Female Language for God,” in AF Kimel, ed., *Speaking the Christian God*, pp. 1-16

G Badcock, “Whatever Happened to God the Father?” *Crux* 36 (2000), 2-12

The mid-term examination will be available and submitted on OWL during the course of this week.

III. Theological Anthropology

Week 9: October 31, November 2

Body, Soul and Spirit

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 7

Gunton, *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, Chapter 9

Alternative Reading

K Ward, *Religion and Human Nature*, pp. 271-323

J Macquarrie, *In Search of Humanity*, pp. 47-58

Week 10: November 7, 9

Hamartiology: The Doctrine of Sin

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 7

Gunton, *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, Chapter 10

Alternative Reading

J Plaskow, *Sex, Sin and Grace*, pp. 62-73
 P Brown, *Augustine of Hippo*, pp. 340-352
 R Niebuhr, *The Nature and Destiny of Man*, vol 1, pp. 178-207
 S Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, Chapter 7

Week 11: November 14, 16

Woman and Man

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 9
 Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Appendix C

Alternative Reading

J Shaw, "Women, Rationality and Theology," in D Hampson, ed., *Swallowing a Fishbone?* pp. 50-65
 L Cahill, *Sex, Gender and Christian Ethics*, pp. 166-216
 A Nichols, *Christendom Awake*, pp. 117-129

IV. Theological Hermeneutics

Week 12: November 21, 23

The Literal and the Spiritual Sense

Reading

Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Chapter 3

Alternative Reading

H Crouzel, Origen, pp. 61-84
 RPC Hanson, *Allegory and Event*, pp. 359-374
 R Morgan, "The Bible in Christian Theology," in J Barton, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*, pp. 114-128
 K. Vanhoozer, *First Theology*, Chapter 7

Week 13: November 28, 30

Recent Theological Hermeneutics

Reading

Gunton, *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, Chapter 4

Alternative Reading

M Wallace, *The Second Naiveté*, pp. 87-110

K Vanhoozer, *Is there a Meaning in this Text?* “Introduction” and “Conclusion” pp. 15-35, 455-468

K Vanhoozer, *First Theology*, Chapters 8-10

R Bultmann, “New Testament and Mythology,” in HW Bartsch, ed, *Kerygma and Myth*, pp. 1-44

A Thiselton, “Biblical Studies and Theoretical Hermeneutics,” in J Barton, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*, pp. 95-113

S Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, Chapter 7

Week 14: December 5, 7

Course Catch-up/ Review/ Loose ends

Course Materials:

Weekly readings corresponding to the subjects to be covered in class are outlined in the syllabus, and you are expected to explore as much and as many of them as time permits. Two basic books, containing the main recommended weekly readings, are available for purchase at the UWO Bookstore:

Colin Gunton, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*

Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*

These books **will also be on Reserve** in the HUC Library. It is, therefore, not strictly necessary to buy books for the course.

Alternative Readings are also listed (note that these have **not** been placed on Reserve for this course), as there may be subjects that spark a special interest so that you will wish to borrow a book in order to read up on further. You could also read a selection of these texts rather than the textbook material (in fact, this is my recommended approach for more ambitious and able students), but note in this case that the readings may be less introductory.

Assignments & Method of Evaluation of Assignments:

Assignments/ Evaluation:

Assessment:

1. A mid-term, online examination (covering Sections I and II of the course), available on OWL in Week 8 of Term (20%).
2. Attendance and participation (10%).
3. A research essay of about 2000 words (TS2207F) or 3000 words (ST5103a) on a topic to be announced, due by December 1 (40%).

4. A final examination (30%). This will take the form of a take-home examination, which will be due by December 15.

Additional Statements:

1. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices during Tests and Exams

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited, to laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

2. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg113.html>."

3. Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

4. Support Services:

- UWO Registrar's Office: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:
http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students
- Faculty of Theology office: srice@uwo.ca, 519-438-7224, ext. 289
- Huron's Writing Skills Centre: http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services
- UWO's Mental Health website: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to this website for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- UWO Student Support and Development Services:
http://communications.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services.htm
- Services provided by Western University Student Council: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

5. Accommodation for absences:

- a) **Non-medical absences:**

Regular attendance at class is expected. Students who miss class without medical explanation (see 5.b below) will lose one mark for each class missed, to a maximum of 10%, unless clear explanation of extenuating circumstances can be provided. Non-medical explanations should be directed to the Instructor by email: gbadcock@huron.uwo.ca. Students who miss more than 50% of classes without adequate explanation may be failed.

- b) **Medical absences:** See also the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness —Undergraduate Students, at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>)

For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course, a student must present documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation must be submitted as soon as possible to your Faculty Dean's office (Huron Arts & Social Science students should take their documentation to the Academic Counsellor, through the Academic Services Centre at Huron), together with a Request for Relief specifying the nature of the accommodation requested. The request and documentation will be assessed and appropriate accommodation will be determined by the Dean's office in consultation with the instructor(s.) Academic accommodation will be granted ONLY where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities.

The UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) and Request for Relief are available at the Student Centre website (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>), Huron University College Academic Counselling website (www.huronuc.on.ca) or from the Dean's Office or Academic Services Centre at Huron.