

ST 5101: INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2009, INDIANAPOLIS EXTENSION
TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL
INSTRUCTOR: TOM MCCALL
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course presents systematic theology as a spiritual and intellectual discipline for knowing the Triune God of Holy Love, evaluating Christian life and thought, and living to God's glory. An examination of the nature, sources, norms, and method of theology is followed by discussion of how God makes himself known through revelation; treatment of Scripture here includes discussion of inspiration and inerrancy. With special attention to the doctrine of the Trinity, this course explores the doctrine of God, and the course concludes with a consideration of the doctrines of creation and providence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After completing this course, students should be able to

1. Articulate an evangelical theological prolegomena, one that includes discussion of the purposes, sources, and audiences of theology as well as providing a meaningful statement of what it means to know God and of how human religious language might refer to God;
2. State a coherent evangelical view of the nature and authority of Scripture;
3. Discuss the foundations, development, and implications of the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity;
4. Reflect on the meaning and importance of the divine attributes;
5. Discuss the doctrines of creation and providence;
6. Appreciate the spiritual purposes and vitality of theology;
7. Understand that the knowledge of God is utterly transforming.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students are expected to attend all class sessions (unless prohibited by dire emergency) and read all course texts.
2. Students will take several short quizzes and a final exam.
3. Students will write one paper in which the views of David Bentley Hart and John S.

Feinberg on divine providence will be compared.

COURSE EVALUATION:.

1. The final exam will count for 40% of the course grade.
2. The paper will count for 40% of the course grade.
3. Quizzes will count for 20% of the course grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Beilby, James K, ed. *For Faith and Clarity: Philosophical Contributions to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2001.

Hart, David Bentley. *The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004.

Ward, Timothy. *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Clark, David K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2003.

Clark, Kelly James, Richard Lints and James K.A. Smith, eds. *101 Key Terms in Philosophy and Their Importance for Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004.

Crisp, Oliver D. and Michael C. Rea, eds. *Analytic Theology: New Essays in the Philosophy of Theology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2001.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *First Theology: God, Scripture and Hermeneutics*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

21-22 August: Introduction, Theological Prolegomena, Revelation, Scripture

Required Reading: Paul K. Moser, "Re-Orienting Religious Epistemology: Cognitive Grace, Filial Knowledge, and Gethsemane Struggle," in *For Faith and Clarity*, pp. 65-81; David K. Clark, "Beyond Inerrancy: Speech-Acts and an Evangelical Doctrine of Scripture," in *For Faith and Clarity*, pp. 113-131; Timothy Ward, *Words of Life*.

Recommended Reading: David K. Clark, *To Know and Love God*; Kevin J. Vanhoozer, *The Drama of Doctrine*; Alan G. Padgett, "The Relationship Between Philosophy and Theology: Constructing a Christian Worldview," in *For Faith and Clarity*, pp. 25-44; Randal Rauser, "Theology as Bull Session," in *Analytic Theology*, pp. 70-84; Thomas McCall, "Understanding Scripture as Word of God," in *Analytic Theology*, pp. 171-186.

Scientia or *Sapientia*? The Discipline(s), Purposes, Object, and Audience of Theology

The Sources and Authority of Theology ó Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience

An Overview of Contemporary Theology

Religious Epistemology and Religious Language

Revelation: General and Special, Personal and Propositional

Revelation and Scripture

The Inspiration, Infallibility and Inerrancy of Scripture

18-19 September: The Doctrine of the Trinity

Required Reading: John S. Feinberg, *No One Like Him*, pp. 437-498.

The Biblical Basis

Patristic and Medieval Trinitarian Theology

From Medieval Consolidations to the Modern Morass

Contemporary Renaissance and Application to Doctrine (and Life)

13-14 November: The Perfections of God

Required Reading: John S. Feinberg, *No One Like Him*, pp. 233-436, 625-775; Jay Wesley Richards, "Divine Simplicity: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," in *For Faith and Clarity*, pp. 157-177; Nicholas Wolterstorff, "Justice of God," in *For Faith and Clarity*, pp. 179-197.

Is God "Safe"? Divine Holiness

Is God Good? Divine Love

What Can God and Does God Do? Divine Omnipotence, Sovereignty (and Aseity)

What Does God Know? Divine Omniscience

Does God Change or Suffer? Divine Immutability and Impassibility

Does God Have "Parts"? Divine Simplicity

How is God Related to Time and Space? Divine Eternity and Omnipresence (time permitting)

18-19 December: Creation and Providence

Required Reading: David Bentley Hart, *The Doors of the Sea*; John S. Feinberg, *No One Like Him*, pp. 537-624, 777-802; William Lane Craig, "Pantheists in Spite of Themselves: God and Infinity in Contemporary Theology," in *For Faith and Clarity*, pp. 135-156; Keith E. Yandell, "Theology, Philosophy, and Evil," in *For Faith and Clarity*, pp. 219-242.

The Contingency, Goodness, and Purposes of Creation

Creation Out of Nothing

Models of Providence

Providence and Evil