

1-1-2002

DO 501 Basic Christian Theology

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Asbury Theological Seminary
DO501
Fall 2002, Th 2:15-5:15
Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course that bases the theological formation of students upon biblical data as well as upon the classical Christian tradition, contemporary theology, and Wesleyan theological distinctives with a view to helping students grasp the importance of theology for the practice of ministry.

OBJECTIVES:*

1. To understand and be able to use the basic vocabulary and concepts of systematic theology;
2. To become acquainted with the range of literature related to the study of systematic theology;
3. To understand the classical tradition of systematic theology;
4. To engage the student in contemporary forms of theology;
5. To highlight the doctrinal emphases of Asbury Theological Seminary;
6. To see the practical implications of systematic theology for the Christian life;

*(These objectives are taken from the core course description and are normative for Wilmore and Orlando campuses)

Class 1/ September 5

Introductions/Overview

Theology: The meaning and Purpose of Theology

Class 2/ September 12

Scripture and Tradition

➤ Assignment

Introduction to Christian Theology by J. L. Gonzalez and Z. M. Perez (ICT), pp. 9-31
Irenaeus: "From 'Against the False Gnosis'," pp. 335-338 in *A Treasury of Early Christianity*, ed. by Anne Freemantle
"Authority and Perspective" and "We Call this Book Good." In *Santa Biblia: The Bible Through Hispanic Eyes* by J. L. Gonzalez, pp. 11-21, 115-118.
"A Dynamic Approach to the Inspiration of Scripture," pp. 125-137 in *A Future for Truth*, by Knight

Class 3/ September 19

Who is God?

Doctrine of God/ The Trinity

- Assignment
ICT pp. 33-54
“Greek and Christian Theology: God as the Supreme Being,” pp. 238-263 in *The Influence of Greek Ideas and Usages Upon the Christian Church* by E. Hatch,

Class 4/ September 26

What is the World? Who are we?

Doctrine of Creation and our Responsibility

- Assignment
ICT pp. 55-76
“Maker of Heaven and Earth,” pp. 77-103 in *Christian Theology: A Case Study Approach* (CTASA), ed. by R. A. Evans and T. Parker

Class 5/ October 3

Who is Jesus Christ?

Christology

- Assignment
ICT pp. 77-95
“Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord,” pp. 105-132 in CTACSA

Class 6/ October 10

The work of God in Christ

Soteriology

- Assignment
ICT pp. 83-95
“Anselm: The Logic of Atonement,” pp. 210-217
“Schleiermacher: The Work of Christ,” pp. 217-221
“Bultmann: Faith in the Cross,” pp. 221-225 all the above in *Christian Theology* (RCT) by P. C. Hodgson and R. H. King
“September 11 and the Theology of the Cross,” pp. 54-58 by D. L. Migliore in *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* Vol. XXIII No. 1

Class 7/ October 17

Grace and Free Will

➤ Assignment

“Eternal Election, or God’s Predestination of Some to Salvation, and of Others to Destruction,” by John Calvin, pp. 170-181, in *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 2 , trans. by J. Allen

“The Election of God: The Problem of a Correct Doctrine of the Election of Grace,” by Karl Barth, pp. 3-14, in *The Doctrine of God* (Being Vol. II, Part 2 of *Church Dogmatics*)

“Free Grace,” sermon by John Wesley, pp. 50-60, in *John Wesley’s Sermons: An Anthology*, ed. by A. C. Outler and R. P. Heitzenrater

Class 8/ October 24

M I D T E R M

Class 9/ October 31

What is the church?

Ecclesiology

➤ Assignment

ICT pp. 97-118

“Cyprian: The Unity of the Church,” pp. 237-242

“Schleiermacher: The Fellowship of Believers,” pp. 247-252

“Gustafson: The Church as a Human Community,” pp. 250-253

“Paris: The Black Christian Tradition,” pp. 253-259

“Gutierrez: Sacrament of Liberation,” pp. 259-264 all of the above in RCT

Class 10/ November 7

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Pneumatology

➤ Assignment

“First Sketches: The Second and Third Centuries pp. 63-73

“God’s Love, God’s Gift, the Soul of the Church,” pp. 87-98

“Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” pp. 157-178 all the above in *The Holy Spirit* by Alasdair I. C. Heron

“The Holy Spirit and the Church Today,” pp. 104-117 in *The Promise of the Spirit* by William Barclay

Class 11/ November 14

How does the church live?

The sacraments/Doctrine of Worship

- Assignment
ICT pp. 119-137
“The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of the Saints,” pp. 189-211 in CTACSA

Class 12 / November 21

The Christian Life/Ministry

Diakonology

- Assignment
“Vocation,” pp. 89-104 in *How to Think Theologically* by H. W. Stone and J. O. Duke
“The Apostle” (the movie)
“Arguing with God: Resistance and Relinquishment in the Life of Faith,” by D. Migliore,
pp. 3-15 in *Kamper Oraties* 18
Be prepared to discuss forthcoming questions

READING WEEK

November 25-29

Class 13/ December 5

What is our hope?

Eschatology

- Assignment
ICT pp. 139-158
“The Kingdom of God and Life Everlasting,” pp. 323-350 in RCT

Class 14/ December 12

Turn in Credo and Paper/ Discussion of Credos

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Gonzalez, Justo L. and Zaida Maldonado Perez. *Introduction to Christian Theology*.
Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2002.

Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and C. F. Nordling, eds. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological
Terms*. Downers Grove, ILL: InterVarsity, 1999.

Other required readings are on reserve at the library.

Abbreviations:

CRT: *Christian Readings in Theology* by Hodgson and King

CTASA: *Christian Theology: A Case Study Approach* by Evans and Parker

ICT: *Introduction to Christian Theology* by Gonzalez and Maldonado Perez

See below for bibliographical information

Bibliography

- Barclay, William. "The Holy Spirit and the Church Today." In *The Promise of the Spirit*. London: Epworth Press, 1960.
- Barth, Karl. "The Election of God: The Problem of a Correct Doctrine of the Election of Grace." In *The Doctrine of God* vol. 2 Part 2 of *Church Dogmatics*
- Calvin, John. "Eternal Election, or God's Predestination of Some to Salvation, and of Others to Destruction." In *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 2. Translated by John Allen. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, n.d.
- Evans, Robert A and Thomas D. Parker, eds. "Maker of Heaven and Earth," "Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord," and "The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of the Saints." In *Christian Theology: A Case Study Approach*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1976.
- Freemantle, Anne, ed. "From 'Against the False Gnosis'." In *A Treasury of Early Christianity*. New York: Viking Press, 1953.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. "Authority and Perspective" and "We Call this Book Good." In *Santa Biblia: The Bible Through Hispanic Eyes*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. and Zaida Maldonado Perez. *Introduction to Christian Theology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- Hatch, Edwin. "Greek and Christian Theology: God as the Supreme Being." In *The Influence of Greek Ideas and Usages Upon the Christian Church*, Edited by A. M. Fairbairn. Peabody, MA: Hendrikson Publishers, 1995.
- Heron, Alasdair L. C. "First Sketches: The Second and Third Centuries," "God's Love, God's Gift, the Soul of the Church," and "Father, Son and Holy Spirit." In *The Holy Spirit*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.
- Hodgson, Perer C. and Robert H. King. "Anselm: The Logic of Atonement," "Schleiermacher: The Work of Christ," "Bultmann: Faith in the Cross," "Cyprian: The Unity of the Church," "Schliermacher: The Fellowship of Believers," "Gustafson: The Church as a Human Community," "Paris: The Black Christian Tradition," and "Gutierrez: Sacrament of Liberation," In *Readings in Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
- Knight, Henry, H. "A Dynamic Approach to the Inspiration of Scripture." In *A Future for Truth: Evangelical Theology in a Postmodern World*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.
- Migliore, Daniel. "September 11 and the Theology of the Cross." In *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 23, no. 1 (2002): 54-58.
- _____. "Arguing with God: Resistance and Relinquishment in the Life of Faith." In *Kemper Oraties* 18 (2001-2002): 3-15.
- Outler, Albert C. and Richard P. Heitzenrater, eds. "Free Grace." In *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991.
- Stone, Howard W. and James O. Duke. "Vocation." In *How to Think Theologically*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

Supplemental Basic Introductions to Christian Theology:

- Karl Barth, *Dogmatics in Outline*
- Earl Hunt, *I Have Believed*
- John Lawson, *An Evangelical Faith for Today*
- C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
- Jan Lochman, *The Faith We Confess: An Ecumenical Dogmatics*

Alister McGrath, *I Believe*
John Stott, *Basic Christianity*
Helmut Thielicke, *I Believe*
John Whale, *Christian Doctrine*

Reference Works of Note:

A. Cohen & M. Halverson, eds., *A Handbook of Christian Theology*
Hubert Cunliffe-Jones, ed., *A History of Christian Doctrine*
Van Harvey, *A Handbook of Theological Terms*
William Horndern, *A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology*
H. R. Mackintosh, *Modern Types of Theology*
D. Musser & J. Price, eds., *A New Handbook of Christian Theology*
Alvin Porteous, *Prophetic Voices in Contemporary Theology*
Alan Richardson & John Bowden, eds., *Dictionary of Christian Theology*

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. **Participation.** Discussion will be an important part of this course. They will provide opportunities for further theological reflection and conversation at the communal level and across denominational lines. Students are expected to a) be present at each class and b) read the assigned material and come prepared to discuss it. Active involvement in class will be taken into account in determining final grades.

2. **Reflection Papers (21%).** Each student is required to complete:

- 7 Reflection Papers out of the 13 options indicated in the syllabus. Note: At least three of the reflections must be on material that will be covered *after* the midterm. These papers will focus on answering the following questions clearly and succinctly:
What is the author(s) saying? (content)
What does it mean? And, How am I to respond? (This is the “So what?” of the summary and involves a brief analysis and application.) More on this below.
- Each paper is limited to no more than **two double-spaced typed pages** with **one inch margins** and **12 pica**
- Each assignment (valued at 3% of your final grade)
- Reflections will be due before the chosen topic is discussed in class. **No exceptions!**

3. **Examination (29%).** There will be **one midterm** exam covering the material prior to that date. The exam will include vocabulary terms and several essay questions. See the syllabus for the date of the exam.

4. **Final Paper (50%).** Each student must complete **one** paper on a particular area of specialization in Christian theology (e.g., Christology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, etc.). This report must be **four (or no more than 5) pages** (typed and double-spaced), and is due **on the last day of class**. Students will choose from the list of books below or may consult with me regarding other possibilities. Note: The paper will be broken down as follows:

First two pages:

1. State the thesis (What is the author's stated purpose/problem s/he is trying to solve?)
 - place the thesis within the author's particular context (E.g. What are the questions/situations that give rise to the author's concerns?)
2. Identify the book's
 - genre (E.g. Apologetic?)
 - method (E.g. dialectic? Liberationist?)

Second two-three pages:

3. Analysis
 - of thesis (E.g. what are the underlying assumptions? What questions are left out? Address this from your own context/experience/understanding of ministry and in conversation with other readings.)
4. Application
 - How does the material impact (E.g. illumine, challenge, critique, guide) some aspect of my ministry? What other questions does it raise for me?) Be specific.

Attendance:

More than one unexcused absence will affect the student's grade and can lead to failing the course. Excused absences refer to unavoidable emergencies that do not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment.

Inclusive Language:

Students are urged to use inclusive language wherever possible both in their oral and written work/participation. This guideline is intended to help sensitize the Asbury Theological Seminary community and to provide help in moving beyond our present habits to more just expressions (FH).

Academic Integrity:

The standards of conduct that are articulated in the Student Handbook concerning academic matters are important to the integrity of our community and the high ethical standards we expect of those who are preparing for Christian ministry. Abuse of these policies will be handled as stipulated in the handbook.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the presenting of another's ideas or writings as one's own; this includes both written and oral discourse presentations. Response to plagiarism may include requiring an assignment to be redone, automatic failure of a course or, in some extreme cases, recommended dismissal from the Seminary (FH). Please make sure any borrowed material is properly documented.

Grading:

All work is expected to be completed on time and as indicated in the requirements.

Extensions are not given except for the kind of medical and family emergencies that merit the Dean's approval. An extension implies lateness without penalty. NOTE: It is your responsibility to communicate with me if you need an extension *before* the due date of an assignment. Otherwise, I will have no recourse but to penalize you for your late work. Reflection papers will not be accepted after they have been discussed in class. A late Final Paper will have an automatic grade deduction and will not be accepted after the end of the semester (unless you have applied for an extension). A letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F."

- A (95-) Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives
- A- (90-94) Fine work
- B+ (87-89) Good, solid work: substantial achievement of course objectives
- B (83-86) Good work
- B- (80-82) Verging between good and acceptable.
- C+ (77-79) Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives
- C (73-76) Acceptable work; significant gaps
- C- (70-72) Serious gaps in achievement of course objectives
- D+ (67-69) Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives
- D (63-66) Barely acceptable
- F Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

Things that might potentially result in a reduction in total score:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Poor or non-engagement with material | Poor analysis of material |
| Presentation of a weak conclusion or argument | Misspellings |
| Lack of, or poor use of dialogue between authors | Poor syntax |
| Answering a different question | |

REFLECTION PAPER GUIDELINES

The purpose of a reflection paper is to enter into a dialogue with the material, that is to say, the person or community that has communicated their thoughts, feelings, and actions to you. Reflection, therefore, is an exciting adventure, a conversation, a means of growth. It is one of the important ways by which we can explore our own "inner world" and become open to God's transforming power in our lives as we encounter others with whom we both agree and disagree.

Please follow the above prescribed format—the first page will answer the "What?" or content and the second page will answer the "So what?" or analysis and application. Below is a description of what is to be found in the reflection papers. *It is borrowed from Dr. Paul Chilcote and is based on the previous work of Dr. Donald Joy and Dr. Steve Seamands.* I have further adapted it to fit our particular purpose and format.

ABSTRACT (Readers' Digest Summary): Simply summarize the content of the assigned reading in your own words. There should be no personal commentary or attempt to evaluate the content of the material. Summarize what the author says. Include as many of the key concepts and ideas as you can. Strive to be both comprehensive and concise. The summary should be stylistically correct, coherent and clear. Communicate the essence of the author's work in your own language and

symbols. If and when you do quote directly from the source (which should be extremely minimal, if at all), use explicit and visible quotation marks.

ANALYSIS : *What does it mean?* (This is the “So what?” of the summary). What questions came to mind as you worked your way through the material? It would be helpful to you if you were to keep a rough note sheet at hand as you read so you can write them down. In this section, list and briefly engage some of these central questions. Questions may be critical in nature, emerging out of spontaneous curiosity, essentially informational, or related to a serious plumbing of the depths of issues involved. Whatever the nature of your questions, make sure that they relate directly to the material content of the reading.

APPLICATION: *How has this transformed, impacted, challenged my theology? And, how am I going to respond?* Learning that is related to ministry must lead to “acts of piety and mercy,” whether these are transformative actions for your inner person or acquired skills and methods that have an impact on the lives of other people. Describe what you feel called to do in response to what you have discovered in this reflective process. This is an opportunity to relate your learning to some specific aspect of your vocation or setting of ministry.

List of Recommended Books for Final Paper Forthcoming

© DO 501 Basic Christian Doctrine more. by Brian Edgar. 1. Alistair McGrath, Christian Theology: an introduction, 3rd Ed, (Blackwell, 2001) 2. Alistair McGrath (ed), The Christian Theology Reader, (Blackwell, 1995). 3. Brian Edgar, The Message of the Trinity, (IVP, 2005). 4. Steve Harper, The more. 1. Alistair McGrath, Christian Theology: an introduction, 3rd Ed, (Blackwell, 2001) 2. Alistair McGrath (ed), The Christian Theology Reader, (Blackwell, 1995). 3. Brian Edgar, The Message of the Trinity, (IVP, 2005). 4. Steve Harper, The Way to Heaven: the gospel according to John Wesley, (Zonder Systematic Theology - Volume I. Page Page_501.html. « Prev TOC Next »». [See Text]. VIEWNAME is ScanPage. Log in | Register | Browse | Bibles | About | Copyright | Privacy | Contact | Give. Basic Christian Doctrine (DO501). 9/10/2009 6:23:00 AM. 09-10-09 When Jesus communicates that he is the light and the truth, he makes these things personal. Our understanding of truth begins with the Triune nature of God, who shares truth within himself. Introduction: Prolegomena A form of anti-intellectualism has gripped society, along with a type of escapism. Within evangelical circles, ignorance of theology is taken as a form of pride. Im no theologian, but I. Why Study Theology Key to knowing God Key to knowing Gods purposes Key to understanding all reality Answers lifes deepest questions o Is there a God; what is he like; what is the meaning of life; where did evil come from; is man good or evil? Because right theology is essential for right