

ST 5201 THEOLOGY I: THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2018
TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL
TEDS Columbus Extension Site
September 7-8; September 28-29; October 12-13; November 30-December 1
INSTRUCTOR: DAVID LUY
dluy@tiu.edu

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course establishes the foundations for systematic theology, reflecting upon the triune God and the God-world relation. It introduces theological methodology and treats the doctrines of general and special revelation, particularly that of Holy Scripture. The course also engages theology proper (the divine perfections and personal attributes of the Holy Trinity) and the works of God in creating and providentially caring for the cosmos, including humans.¹

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

1. Discuss the purpose(s) of systematic theology and reflect coherently upon its vital function within the life of the Church.
2. Identify the sources of theological knowledge and explain each in relation to the governing primacy of Scripture.
3. Describe the Christian doctrine of God, and discuss contemporary debates concerning the status of “classical theism.”
4. Explain the biblical foundations, classical development and contemporary appropriation of the doctrine of the Trinity.
5. Identify central components for a Christian doctrine of creation, and explain their theological importance.
6. Articulate a theological account of what it means to be human.
7. Expound a Protestant and evangelical doctrine of scriptural authority.

¹Students who feel they have covered these topics already in an earlier degree program are encouraged to refer to the TEDS guidelines for “Admission and Advanced Program Placement” located on page 186 of the 2012-2013 catalog.

8. Distinguish between competing understandings of God's providence and outline some of the implications that hinge upon the matters in question.
9. Express familiarity with classical and contemporary permutations of the *loci* covered in this class and engage these 'permutations' charitably, coherently, and critically.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students must

1. Attend all classes and read all text assignments.²
2. Compose **two** reading reflections (3-5 pages) on self-chosen selections from the assigned reading. Each reflection must include **two distinct sections**: 1) a succinct and accurate synopsis of the selection's argument; and 2) a series of questions or theses, which the remainder of the reflection goes on briefly to engage. You may only write one reflection paper per Unit topic.³

NB: Of these reflections, only one may directly address the topic/question, which the student elects for his or her paper. The section of text upon which you focus your reflection must contain a line of argument that you can summarize and engage.

Complete a reading comprehension quiz via moodle.

3. Compose a research paper of 8-12 pages engaging one of the following topics:⁴
 - a. What is systematic theology and why is it important for the life of the Church? (Justify and explain your response)
 - b. Specify the major components of an evangelical doctrine of Scripture and explain how it differs from alternative renderings of biblical authority within recent theology.
 - c. Compose a theatrical dialogue in which two un-likeminded theologians discuss and debate providence and evil.⁵
 - d. A relative or friend hears that you attend *Trinity* Evangelical Divinity School, and casually informs you that the Trinity is nowhere to be found in Scripture. Compose a reasoned response to this claim.
 - e. Do God's mercy and wrath conflict with one another?

²A form for reporting reading totals will be distributed via moodle.

³I.E. You cannot write more than one reflection on Scripture, etc.

⁴See also paper guidelines below.

⁵The characters that appear in your dialogue may be actual authors whose views you seek faithfully to represent, OR they may be fictitious.

- f. Should we defend or jettison the doctrine of divine simplicity? (the same prompt could also apply to other divine attributes)
 - g. What does it mean to be human?
4. Complete a reading comprehension quiz during the week of **December 3-8**

DUE DATES

1. A statement indicating the percentage of assigned reading completed throughout the course is due by **December 8**. These reading reports may be sent to the professor electronically.
2. The two reading reflections are due on **September 27** (reflection 1) and **October 11** (reflection 2). You are NOT required to turn in reflections in any particular order (I.E. the topic need not correspond with the lecture unit currently under discussion).
3. The final paper must be handed by (**December 12**).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hart, David Bentley. *The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami?* Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, 2005. ISBN: 0802866867

Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1994. ISBN: 0830815333

Horton, Michael Scott. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 0310286042

Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2010. ISBN: 1433513153

Ward, Timothy. *Words of Life: Scripture As the Living and Active Word of God*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2009. ISBN: 0830827447

NB: Please note the fact that you are not required to read Horton its entirety. For the appropriate reading selections, refer to the following unit schedule.

COURSE SCHEDULE⁶:

September 7-8

UNIT I: INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

(Reading: Horton, Introduction and Chapter 2)

Lecture 1: “Doctrinal Theology”

Lecture 2: “The Ordering of Theology”

UNIT II: THE DIVINE PERFECTIONS

(Reading: Horton, Chapters 6-7; Anselm, *Proslogion* (PDF online))

“The Divine Attributes I”

“The Divine Attributes II”

UNIT III: IMMANENT COMMUNICATION

(Reading: Horton, Chapter 8; Sanders, entire book)

September 28-29

“The Trinity in Scripture”

“Classical Concepts and Historical Development”

“Speculative Refinement”

UNIT IV: TRANSITIVE COMMUNICATION

(Horton, Chapter 10 and 12)

October 12-13

“*Creatio ex nihilo*”

“Human Beings I”

“Human Beings II”

PART V: REVELATION AND SCRIPTURE

(Reading: Horton, Chapters 3-5; Ward, entire book)

“Divine Revelation”

November 30-December 1

“The Word of God”

⁶Adjustments to the lay-out of lectures will be made at the discretion of the professor. In the case of a change, students should remain on the reading schedule indicated in the original syllabus.

“Law and Gospel”

CODA: PROVIDENCE

(Reading: Helm, entire book; Hart, entire book)

“The Doctrine of Providence”

COURSE GRADES

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Reading 20%

Reading Reflections: 20%

Comprehension Quiz: 20%

Paper: 40%

Grading Scale: A (95-100%); A- (90-94%); B+ (88-89%); B (82-87%); B- (80-81%); C+ (78-79%); C (72-76%); C- (70-71%); D+ (68-69%); D (62-67%); D- (60-61%); F (0-59%).

Grading criteria for reflections (out of 50 points)

Grammar/ style etc.-- 10 points

Accurate and adequate synopsis--20 points

Constructive engagement--20 points

Grading criteria for papers (out of 250 points)

Grammar/ style/ formatting (50 pts)

Organizational clarity/ thesis (100 pts)

Strength of argument/ evidence/ use of secondary sources (150 points)

VIII. PAPER WRITING GUIDELINES

- Stay focused on the chosen question or topic. If the question or topic allows it, provide a clear and concise thesis, which the remainder of your paper goes on to develop and defend.
- Make it clear on your title page which topic or question you have chosen.
- Do not exceed or fall short of the page parameters unless you receive special permission from the professor. Title page and bibliography are not included in the page count.
- Be sure to include components that will give your paper a clear structure (I.E. a clearly articulated introduction, an extended section of argument, and a synthetic conclusion).⁷
- Cite the sources you consult with *footnotes*.
- Use a uniform method of notation. Make sure that your paper is typed, double-spaced and 12 font (Times New Roman).⁸

⁷Dialogue papers may satisfy the ‘introduction’ and ‘conclusion’ sections by adding a moderator figure.

⁸For direction on style and format considerations, consult the TIU guidelines at:
<https://my.tiu.edu/academics/writing-resources.dot>

- You are expected to have at least three *unassigned* books or articles on your bibliography in addition to whatever use is made of course texts—in the case of a dialogue paper, make use of three such sources to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the issue in question, even if these sources do not appear explicitly within the body of your composition.⁹

ACCOMODATIONS POLICY

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or academic adjustments, and services to students with a documented disability to help ensure an equal educational opportunity. Students seeking these services should contact Jana Holiday, Associate Dean of Students, at the earliest possible time with supporting documentation. If you believe you might have a disability that negatively impacts your educational performance, but have never been diagnosed, you are encouraged to meet with Jana Holiday to discuss your needs. You can contact her at jrholiday@tiu.edu or 847-317-4063.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend *each and every* session throughout the entire course period. Due to the nature of Extension classes, attendance at all sessions is especially important with weekend courses. Missing even an hour of a weekend class means a significant portion of the required contact with the instructor and learning community has been lost. For this reason, students missing any portion (hours) of an Extension course can result in a grade reduction; missing more than one weekend class session *will* result in a grade reduction and possibly failing the course.

In the case of *extreme* emergency or unforeseen circumstances (family emergencies, death, etc.) the student should contact the instructor and secure the necessary permission to miss time in a class and make up the missed class time and assignments. Vacations, ministry responsibilities and travel plans are not considered emergencies and such requests will be denied. As the schedule for the Extension courses is set ahead of time, students should plan ahead to be sure they will be able to make it to all class sessions before they register. If the emergency necessitates a longer absence the student should contact the Dean of Students to request an extension of time, or in rare instances a withdrawal from the class without penalty.

⁹For help on how to track down sources within the field of biblical and systematic theology, consult the library's theology subject guide at <http://rolfing.tiu.libguides.com/theology>.