

**Course Syllabus**  
**WYT 2101H – The Bride of the Lamb: Systematic Theology II**  
**Wycliffe College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Fall 2024**

***Instructor Information***

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Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours; by appointment

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: WYT 2101H  
Course Format: *Online*  
Course Name: The Bride of the Lamb: Systematic Theology II  
Course Location: Quercus  
Class Times: N/A  
Prerequisites: N/A

***Course Description***

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An introduction to those loci (topics) within systematic theology having to do with the relationship between the triune God and the world, especially to human beings viewed as created, fallen, transformed by grace, and summoned into the communion of God's saints, the ekklesia. More specifically, we will be covering the themes of creation, providence, the human person, sin, the church, the Christian life, the sacraments, and the last things.

***Course Resources***

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Required Course Texts/Bibliography

- Readings will be available online through the course website.

Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask the Registrar's Office for further help.]

## ***Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes***

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Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Not all categories will be required for all courses.)

- a) In respect of general academic skills:

Students will have increased familiarity with the discipline of Christian theology.

- b) In respect of the understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines:

Students will have developed a general awareness of the aims and character of Christian theology, and of the basic content of major Christian doctrines concerning creation, human personhood, the church, grace, and the last things.

- c) In respect of personal and spiritual formation:

Students will have an increased ability in theological reading, writing, and reasoning.

- d) In respect of ministerial and public leadership:

Students will have attained greater awareness of their own ecclesial tradition in relation to the ecumenical faith of the church.

## ***Evaluation***

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### Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas:

- (1) Online Discussions (30%) – participating in online discussions will form a key element of the course, providing the opportunity for students to learn from one another and to clarify their thinking through engagement with one another and the course material. You will be assigned to discussion groups of 4-5 people, depending on the class size. On weeks 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11, you will respond to

a prompt related to the course readings and lectures. Discussion posts should develop a clear stance on the topic, and students are encouraged to pose questions for further discussion. Each member of the group will then contribute responses to three of their classmates. Original posts will be due Tuesdays at 11:59pm of the discussion week, and responses to each group member will be due by Thursdays at 11:59pm of the same week. Further guidelines and the grading rubric will be available on Quercus.

- (2) *Theological Reflection Papers (20% each)* - you will submit two *theological reflection* papers (1,800 words each) on the two topics below. Papers should formulate and defend a thesis based on the prompt, while considering potential objections to your viewpoint and providing a response. Papers should engage with course materials (readings, lectures, etc.) in support of your position.

**Paper #1: Creation** – your first theological reflection will articulate a theological understanding of creation. What are the significant theological concepts that inform your understanding of the created world? How are these theological concepts significant for the way we understand our human relationship to the rest of creation (non-human creatures, environmental ethics, etc.)? Due Friday, October 11, 11:59pm.

**Paper #2: Ecclesiology** – what is the church? Your second theological reflection will describe your understanding of the church by analyzing the scriptural images or theological concepts that are central to your ecclesiology. You will also describe the relationship of these images or concepts to your own sense of vocation or your current ministry context. Due Friday, November 22, 11:59pm.

- (3) *Final Paper (30%)* – the culminating assignment for this course is a 10-page research paper based on one doctrinal issue related to the course material, focusing on one theologian who addressed that issue. Papers should have a clear thesis statement and logical structure, along with a bibliography of at least 8 quality academic sources, made up of primary and secondary sources, including two peer-reviewed articles. Students should email the professor with their proposed topic and a preliminary thesis by the end of week 6 of the course. Papers are due Friday, December 6, 11:59pm.

#### Grading System

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

**Late Work (BD).** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf), policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

## **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you

may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course.* **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

## **Course Schedule**

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### **Module 1**

Sept 9 - 13

#### **The Doctrine of Creation**

Overview of theological method; creation *ex nihilo*; God and creation

- David Fergusson, "Creation," *Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*
- Friedrich Schleiermacher, *The Christian Faith*, par. 36-41, pp. 142-156
- Jace Weaver, "Revelation and Epistemology—We Know the Land, the Land Knows Us: Places of Revelation, Place as Revelation," *Coming Full Circle: Constructing Native Christian Theology*, 27-54

### **Module 2**

Sept 16 - 20

#### **Creation and Providence**

Creation and history; the doctrine of providence

- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, Prima Pars, Q22.
- Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III/3, pp. 3-33 (small print optional)
- Katherine Sonderegger, "The Doctrine of Providence," in *The Providence of God*, 144-158

### **Module 3**

Sept 23 - 27

#### **Human Beings**

Theological anthropology; *imago Dei*

##### **Discussion Forum #1**

- David Kelsey, "The Human Creature," in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, 121-139
- Lucy Peppiatt, *Imago Dei: Humanity Made in the Image of God*, chs. 1-3
- Kathryn Tanner, "Grace Without Nature," in *Without Nature: A New Condition for Theology*, pp. 363-375

### **Module 4**

Sept 30 -

Oct 4

#### **Sin & Evil**

The fall; sin; theodicy

##### **Discussion Forum #2**

- Augustine, *On Nature and Grace*, chs 3-4, 21-25, 33-35

- John Swinton, "Patience and Lament: Living Faithfully in the Presence of Suffering," in *The Providence of God*, pp. 275-289
- Allan Boesak, "Theodicy: 'De Lawd knowed how it was.' Black Theology and Black Suffering," in *Cambridge Companion to Black Theology*, pp. 156-68

## **Module 5**

Oct 7 - 11

### **Justification (Pt. 1)**

Biblical and historical perspectives

#### **Theological Reflection Paper #1 Due: Creation**

- Martin Luther, "Two Kinds of Righteousness," pp. 293-306
- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, III.11, pp. 725-754
- Council of Trent, "Decree on Justification"

## **Module 6**

Oct 14 - 18

### **Justification (Pt. 2)**

Ecumenical perspectives; justification in contemporary theology

#### **Discussion Forum #3**

- Barclay, *Paul and the Power of Grace*, ch. 2, 12-13
- Dawn DeVries, "Justification," in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, pp. 197-211
- Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification

## **Module 7**

Oct 21-25

### **The Church (Pt. 1)**

#### **Discussion Forum #4**

Introduction to ecclesiology; biblical and historical perspectives

- Beth Felker-Jones, *Practicing Christian Doctrine*, ch. 9, pp. 193-216
- Tom Greggs, "Church and Sacraments," in *The New Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, pp. 139-155
- Bonhoeffer, *Sanctorum Communio*, in *A Testament to Freedom*, pp. 54-64

## **Reading Week**

Oct 28 - Nov 1

## **Module 8**

Nov 4 - 8

### **The Church (Pt. 2)**

The Church in history; contemporary issues in ecclesiology

- Webster, "On Evangelical Ecclesiology," *Ecclesiology*, 9-35
- Ruth Padilla DeBorst, "Church, Power, and Transformation in Latin America," *The Church from Every Tribe and Tongue*, 754-772

## **Module 9**

Nov 11 - 15

### **Sacraments**

Introduction to sacraments; ecumenical perspectives

#### **Discussion Forum #4**

- Robert Jenson, "The Mysteries of the Communion," in *Systematic Theology* vol 2, 250-269
- Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Drama* vol. 3, pp. 428-435
- Ellen Charry, "Sacramental Ecclesiology," in *The Community of the Word*, pp. 201-218

## **Module 10**

Nov 18 - 22

### **The Church & Culture**

Theologies of culture; church-world relation

### **Theological Reflection Paper #2 Due: Ecclesiology**

- Paul Tillich, *The Essential Tillich*, ch. 11, pp. 101-111
- James Cone, *God of the Oppressed*, ch. 5, pp. 77-98
- Ray Aldred, "An Indigenous Reinterpretation of Repentance," in *So Great a Salvation*, pp. 116-137

## **Module 11**

Nov 25 - 29

### **The Christian Life**

Holiness & the Christian life; ethics

### **Discussion Forum #6**

- John Webster, *Holiness*, ch. 4, 77-98
- Reinhard Hütter, "The Christian Life" in the *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, pp. 285-305
- Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt, "Ethics and the Triune God," in *Routledge Companion to Christian Ethics*, ch. 1

## **Module 12**

Dec 2 - 6

### **Eschatology**

New creation; heaven & hell; judgment

### **Final Paper Due**

- Richard Bauckham, "Eschatology," in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, pp. 306-322
- Richard Middleton, *A New Heaven and a New Earth*, pp. 155-175
- Jürgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope*, pp. 15-36