

**Course Syllabus**  
**WYT1101**  
**The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I**  
**Wycliffe College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Fall 2024**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Justin Stratis, PhD, Associate Professor  
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***Course Identification***

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Course Number: WYT 1101 HF  
Course Format: In person  
Course Name: The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I  
Course Location: tba  
Class Times: Wednesdays, 11-1  
Prerequisites: n/a

***Course Description***

An introduction to the discipline of Christian doctrine or dogmatics, also known as systematic theology, covering the following major topics: (1) the nature and sources of theology, (2) the doctrine of the Trinity; (3) the person and work of Jesus Christ. While the approach taken in this course reflects a generally evangelical Protestant standpoint, the course is broad in its appreciation for the varieties of the Christian tradition down through the centuries to the present day. By the end of this course, you will have taken some steps towards clarifying your own theological convictions not only around the topics covered, but also with respect to the discipline of theology itself and its relation to the church's larger worship and witness in the world.

***Course Resources***

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**Recommended (not required) Course Texts/Bibliography**

- John Webster, Kathryn Tanner, and Iain Torrance, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

**Further Reading**

- Anselm, *The Prayers and Meditations of Saint Anselm, with the Proslogion*. Ed. Sister Benedicta Ward. London: Penguin, 1973.
- Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*. London: SCM, 2001.

- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Ed. John T. McNeill. Trans. Ford Lewis Battles. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1960.
- Cone, James. *God of the Oppressed*. Revd. ed. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1997.
- Cone, James H. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2011.
- Crisp, Oliver D. and Fred Sanders, eds. *The Task of Dogmatics: Explorations in Theological Method*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017.
- Davis, Stephen T., Daniel Kendall and Gerald O'Collins, eds. *The Incarnation: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Incarnation of the Son of God*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Emery, Gilles. *The Trinity: An Introduction to the Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God*. Trans. Matthew Levering. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2011.
- Emery, Gilles and Matthew Levering, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Felker Jones, Beth. *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Gunton, Colin E. ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Hardy, Edward Rochie, ed. *Christology of the Later Fathers*. London: SCM, 1954.
- Highton, Mike. *Christian Doctrine*. London: SCM, 2008.
- Johnson, Adam J. *T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017.
- Lohse, Bernhard. *A Short History of Christian Doctrine*. Revd. ed. Trans. F. Ernest Stoeffler. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
- Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works*. Vol. 31. *Career of the Reformer I*. Ed. Harold J. Grimm and Helmut T. Lehmann. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1957.
- McIntosh, Mark A. *Divine Teaching: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.
- Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2014.
- Murphy, Francesca Aran, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Christology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Rigby, Cynthia L. *Holding Faith: A Practical Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2018.
- Rutledge, Fleming. *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2015.
- Schaff, Philip and Henry Wace, eds. *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, Vol. 7*. Buffalo: Christian Literature, 1894.
- Spence, Alan J. *Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: T&T Clark, 2008.
- Sugirtharajah, Rasiah S., ed. *Asian Faces of Jesus*. London: SCM, 1993.
- Tanner, Kathryn. *Christ the Key*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Torrance, Thomas F. *Incarnation: The Person and Life of Christ*. Ed. Robert T. Walker. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.
- Webster, John. *Holiness*. London: SCM, 2003.

- Weinandy, Thomas G. *Does God Suffer?* Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000.
- Williams, Rowan. *On Christian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.
- Williams, Rowan. *Open to Judgment: Sermons and Addresses*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1994.

### 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 [insert college contact] for further help.]

## Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

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### Wycliffe College

#### BD Level

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 demonstrate basic competence in the practice of Christian theology.

#### (B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES

Students will employ Holy Scripture as a norm of theological reflection.

#### (C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Students will demonstrate skill in the practice of charitable reading and respectful discussion.

#### (D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Students will articulate the aims and character of Christian theology and the grammar of the doctrines of the Trinity and of the person and work of Christ.

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements**

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

Basic Degree Students:

(1) Participation (10%) – You are expected to be present for all class sessions having completed the pre-readings and ready to engage. If you must be absent, please contact the professor or the TA by email. It is always better to come to class unprepared than not to come at all. Needless to say, multiple unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your grade.

(2) Weekly posting on the Quercus discussion board (20%) – Prior to each week's class, you will post comments or questions on the reading for that week on the Quercus discussion board and respond to postings by other students. More information on the format for these postings will be provided at our first class session. You must engage in at least 10 discussion boards.

(3) Dialogue Essay (35%) – You will write a 2500 word dialogue between two thinkers who hold differing views on the subject of the atonement. More information will be provided as to the format of this assignment in class and on Quercus.

(4) Final Exam (35%) – There will be a take home final exam due at the end of examination week in December. You will be given a choice of 6 questions that invite synthesis of your learning over the course of the term and asked to write on three of these.

### **Grading System - Basic Degree Students**

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

**Late work (BD).** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] 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 <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012>, 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.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>. 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* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>. 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: <https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/>

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>.

**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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### **Week 1**

#### **Systematic Theology: Warrant, Aims, and Method I**

- John Webster, 'The Holiness of Theology,' in *Holiness*, 8-30.
- Katherine Sonderegger, 'Holy Scripture as Sacred Ground,' in *The Task of Dogmatics*, 131-143.

### **Week 2**

#### **Systematic Theology: Warrant, Aims, and Method II**

- Mark McIntosh, 'How God Makes Theologians,' in *Divine Teaching*, 3-15.
- Thomas Weinandy, 'Problems and Mysteries,' in *Does God Suffer?*, 27-39.
- Gregory Nazianzen, 'First Theological Oration (Oration 27),' in *NPNF* 7.

### **Week 3**

#### **The Doctrine of God**

- Mike Higon, 'Speaking of God,' in *Christian Doctrine*, 53-76.
- Christopher Seitz, 'The Trinity in the Old Testament,' in *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*, 28-39.

### **Week 4**

#### **The Emergence of Trinitarian Doctrine**

- Bernhard Lohse, 'The Doctrine of the Trinity,' in *A Short History of Christian Doctrine*, 37-70.
- Cynthia Rigby, 'In What Ways does God Claim Us?: The Doctrine of the Trinity,' in *Holding Faith*, 107-137.

### **Week 5**

#### **Trinitarian Terms and Concepts**

- Gilles Emery, 'Entering into the Trinitarian Faith,' in *The Trinity*, 1-20.
- Gilles Emery, 'Three "Persons" or "Hypostases",' in *The Trinity*, 83-110.

### **Week 6**

#### **The Place of Christology in Systematic Theology**

- Byung Mu Ahn, 'Jesus and People (Minjung),' in *Asian Faces of Jesus*, 163-172.
- James Cone, 'Who is Jesus Christ for us Today?' in *God of the Oppressed*, 99-126.
- Daniel Migliore, 'The Person and Work of Jesus Christ,' in *Faith Seeking Understanding*, 168-174.

### **Week 7**

#### **Introduction to Christology**

- T.F. Torrance, 'Introduction to Christology,' in *Incarnation: The Person and Life of Christ*, 1-36

- Alan Spence, 'Paradox' and 'Incarnation,' in *Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed*, 3-25.

## **Week 8**

### **The Christological Controversy**

- Sarah Coakley, 'What Does Chalcedon Solve and What Does it Not? Some Reflections on the Status and Meaning of the Chalcedonian "Definition",' in *The Incarnation*, 143-163.
- 'The Chalcedonian Decree,' in *Christology of the Later Fathers*, 371-374.

## **Week 9**

### **The Work of Christ**

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, II.xv (494-503).
- Michael J Gorman, 'The Work of Christ in the New Testament,' in *The Oxford Handbook of Christology*, 72-86.
- Philip G Ziegler, 'The Historical Jesus and Christology from David Friedrich Strauss to Käsemann,' in *The Oxford Handbook of Christology*, 328-346.

## **Week 10**

### **The Atonement**

- Fleming Rutledge, 'Introduction' in *The Crucifixion*, 1-30.
- Adam Johnson, 'Atonement: The Shape and State of the Doctrine,' in *The T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, 1-17.
- Martin Luther, 'The Heidelberg Disputation' in *Luther's Works*, Vol. 31, 39-41 (theological theses).

## **Week 11**

### **Further Issues in Atonement Theology**

- Kathryn Tanner, 'Death and Sacrifice,' in *Christ the Key*, 247-273.
- James Cone, 'Legacies of the Cross and the Lynching Tree,' in *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, 152-166.
- Anselm, 'Meditation on Human Redemption,' in *The Prayers and Meditations of Saint Anselm*, 230-237.
- Stephen B Chapman, 'God's Reconciling Work: Atonement in the Old Testament,' in *T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, 95-113.

## **Week 12**

### **Resurrection**

- Rowan Williams, 'Between the Cherubim: The Empty Tomb and the Empty Throne,' in *On Christian Theology*, 183-196.
- Rowan Williams, 'Building up Ruins,' in *Open to Judgment: Sermons and Addresses*, 76-80.
- Karl Barth, 'The Third Day He Rose Again from the Dead,' in *Dogmatics in Outline*, 112-114.
- Athanasius, 'On the Incarnation,' in *Christology of the Later Fathers*, 81-86 (§§ 27-32).