

Course Syllabus
WYT 2101HS – The Bride of the Lamb: Systematic Theology II
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology
Winter 2025

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Identification

Course Number: WYT 2101HS
Course Format: *In-Person*
Course Name: The Bride of the Lamb: Systematic Theology II
Course Location: West Lecture Room
Class Times: Wednesdays, 11am-1pm
Prerequisites: WYT 1101 - The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I (except by permission of professor).

Course Description

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

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

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

Requirements

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

- (1) Participation (10%) – You are expected to be present for all class sessions having completed the prereadings 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) Theological Reflection Papers (20% each) - Two five to six page theological reflection papers (no more than 1200 words). The first paper will address a topic related to creation, providence, the human person, or sin. The second paper will address a topic related to the Christian life (justification/sanctification), the sacraments, or the last things. (Note that ecclesiology is not on either of these lists, as it will be the topic of the final paper.). These papers ask you to formulate and defend a thesis in which you have some personal stake. Identify some question or issue within the doctrinal locus you choose, and set out your arguments for or against a particular way of thinking about it. Fend off possible objections to your point of view. You may use material from the readings and lectures in support of your own position.
- (3) Final Paper (35%) –A final paper of 12 pages (no more than 3000 words) on some aspect of ecclesiology: the doctrine concerning the nature, character, and mission of the church. Besides the lectures and readings, the paper should engage either of two classic texts: Martin Luther, “On the Councils and the Church” (ecclesiological portion only) or John Webster, “On Evangelical Ecclesiology.” Both will be made available on Quercus. Whichever of these texts you choose, read and note it carefully in order to carry out the following tasks:
 - a. Exposition: 4-5 pages either (a) summarizing the primary argument or (b) focusing on one particular issue that arose through your reading of the text. Secondary sources may be utilized as aids for understanding, but should not be the primary focus of the paper.
 - b. Analysis: 2 pages highlighting the theologically significant ideas and issues which you observe in the text.
 - c. Application: the remainder of the paper is to be devoted to answering questions such as: does the text teach us anything significant that you see missing from contemporary thought about the church? Is it misleading or deficient in important ways? How might it reshape your own community’s/tradition’s operative ecclesiology? You are welcome to bring your chosen text into conversation with other readings, as well as the lectures.
- (4) Final Exam (15%) - take-home final exam.

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, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

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.

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. 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

Week 1

January 8

The Doctrine of Creation

- Bavinck, 'Creation' in *Reformed Dogmatics*, vol. II, *God and Creation*, 406-439
- Tanner, 'Creation and Providence,' in *Essentials of Christian Theology*, 116-131
- 'Angels' in *Cambridge Dictionary*

Week 2

January 15

Creation and Providence

- Webster, 'On the Theology of Providence,' in *God Without Measure*, vol. 1, *God and the Works of God*, 127-141
- Swinton, 'Patience and Lament: Living Faithfully in the Presence of Suffering' in *The Providence of God*, 275-289

Week 3

January 22

Human Beings

- Felker Jones, 'Reflecting God's Image: Theological Anthropology,' in *Practicing Christian Doctrine*, 97-116
- Vanhoozer, 'Human Being, Individual and Social,' in *Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*, 158-188

Week 4

January 29

Sin & Evil

- Jenson, 'Sin,' in *Systematic Theology*, vol. II, 133-152
- Augustine, *City of God*, Book XIV.10-15
- Larry G. Murray, 'Evil and Sin in African American Theology' in *Oxford Handbook of African American Theology*, 212-227

Week 5

February 5

The Church (Pt. 1)

- Bonhoeffer, 'The Body of Christ,' in *Discipleship*, 213-224
- Charry, 'Sacramental Ecclesiology,' in *The Community of the Word*, 201-216
- 'Lumen Gentium,' in *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils*, vol. II, 849-862 (chs. 1-2)

Week 6

February 12

The Church (Pt. 2)

- Bonhoeffer, 'The Visible Church-Community' in *Discipleship*, 225-252
- 'Lumen Gentium,' in *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils*, vol. II, 862-880 (chs. 3-4)
- Hoekendijk, 'The Church in Perspective,' in *The Church Inside Out*, 30-44

Reading Week

February 17-21

Week 7

February 26

Spirit, Word, and Gospel

- Webster, 'It was the Will of the Lord to Bruise Him: Soteriology and the Doctrine of God' in *God Without Measure*, vol. 1, 143-157
- Cone, 'The Meaning of Liberation,' in *God of the Oppressed*, 127-149

Week 8

March 5

Justification (Pt. 1)

- Martin Luther, 'The Freedom of a Christian,' *Luther's Works*, vol. 31, pp. 343-377
- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, III.11, 1-4, 13-23
- Council of Trent, "Decree on Justification"

Week 9

March 12

Justification (Pt. 2)

- 'The Joint Declaration on Justification By Faith' (Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Lutheran World Federation)
- Lane, 'Justification,' in *Oxford Handbook of Ecumenical Studies*, 308-325
- Karras, 'Beyond Justification: An Orthodox Perspective,' in *Justification and the Future of the Ecumenical Movement*, 99-132

Week 10

March 19

The New Person

- Hütter, 'The Christian Life,' in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, 285-301
- Webster, 'The Holiness of the Christian,' in *Holiness*, 77-98
- Hauerwas and Willimon, 'Holiness: Life in the Spirit' in *The Holy Spirit*

Week 11

March 26

Sacraments

- Spinks, 'Powerful Instruments of God: Hooker on the Sacraments,' in *Two Faces of Elizabethan Anglican Theology*, 135-158
- Lohse, 'Word and Sacrament' in *A Short History of Christian Doctrine*, 132-155

Week 12

April 5

Eschatology

- Bauckham, "Eschatology," in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, pp. 306-322
- Rigby, 'Where are We Headed? The Doctrine of Christian Hope,' in *Holding Faith*, 259-284
- Hunsinger, 'Hellfire and Damnation: Four Ancient and Modern Views,' *Scottish Journal of Theology* 51.4 (1998): 406-434