

# THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I

OF ALL the sciences which stir the head and heart, theology is the most beautiful. It is closest to human reality and gives us the clearest view of the truth after which all science quests... It is a landscape, like the landscape of Umbria or Tuscany, in which distant perspectives are always clear. Theology is a masterpiece, as well-planned and yet as bizarre as the cathedrals of Cologne and Milan. What a miserable lot of theologians—and what miserable periods there have been in the history of theology—when they have not realized this! But of all the sciences there is none which is so beset with difficulties, none which is so beset with dangers, as theology! In no other science is it so easy to be caught in despair, or, what is worse, to end in arrogant overconfidence. It is the science which is most easily diffused or petrified, and which can become its own worst caricature. Is there a science that can be so monstrous and so boring as theology? That person would hardly be a theologian who had never shrunk from its terrible precipice, or had ceased to be afraid of its dangers.

—Karl Barth, *God In Action: Theological Addresses*

## Basic Information

Course Number: WYT 1101HF L0101

Meeting Time: Wednesday, 6:45 – 9:15 p.m. (tutorial 6:45 – 7:30, lecture/discussion 7:45-9:00)

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Mangina [joseph.mangina@wycliffe.utoronto.ca](mailto:joseph.mangina@wycliffe.utoronto.ca)

Teaching Assistant: Rev. David Clark [dar.clark@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:dar.clark@mail.utoronto.ca)

## Prerequisites

None, although it is highly recommended that you have taken “Life Together” and/or at least one course in biblical studies at Wycliffe College

## 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 the traditions of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation, including Anglicanism, the course is broadly ecumenical in scope and purpose. By the end of this course you should be able to articulate with some degree of confidence the central convictions of Nicene Christianity. You will also have taken some steps towards clarifying your own theological convictions in relation to that broad framework.

## Course Website

There is Quercus site for this course. To access it, go to <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/66839> and login using your UTORid and password.

## Textbook (required for purchase)

David Yeago, *The Apostolic Faith: A Catholic and Evangelical Introduction to Christian Theology, Part I: The Gift of the Life of the Triune God in Jesus Christ* (unpublished MS, contracted to Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co.). Available for purchase in 3-ring binder format, at the front desk of Wycliffe College.

## Additional Resources

*The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*, ed. Ian MacFarland et al. (Cambridge: CUP, 2012).

This excellent resource is available in electronic form on the University of Toronto Libraries web site; I will also place a link to it on Quercus. This should be your go-to text for acquainting yourself with theological history and terminology. Occasional supplementary (i.e. non-required) readings will be drawn from this volume. *If you can afford it, I would strongly urge you to purchase a hard copy of this volume as part of your personal library.* Available for purchase at the University of Toronto bookstore.

*The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, ed. John Webster, Kathryn Tanner, and Iain Torrance (Oxford: OUP, 2007).

Likewise available through both U of T libraries and Quercus. The essays in this volume are longer and more detailed than those in the *Cambridge Dictionary*.

Uche Anizor, *How to Read Theology: Engaging Doctrine Critically and Charitably* (Baker Academic, 2018).

As the title indicates, this book is aimed at cultivating the practice of critical and charitable reading, showing why the most charitable reading of a text is often the most insightful. Because the author culls his examples from many times, places, and schools, the book also serves as a helpful introduction to the landscape of theological study. Available for purchase at the University of Toronto bookstore.

Alister McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Hoboken: Wiley, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016)

This book, by a well-known English Evangelical Anglican theologian, is one of the most widely-used textbooks in contemporary seminaries and theological schools. Full of useful information, especially if you have very little background in theological study.

## Evaluation

Evaluation is based on the following course elements:

(1) *Attendance and participation* (10% of final grade). You are expected to be present for the entire class session on Wednesday evenings, including both the tutorial and the lecture/discussion components. Do not short-change the tutorials; participating in the give and take of class discussion is an important component of your learning. As a courtesy to the instructors and to other students, please make every effort to arrive on time and be prepared to engage in discussion. 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% of final grade). 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 in your tutorial group. The idea is that this online exchange will help to jump-start conversation at the Wednesday evening meetings of the tutorial. More information on the format for these postings will be provided at our first class session.

(3) *Précis* (7) (40% of final grade). At the heart of the course is careful reading and understanding of the concepts set forth in the textbook. (This is not the same thing as *agreeing* with the textbook, or for that matter with the views of the course instructor or TA. Charitable disagreement and questioning are an indispensable aspect of theological learning.) As a consequence, the core assignment for the course will consist in writing a series of one-page précis of particular chapters or parts of chapters in David Yeago's

*The Apostolic Faith*. See the handout titled “How to Write a Précis,” available as a PDF on the course web site.

You will write six précis in all, in weeks of your own choosing. The only constraint is that you must hand in three of your précis prior to Reading Week and three afterwards; this is to insure an evenly distributed workload for the instructor and TA. In addition, you have the option of writing a seventh, extra-credit précis at no risk, i.e. you can only raise your grade by doing so. Précis are to be submitted via Quercus. *But you should also bring a hard-copy version to class*. Students may occasionally be asked to read all or part of their précis aloud to facilitate discussion.

(4) *Final Exam* (30% of final grade). There will be a two-hour, sit-down, open-book final exam during the examination week in December. You will given a choice of four or five questions, of the kind that invites synthesis of your learning over the course of the term, and asked to write on one or two of these.

### **Course Policies**

1. Use of laptop computers, or other devices, for taking notes in class is not permitted. This rule does not reflect a Luddite contempt for technology; I do my writing on a computer, like everyone else. Rather, it is a plea for the use of appropriate technology. While computers are great writing tools,<sup>1</sup> they often get in the way in the classroom, where it is imperative that you be attentive to your instructor and the text or set of ideas under discussion. The move toward a screen-free classroom (I am not talking about a shared classroom screen, a different matter entirely) has gained momentum in North American higher education over the past few years. Needless to say, you should also not be checking your phone for email, Facebook etc. etc. Please keep phones out of sight and *turned off* for the duration of the class.

2. Format for papers: Précis should be single-spaced, and employ standard margins and font (i.e. twelve-point in a standard, readable font). By its nature, the précis format rarely requires footnotes. If you need to make reference to a passage in the text—but again, this will be rare—you are free to use a simple, parenthetical citation format, e.g. (Yeago, ch. 13, 45). The reason you do not need to quote the text is that for the purposes of the précis *you* are, so to speak, the author; and normally one does not quote oneself. You might conceivably wish use footnotes on the final exam. If so, please use the Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style citation format, which is standard at Wycliffe and TST. A quick guide may be found at: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/citation-guide.html>.

*All written work should be thoroughly proofread and free of typos and grammatical errors before being submitted.*

3. All assignments must be turned in on time. *It is better to turn in rough or incomplete work than not to submit anything at all*. If some extraordinary circumstance arises that prevents you from doing an assignment or doing it well, let me know; we can talk about it.

### *Class Schedule*

## **FIRST PRINCIPLES: DOGMATIC PROLEGOMENA**

### **WEEK 1 (SEPTEMBER 12)**

#### **ON BEGINNING IN THE CHURCH: THEOLOGY AS ECCLESIAL ACTIVITY**

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<sup>1</sup> Though even here, I would argue that exchanging the keyboard for pen and notebook every now and then is an excellent idea.

Yeago, *The Apostolic Faith*, Preface & chapter 1, Part One (The Apostolic Church as the Place of Theology) and Part Two (Theology and Holy Scripture)

Richard B. Hays, "Salvation by Trust? Reading the Bible Faithfully," PDF on Quercus

*Supplemental*: "Doctrine," "Scripture," and "Systematic Theology" in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*; Uche Anizor, Part I, "On Reading Charitably," in *How to Read Theology*

## WEEK 2 (SEPTEMBER 19)

ON LEARNING TO PAY ATTENTION: THEOLOGY AS SELF-INVOLVING PRACTICE

Simone Weil, "On the Right Use of School Studies with a View to the Love of God," PDF on Quercus

Yeago, *The Apostolic Faith*, Preface & chapter 1, Part Three (The Task of Theological Reflection and its Criterion) and Part Four (The Theological Problem of the Theologian)

## WEEK 3 (SEPTEMBER 26)

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM: JESUS OF NAZARETH

Yeago, *The Apostolic Faith*, Chapter 2

## THE TRIUNE GOD

### WEEK 4 (OCTOBER 3)

"I WILL BLESS THE LORD AT ALL TIMES": THE GOD OF ISRAEL AND OUR LANGUAGE ABOUT HIM

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 3

*Supplemental*: "Analogy" in *Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*

### WEEK 5 (OCTOBER 10)

ON THERE NOT BEING THREE GODS: THE SCRIPTURAL GRAMMAR OF TRINITY

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, ch. 4, The Doctrine of the Trinity, 129-160

*Supplemental*: Richard Norris, "Trinity," PDF on Quercus

### WEEK 6 (OCTOBER 17)

SPIRIT, LOVE, AND UNITY: THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 5, The Mystery of the Triune God, pp. 189–224

Karen Kilby, "Perichoresis and Projection: Problems with Social Doctrines of the Trinity," PDF on Quercus

READING WEEK: OCTOBER 22-26

## THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

### WEEK 7 (OCTOBER 31)

## THE PERSON OF CHRIST I: THE INCARNATE WORD

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 6, Parts One and Two  
*Supplemental: "Christology" in Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*

### WEEK 8 (NOVEMBER 7)

#### THE PERSON OF CHRIST II: THE SCOPE AND CHARACTER OF INCARNATION

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 6, Parts Three and Four

### WEEK 9 (NOVEMBER 14)

#### JESUS IN HISTORY: MESSIAH, MIRACLE, AND MISSION

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 7

### WEEK 10 (NOVEMBER 21)

#### THE WONDERFUL EXCHANGE: CRUCIFIXION

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 7; Anselm, "A Meditation on Human Redemption," PDF on Quercus – *Supplemental: Katherine Sonderegger, "Anselmic Atonement," in The T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, PDF on Quercus

### WEEK 11 (NOVEMBER 28)

#### SUBSTITUTION, REPRESENTATION, SACRIFICE: FURTHER PERSPECTIVES ON ATONEMENT

Robert Jenson, "On the Doctrine of the Atonement," from *Theology as Revolutionary Metaphysics*, PDF on Quercus  
Jeannine Michele Graham, "Substitution and Representation," in *The T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, PDF on Quercus  
Stephen B. Chapman, "God's Reconciling Work: Atonement in the Old Testament," in *The T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, PDF on Quercus

*Supplemental: Fleming Rutledge, The Crucifixion*, especially the chapters titled "Anselm Reconsidered for Our Time" and "The Substitution"

### WEEK 12 (DECEMBER 5)

#### THE NEW CREATION: RESURRECTION

Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 8, Part Three; George Hunsinger, "The Daybreak of the New Creation: Christ's Resurrection in Recent Theology," PDF on Quercus

## Grading system

The grading system for this course may be found in the Basic Degree Handbook of the Toronto School of Theology, section 11.2.

Letter Grade

Numerical Equivalents

Grade Point

Grasp of Subject  
Matter

A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

### **A Note from the Registrar: Policy on Assignment Extensions**

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**

**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. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

### **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students 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* (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/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students 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>).

**Course Evaluations.** At the end of the course students are expected to complete a course evaluation. The evaluation is done online and instructions will be contained in an e-mail message that will be sent out by the Wycliffe College registrar.

### Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
<b>By the end of this course, students</b>	<b>This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:</b>	<b>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)</b>
- will demonstrate basic competence in the practice of Christian theology	Précis, online forum, tutorial discussion, final exam	MTS: 1.3 M.Div: I e
- will employ Holy Scripture as a norm of theological reflection	Précis, online forum, tutorial discussion, final exam	MTS: 1.2, 1.3 M.Div: I.a
- 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.	Précis, online forum, tutorial discussion, final exam	MTS: 1.3 M.Div: I b
- will demonstrate skill in the practice of charitable reading and respectful discussion.	Précis, online forum, tutorial discussion	MTS: 2.1, 2.2 M.Div: II.c,d,e