



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYT1101HF
Course Name: The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor: Tim Connor Teaching Assistant:
E-mail: tim.connor@sympatico.ca E-mail:
Office Hours:

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

None

Course Description

An introduction to the discipline of systematic theology, also known as Christian doctrine or dogmatics, 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 our “take” on these doctrines will reflect the tradition(s) of the sixteenth-century Reformation, including Anglicanism, the course is broadly ecumenical in scope and purpose. It will introduce you to the basic grammar of Christian confession as grounded in Scripture and articulated at the councils of Nicaea and Chalcedon. In other words, the course is designed to help you “speak Christian” with greater confidence, and begin to be a competent teacher of that language to others.

Course Methodology

Lectures, tutorials, readings, précis, reflection papers, exam

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe’s statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)

• will have increased their familiarity with the discipline of Christian theology;	Course as a whole	MTS: 1.3 MDiv: 1.3
• will be able to articulate the place of Holy Scripture as a norm of theological reflection;	Lectures, readings (Yeago ch. 1)	MTS: 1.2, 1.3 MDiv: 1.2, 1.3
• will have become aware of the interrelatedness of Scripture, doctrine, and ethics;	Course as a whole	MTS: 1.2, 1.3 MDiv: 1.2, 1.3
• will have developed a general awareness of the aims and character of Christian theology, and of the basic content of the doctrines of the Trinity, the person of Christ, and the work of Christ;	Lectures, readings (Yeago chs. 2-6, 8)	MTS: 1.3 MDiv: 1.3
• have an increased ability in theological reading, writing, and reasoning;	Précis, response papers Tutorial participation	MTS: 2.1, 2.3 MDiv: 2.1, 2.2
• have attained greater awareness of their own ecclesial tradition in relation to the ecumenical faith of the church.	Tutorials, response papers, final exam	MTS: 1.5 MDiv: 1.5

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- David Yeago, *The Apostolic Faith: A Catholic and Evangelical Introduction to Christian Theology* (unpublished MS). Available for purchase at Image Xpress, 193 College Street, Toronto, just east of St. George).

Recommended Texts

- *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, ed. John Webster, Kathryn Tanner, and Iain Torrance (Oxford, 2007). Available as an electronic resource via the Blackboard site for this course. Alternatively, you can access the work via the U of T online catalogue – click on “E-Resources.”
- Colin Gunton, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine* (Cambridge, 1997)
- Donald McKim, ed., *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Westminster, 2nd ed. 2014)
- Roger Van Harn, ed., *Exploring and Proclaiming the Apostles’ Creed* (Eerdmans, 2004)
- Amos Yong, *Renewing Christian Theology: Systematics for a Global Christianity* (Baylor, 2014)

Reading in your own Christian/ecclesial tradition

There is no such thing as theology done “from nowhere.” Theology is a function of the church. You are strongly encouraged, therefore, to find a systematic theology in or close to your own ecclesial tradition, and use it to read alongside the Yeago text for purposes of comparison. Consult the instructor or your TA for suggestions. I recognize that many Wycliffe students are ecclesially “in flux” and may not identify strongly with a particular church. This is a feature of our times! It is nevertheless a good thing to understand how the gospel is heard and expounded in traditions that have had some “staying power” in the long sweep of Christian history.

Note that while these parallel resources will not be a formal aspect of the course, they—along with the recommended and supplementary readings—can provide a helpful set of resources for your growth as a theologian.

Course Website(s)

Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>. This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you’ll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

Class Schedule

Week 1 (September 14) Introduction to the Course.

Week 2 (September 21) What Is Theology? *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 1 *Supplemental Reading:* John Webster, “Introduction: Systematic Theology,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology* (online resource, U of T libraries).

Week 3 (September 28) Christ the Center: Jesus, Apostolicity, and Truth. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 2 (including Appendix).

Week 4 (October 5) Reasons of the Heart: The Spirit and the Religious Affections. *Required Readings:* Garrett Green, “Experience in Theology” (on Blackboard); Karl Barth, *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*, chapters on “Wonder” and “Faith” (on Blackboard); *Supplemental Reading:* Ellen Charry, “Experience,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*

Week 5 (October 12) The God of Israel. *Required Readings:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 3.

Week 6 (October 19) The Doctrine of the Trinity. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 4 *Supplemental Reading:* Fred Sanders, chapter on the Trinity in *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*.

Week 7 (October 26) Reading Week. No Classes.

Week 8 (November 2) The Life of the Trinity. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 4.

Week 9 (November 9) The Son of God Incarnate (I): The Christological Dogma. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 6, Part One, 207–226.

Week 10 (November 16) The Son of God Incarnate (II): More Thinking about the “Fleshly God”. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 6, Parts Two–Four, 226–247.

Week 11 (November 23) Jesus Messiah and the Kingdom of God. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 7.

Week 12 (November 30) The Cross. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 8, Parts One–Two, 301–334.

Week 13 (December 7) The Resurrection. *Required Reading:* Yeago, *Apostolic Faith*, chapter 8, Part Three, 335–347.

Evaluation

Requirements

(1) Preparation, presence, participation (10%)

This part of your mark will be based on attendance, questions posted on the course web site, and participation in class and tutorial discussion.

The primary purpose of the tutorial is to insure that you understand the basic content of the readings. It provides you with an opportunity to pose questions, draw connections between the readings and the lectures, and be intellectually stimulated by your classmates.

Each week you will post two questions, arising out of the readings, on the Blackboard site for the course. The questions are due by 3:00 p.m. on the day of class. Students will rotate responsibility for kicking off the group discussion each week, using one of their questions as a point of departure.

(2) Two précis papers (2 x 10%)

You will write two précis of chapters of the Yeago text. These may be on any of the chapters assigned for discussion prior to reading week, i.e. choose from chapters 1-4. See the handout titled “How to Write a Précis,” available on the course web site.

Précis are to be e-mailed to your tutorial leader prior to the class on the day we discuss that particular chapter. Papers are to be written in advance so that they may inform your participation in the tutorial. For this reason, late papers will not be accepted. Plan ahead, so that your précis submissions do not fall on weeks when other major assignments come due or when you have major field work responsibilities, etc.

Due: any time before reading week. These papers may be submitted electronically.

(3) Two critical reflection papers (2 x 15%)

You will also write two short (limit 1500 words) papers on theological issues of your choosing arising from the readings. The only limitation on topic is that the papers should address some aspect of the main themes of the course: the character of theology, the nature of Scripture, God, Trinity, person and work of Jesus Christ... Please consult with the instructor or the TA if you are uncertain. A short handout will be made available on how best to approach these papers.

Due: first paper October 29, second paper December 3 (last day of class). Like the précis, these papers may be submitted electronically.

(4) Final exam (40%).

This is a take-home, open-book final in essay format. You will have 24 hours in which to complete and return the exam.

Grading System

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

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

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

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).

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>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

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. Individual grades will not be made available until the student has logged into the site

Bibliography

Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*. Reformed. A commentary on the Apostles' Creed.

Barth, Karl. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Barth on living the theological life.

Braaten and Jenson, eds. *Christian Dogmatics*. Lutheran, multiple authors.

Ford, David. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology in the Twentieth Century*. Multi-author, ecumenical.

Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. By a leading Canadian Baptist evangelical, influenced both by Pannenberg and by postliberal thought.

Gunton, Colin. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Reformed/Free church.

Gunton, Colin, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Ecumenical contributors.

Harvey, Van. *A Handbook of Theological Terms*. A theological dictionary, dated but still useful.

Jenson, Robert. *Systematic Theology*, vols. I-II. Lutheran, brilliant, opinionated, and “edgy.” We should all be able to write like this.

Leith, John H. *Basic Christian Doctrine*. Presbyterian. A common text in mainline Reformed seminaries a few years back.

Livingston, James. *Modern Christian Thought*, 2nd ed. Classic textbook on modern theology, from the Enlightenment through Vatican II and beyond.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Anglican, evangelical. Full of useful information.

McKim, Donald L. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. More up-to-date and extensive than the Van Harvey dictionary.

- Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Presbyterian, Barth-influenced, with especially good coverage of feminist and liberation theology. Many students report this to be a favorite.
- Morse, Christopher. *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Disbelief*. Methodist. Explores Christian beliefs by trying to be as clear as possible about what Christians refuse to believe—the way of affirmation through negation. Demanding but highly stimulating.
- Oden, Thomas. *Systematic Theology*, vols. 1-3. A comprehensive systematics by a prominent Methodist evangelical. Seeks to present the “great tradition” in all its fullness.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*, vols. 1-3. German Lutheran. One of the great theological systems of the late twentieth century, though somewhat dry and technical.
- Placher, William, ed. *Essentials of Christian Theology*. Ecumenical contributors on various topics.
- Placher, William. *A History of Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Presbyterian. A remarkably good and readable survey of the whole sweep of Christian thought. Highly recommended.
- Placher, William. *The Triune God: An Essay in Postliberal Theology*. This book would serve as a wonderful complement to our work this term.
- Tanner, Kathryn. *Jesus, Humanity, and the Trinity*. Anglican. A bit technical but worth looking into.
- Wainwright, Geoffrey. *Doxology*. Methodist. Approaching Christian doctrine through worship and liturgy.
- Williams, Rowan. *On Christian Theology*. Anglican. Essays by the former Archbishop of Canterbury. Difficult, occasionally brilliant.
- Williams, Rowan. *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Faith*. Basic Christian catechesis, with an apologetic edge.
- Wilson, Jonathan. *God So Loved the World: A Christology for Disciples*. Evangelical-Free Church.
- Wilson, Jonathan. *A Primer for Christian Doctrine*. What you should know before you undertake the study of theology; basic theological literacy.
- Yoder, John Howard. *Preface to Theology: Christology and Theological Method*. Lecture outlines from the distinguished Mennonite thinker.