

DOMINICAN INSTITUTE, IBADAN

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

(In affiliation with Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Penn, USA)

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY (THEOL 570) FIRST SEMESTER: 2018/2019 ACADEMIC SESSION

Seminar Coordinator: Fr. Emeka Nwosuh, O.P.

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Seminar Days: Thursdays: 10:30am – 1:00pm

Office Hours: Fridays: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The discipline of Christian Theology has the task of, articulating, explicating, and clarifying the truth(s) of the Christian faith as encapsulated in Christian Revelation and Tradition. For twenty-one centuries, Christian Theology has undertaken this task within various and different socio-historical, cultural and intellectual milieu and indeed, other contexts that sometimes do not have direct or immediate connection with Christian Theology and yet often leaving behind subtle influences on the way Christian truths are grasped, formulated and explicated.

This two-part Seminar on History of Christian Theology investigates the historical unfolding, evolution and development of Christian thought, doctrine and theology through various epochs of history. Our study will revolve round the interplay of key theological themes/doctrines, principal interlocutors, currents of thoughts and major socio-historical and cultural events, that often come together to engender, shape and direct the course of Christian theology for twenty-one centuries.

The expansiveness of this course requires a highly restricted and selective approach. Thus, while we take a cursory look at certain epochs of the development of Christian Theology, we will give greater attention to some other epochs. For reasons of their pivotal importance in the history of Christian Theology, we shall, pay significant attention to the first six centuries of the Christian Theology, i.e. Patristic Theology. This shall constitute the focus of the first part of this course, The Second part of this Course will commence with Scholastic Theology with specific focus on St. Thomas Aquinas, down to contemporary Theology.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to lead participants to recognize, understand, and appreciate the interplay between history and Christian Truth/Faith. In order words, how the truth revealed by Christ travels in and

through history. The goal then is to bring participants of this course to see themselves as active interlocutors who are tasked with the responsibility of articulating and explicating the Christian faith/truth in the socio-historical, cultural and intellectual context in which they find themselves, while ensuring a harmonious symphony with preceding interlocutors, especially with the pioneers of Christian Theology.

MODALITY

The course will take the form of a weekly seminar to be anchored by one or two major presenters. To ensure that each member of the class prepares and fully participates in the seminar discussion, each member of the class—except the major presenter(s) of the day—will submit a one-page synthesis of the topic for the day (single-line spacing 12pts Times New Romans). The synthesis must raise a major question or problematic connected with the topic for that day.

The class seminar will be divided into 3 sessions. In the first session each member of the class will give a three-minute oral presentation of his/her synthesis. The second session will be dedicated to the major presentation. The major presenter has a maximum of fifty (50) minutes of which 20mins are allotted for his/her presentation and 30mins for questions, comments, observations from other participants. The final session of the class seminar (the wrap up session) will be utilized by the Seminar Coordinator for general comments, clarifications, expositions and elaborations. There will be a 10mins break after each session.

REQUIREMENTS

- Each student is required to read the relevant materials pertaining to the seminars of the day.
- A one-page **synthesis** (single line spacing, 12pts TNR font) of the core issues of the seminar themes is to be presented at the beginning of each class by students not making major presentations.
- The seminar papers must be typed (double line spacing), and must be between 15-20pages.
- **Each seminar paper/presentation must show evidence of serious academic research. Papers must contain primary sources and important secondary sources including academic journals. This requirement is crucial a precondition for the paper being accepted.**
- Each seminar paper must observe the standard academic methodology and style in terms of citations, bibliographies, etc. In addition, each presenter must use 12 points New Times Roman Font, 1.0” margins¹
- **To enhance full and effective participation, each member of the class must receive an electronic copy of the seminar paper at least 24hours before class presentation. A hard copy is to be submitted to the lecturer. No paper will be accepted for presentation if this requirement is not met.**
- No one is allowed to be present at the Seminar without a copy of the paper to be presented.
- **We call the attention of students to the importance and, in fact, necessity of acknowledging all sources that may be used in the essay. Willful neglect of this provision constitutes a very grave academic offence, which has serious disciplinary implications.**

¹ See Fr. Patrick Akunne, O.P. if you have difficulties or challenges with methodology.

GRADE ALLOCATION

- 50% for the major seminar papers
- 40% Weekly Synthesis
- 10% Class Participation and Attendance (An absence of more than 2times will result in the forfeiture of the entire marks).

MARKING SCHEME FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

- Comprehension of Question or Subject Matter = 15%
- Coherence and Logic = 20%
- Adequacy and Comprehensiveness = 20%
- Grammar (syntax, punctuation, tenses, and spellings) = 25%
- Creativity, Personal Insight and Contribution = 10%
- Bibliography and References. = 10%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Students can find some of the above materials on www.b-ok.org and www.pdfdrive.com

OBLIGATORY

Alister E. McGrath, *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*, 2nd Edition, (Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).

Di Berardino, B. Studer, eds. *History of Theology: The Patristic Period*, vol. 1, (Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1997)

Jaroslav Pelikan, *Historical Resources: Historical Theology: Continuity and Change in Christian Doctrine* (NY/Philadelphia/London: Corpus/Westminster/Hutchinson, 1971)

_____, *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine-1 The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition (100-600)* (Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 1971)

John Norman D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines* (London: Adam & Charles Black, 1968⁴)

Paul Tillic, *A History of Christian Thought: From Its Judaic and Hellenistic Origins to Existentialism*, C. Braaten, ed. (New York: Touchstone Books, 1967/1968)

Roger E. Olson, *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Years of Tradition and Reform*, (Illinois: IVP Academic, 1999).

RECOMMENDED

Aloysius Grillmeier, *Christ in Christian Tradition* (New York: Sheed and Ward, 1965)

Basil Studer, *Trinity and Incarnation: The Faith of the Early Church*, M. Westerhoof, trl., A. Louth ed., (Collegeville, Minnesota: Michael Glazier/Liturgical Press, 1993)

Christopher Hall, *Learning Theology With the Church Fathers*, (Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2002)

Chad Meister, *Christian Thought: A Historical Introduction*

Cladudio Moreschini & Enrico Norelli, *Early Christian Greek and Latin Literature: A Literary History*, 2 vols. (Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005)

Edmund J. Fortman, *Theological Resources: The Triune God: A Historical Study of the Doctrine of the Trinity*, (London /Philadelphia/: Hutchinson /Westminster, 1972)

F. X. Murphy, “Patristic Theology” in *New Catholic Encyclopedia* Vol. 10 (Detroit/Washington: Thomas Gale/The Catholic University of America, 2003)

Gerald Bromiley, *Historical Theology: An Introduction*

Gerard H. Ettliger, *Jesus, Christ & Savior: Message of the Fathers 2* (Delaware: Michael Glazier, 1982)

J. H. Walgrave, “Doctrine: Development” in *New Catholic Encyclopedia* Vol. 4 (Detroit/Washington: Thomas Gale/The Catholic University of America, 2003)

Johannes Quasten, *Patrology*, 4 vols. (Westminster, MD: Newman Press, 1945)

R. F. Harvanek, “Patristic Philosophy” in *New Catholic Encyclopedia* Vol. 10 (Detroit/Washington: Thomas Gale/The Catholic University of America, 2003)

William Placher, *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, 2 vols.

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

- Week 1 Oct. 8 General Introduction**
General Introduction to the course
- Week 2 Oct. 15 The Contexts of Emergence of Christian Theology 1**
Judaism and Christian Theology: Continuities and Discontinuities
- Week 3 Oct. 22 The Contexts of Emergence of Christian Theology**
Hellenism, Philosophy and Christian Theology: Influences and Implications
- Week 4 Oct 29 Christian Theology as Biblical Theology**
Scripture as the Soul of Theology:
- Week 5 Nov. 5 Orthodoxy vs. Alternative/Competing Christian Theologies**
Gnosticism, Marcionism – The Irenaean Response
- Week 6 Nov. 12 The Problematic of the Christian God: One but Three**
The Unity of God: Unorthodox (Monarchianism, Sabellianism, Adoptionism, etc.) and Orthodox (Tertullian) articulations
- Week 7 Nov. 19 Making Sense of Jesus Christ: Man, Angel, or Demigod I?**
Primitive Christin Views about Christ
- Week 8 Nov. 26 Making Sense of Jesus Christ: Man, Angel, or Demigod II?**
Determining the Status of Christ - Arius and the Nicene Response
- Week 9 Dec. 03 The Patristic Debate on the Identity of Christ:**
The Theological Debates about the Person and Nature of Christ
- Week 10 Dec. 10 On the Divinity of Holy Spirit**
The Debate about the Divinity of the Holy Spirit- The Contributions of the Cappadocians

CHRISTMAS BREAK

- Week 17 Jan. 9 Man and His Eternal Salvation**
Pelagius and Augustine on the Salvation of Man: The Role of Grace and Man in Human Salvation
- Week 14 Jan. 16 The Nature of Church – The Question of Unity**
The Ecclesiological heritages of Cyprian, the Donatists and Augustine