

DOMINICAN INSTITUTE, IBADAN
Fr. Samuel Onyiba, O. P.

DI/TH 240 On the Trinity
1st Semester 2020/2021

Lecture Hours: Thursdays 8.25am. – 11.05 am.
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Course Description

This course is a biblical, historical and systematic study of the doctrine of the triune God. Beginning with a study of the first attempts to interpret biblical data related to the mystery during the Trinitarian controversy in the early Church, it studies the contributions of Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas and Karl Rahner towards its systematic understanding. Attention will be given to the critique feminist theology makes of classical Trinitarian language.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, it is expected that students should be able:

- i. To enunciate the biblical foundations of the doctrine of the Trinity
- ii. To explain the pre-Nicene historical development of the doctrine of the Trinity
- iii. To articulate the conciliar background to the doctrine of the Trinity
- iv. To articulate the theological insights on the Trinity provided by St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Karl Rahner, Elizabeth Johnson and Leonardo Boff.

Course Requirements

1. Readings, Class Participation and Quizzes

Each student will be required to read the text(s) assigned for each meeting day of the class. In addition, each student is expected to be acquainted with books and articles related to the theme of the Trinity in recently published academic journals. Students are expected to be present in class and participate actively in the lecture. At the beginning of each class, there will be a quiz on the text(s) assigned for the lecture.

2. A Critical Research Paper

Each student will be required to write a well-researched paper of 10-15 pages with double lines spacing on the following topic: *The Mystery of the Holy Trinity and the Presence of Evil in the World: A Theological Perspective to the Covid-19 Pandemic*. The deadline for submission is on December 10, 2020.

Hints: the following are some critical questions the paper must attempt to provide answers:

- i. What are some of the theological insights that have been provided over the centuries on the mystery of the Trinity?
- ii. What is evil?
- iii. Why does evil persists in the world?
- iv. Does it make sense to hold on to the doctrine of the goodness, equality, and love of the three divine persons in the midst of evil in the world?
- v. Is Covid-19 Pandemic and instance of evil in the world?
- vi. Where is God in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic

3. A Book Review

Each student is equally expected to participate in making a group presentation on a section of Leonardo Boff's *Trinity and Society*. There shall be five groups. Membership of groups is to be determined by way of ballots. The review is to be presented in 10 pages of double lines spacing. Each group would be given 15 minutes to make their presentation.

Group 1: A Review of Chapters 7

Group 2: A Review of Chapters 8 and 9

Group 3: A Review of Chapter 10 and 11

Group 5: A Review of Chapters 12, 13, 14 and 15

These presentations would be made in the last lecture hours of the semester.

4. End of Semester Examination

Each student is expected to sit for the final exam.

Modes of Assessment

1. Weekly Quizzes: This would account for 10% of the final grade.
2. A Critical Research Paper: This would account for 20% of the final grade.
3. Book Review Presentation: This would account for 10% of the final grade.
4. End of Semester Examination: This would account for 60% of the final grade.

III. Bibliography

Anatolios, Khaled, *Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011)

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, I, qq. 3, 27 - 43

Augustine, *The Trinity* Introduction, translation, and notes by Edmund Hill (Brooklyn, NY: New City Press, 1991)

Barnes, M., "De Regnon Reconsidered", *Augustinian Studies* 26 (1995) 51-79

_____. "Augustine in Contemporary Trinitarian Theology" *Theological Studies* 56 (1995) 237-250.

Boff, Leonardo, *Trinity and the Society*. Translated from the Portuguese by Paul Burns. New York: Maryknoll, 1988.

Cooke, B., *Beyond Trinity*. The Aquinas Lecture, 1969 (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1969)

Emery, G., "La procession du Saint-Esprit a Filio chez saint Thomas d'Aquin" *Revue Thomiste* 96 (1996) 531-574

_____. "Essentialisme ou personalisme dans le traité de Dieu chez saint Thomas d'Aquin" *Revue Thomiste* 98 (1998) 5-38.

_____. "Théologie trinitaire" *Revue Thomiste* 99 (1998) 469-496.

_____ *Trinity in Thomas Aquinas* (Ypsilanti, MI: Sapientia Press, 2003).

_____ "The Threeness and Oneness of God in Twelfth-to Fourteenth-Century Scholasticism", *Nova et Vetera* Vol. 1 1(2003) 43-74.

Erickson, M., *Making Sense of the Trinity: Three Crucial Questions* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000)

Collin Gunton, *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1997) 2nd Edition.

Kathryn Greene-McCreight, *Feminist Reconstructions of Christian Doctrine: Narrative Analysis and Appraisal* (New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000) ch. 6 "Feminist Trinitarian Reconstructions".

Heim, S. M., *The Depth of the Riches: A Trinitarian Theology of Religious Ends* (Grand Rapids, MI/Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans, 2001)

Hill, E., *The Mystery of the Trinity* (London: Chapman, 1985)

Humbrecht, T-D., "Dieu a-t-il une essence?" *Revue Thomiste* 45 (1995) 7-18.

Hunt, A., *The Trinity: Insights from the Mystics* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010)

Johnson, E., *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse* (New York: Crossroad, 1992) 191 - 223.

Karris, V., *The Mystery of the Trinity Revealed and Experienced: Language, Metaphor and Personhood*. Keynote Address for the Second Bi-Annual Sabbath Day. Albany, New York, June 9, 1996.

Kelly, J. N. D., *Early Christian Creeds* (Longman, 1997) 3rd edition.

LaCugna, C. M., "The Trinitarian Mystery of God", *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives* vol. 1. Eds. Francis Schüssler Fiorenza and John P. Galvin (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1991) 149 - 192.

_____ *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life* (San Francisco: Harper-Collins, 1993)

Letham, R., *The Holy Trinity in Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2004)

Lonergan, B., *The Way to Nicaea: The Dialectical Development of Trinitarian Theology*. Trans. Conn O'Donovan (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1982)

Newman, J. H., *The Arians of the Fourth Century* (Eugene Pasadena: Wipe and Stock Publishers, 1996)

Rahner, K., *The Trinity* Trans. Joseph Donceel. Introduction, index and glossary by Catherine Mowry LaCugna (New York: Crossroad Herder, 1997)

Ratzinger, Joseph. *Introduction to Christianity*. Trans. J. R. Foster and Michael J. Miller with a new preface (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2000), pp.162-190.

Rusch, W., Ed.Tr., *The Trinitarian Controversy* Sources of Early Christian Thought (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980)

Regnon, Th. de, *Études de théologie positive sur la sainte Trinité* (Paris, 1892) vol. 1. 335-340

Studer, B., *Trinity and Incarnation: The Faith of the Early Church* (Collegeville, MN: Michael Glazier/Liturgical Press, 1993)

Tillich, P., *Systematic Theology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1963) Vol. 3: 283 - 294.

IV Schedule of Readings

October 8 Introduction

Biblical Foundations of the Doctrine of the Trinity

October 15 Millard J. Erickson, *Making Sense of the Trinity*, 13-42;
Robert Letham, *The Holy Trinity*, Introduction and Part One

The Development of Pre-Nicene Trinitarianism

October 24 William Rusch, *The Trinitarian Controversy*, 1-60

October 22 William Rusch, *The Trinitarian Controversy*, 61-161

Augustine on the Trinity

October 29 Augustine, *The Trinity* Trans. Edmund Hill, 18-60

November 5 Augustine, *The Trinity* Bks VIII-IX

December 12 St Augustine, *The Trinity* Bks X-XII

November 19 St Augustine, *The Trinity* Bks XIII-XV

Thomas on the Trinity

November 26 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theol.*, 1, qq. 27-30.

December 3 St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theol.*, 1, qq. 34-39

December 10 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theol.*, 1, qq. 40-43;
Robert Letham, *The Holy Trinity*, Part Two (Particularly pp. 201-268)
Critical Research Paper due for submission

CHRISTMAS BREAK

- 20th Century Theologians**
- January 7 Karl Rahner, *The Trinity*
Group Presentations (Groups 1 and 2)
- January 14 Elizabeth Johnson, *She Who Is*, chs. 10 and 11;
Kathryn Greene-McCreight, *Feminist Reconstructions of Christian Doctrine*,
ch. 6
- January 22 Leonardo Boff, *Trinity and Society*, chs. 7-15.
(Group Presentations)