

# *Church History/Systematics Seminar*

## Methods in Theology and History: The Case of Anselm

Luther Seminary ~ HC8810 ~ Fall 2008  
Thur 1:10-4pm ~ Room: GH 306

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COURSE WEB PAGE: visit MyLutherNet

Office Hours by Appointment

### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

The core sequence of three PhD degree seminars, required of all students in the historical/systematic theology PhD program, investigates the major historical, cultural, and theological developments in the history of Christianity, with particular focus on selected theological classics in each period. Consideration is given to questions of sources, criteria, presuppositions, context, authority, and hermeneutics, and to changing construals of major theological loci in the history of Christian thought. Full Course.

### **PURPOSE**

This version of the HC8810 seminar will survey differing approaches to methodology in historiography and systematic theology. The specific focus beyond methodology is Anselm of Canterbury: his own original work, his life, and his larger historical context.

### **LEARNING GOALS**

*In this class the student will learn to:*

1. Understand and appreciate the historiography and methodology of church history.
2. Understand and appreciate the methodologies of systematic theology.
3. Become familiar with the life, historical context, and some of the major works of Anselm.
4. Respect the intellectual rights of others, and treat them with respect.
5. Demonstrate the ability to construct a careful theological or historical argument.

*These goals will be measured by, inter alia, the following objectives:*

1. Reflect critically and theologically upon required readings in class, including thoughtful oral participation in discussion.
2. Prepare summaries of the important aspects of our discussion.
3. Write a major essay on a systematic or historical theme related to this seminar.
4. Respond in writing, critically and theologically, to assigned readings.

## CONTENT

This course will be taught in a seminar format, with limited enrollment. Participation, keeping up with the readings, and regular attendance are required. You will be assigned, on a rotating basis, one of three tasks each class period: Facilitator, Recorder, and Respondent. Come prepared to each class session. You will be graded on overall preparation and participation.

## TEXT BOOKS AND READINGS

### *Required*

1. Anselm of Canterbury. *The Major Works*, ed. Brian Davies and G. R. Evans (Oxford).
2. Barth, Karl. *Evangelical Theology* (Eerdmans).
2. Bradley, James and R. Muller. *Church History* (Eerdmans).
3. Nichols, Aidan. *The Shape of Catholic Theology* (Liturgical).
4. Southern, R. W. *Saint Anselm: A Portrait in a Landscape* (Cambridge).

### Recommended:

5. Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Growth of Medieval Theology, 500-1500* (Chicago).

## COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION

In a seminar, students are encouraged to participate by discussion with each other and with the instructor; dialog, questioning, and also responding to questions are the essence of theological inquiry. You will have several chances, also, at more formal roles within our seminar (Respondent, Recorder, and Facilitator). Attendance is mandatory. Your grade will suffer if you miss class (see below).

There are 350 possible points in the course, as outlined. In general, you can expect 90% to be the cut-off for an A-, 80% for a B-, etc.

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Respondent (written).....      | 50    |
| Facilitator .....              | 25    |
| Recorder (written).....        | 50    |
| Term Paper .....               | 150   |
| Participation/preparation..... | 75    |
|                                | ===== |
| Course Total.....              | 350   |

### *Plagiarism*

The pressures of life sometimes tempt us to sin. Plagiarism is sin, defined in this case as taking credit for work that is not your own. This includes copying without quotation, excessive summarizing from sources (even if listed in a bibliography), or turning in your friend's old paper with your name on it. If you are caught plagiarizing in this class, you will earn an F. You must prove to me that you wrote the paper or essay (the burden of proof is on you). If I suspect you of plagiarism, I will give you an oral exam on your paper which the author of the essay could easily pass (but not someone who just copied or summarized). Please keep all notes and rough drafts of all essays and papers until after you receive your final grade for this class. I may ask to see them!

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

### *In-Class Roles and Reports*

1. Respondent: critique of assigned readings. On a rotating basis, you will be assigned the task of leading-off our discussion of the assigned readings for each day, by providing an initial critique (pro and con) in writing. Please make copies for everyone in the class. Please pay attention to: (a) the relevance of this reading for the overall theme of our course, (b) any historical, theological, or philosophical issues that are of interest to you, which you wish to discuss further.
2. Recorder: summary of key discussion. Recorder: summary of key discussion. Please take notes of our seminar discussions, then type them up. Bring copies for everyone the next time we meet.
3. Facilitator: keeping the conversation going. The facilitator will act as chair and prompter for keeping us on focus, on task, and keeping the dialog evenly spread among all participants. Make sure everyone has a chance to participate.

### *Term Paper*

Your term paper will be a response to all of our class readings and discussion. Your topic will be assigned in conversation with the instructor. This will be about 15 pages (about 4000 words). You do not have to write about Anselm, but your paper should be related to the themes of this seminar. Your paper should be of the highest quality of English prose and academic format. At Luther we follow the Chicago style (see the “Short Cut”).

### *General Remarks*

In general, your papers should be written in good English style, and follow standard academic norms. You must use gender-inclusive language. Begin with an introduction, and end with a summary conclusion. Follow the Chicago style format. Always include a list of Works Cited (i.e., a bibliography). If you are unaware of these standards, I recommend you investigate the latest edition of “The Short Cut” from Luther Seminary (online at the Library web page).

## ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP POLICIES

### *Attendance*

Being there is a major part of any seminar. If you miss two classes (without redemption) your grade for attendance will be Marginal. You will fail your attendance in this class if you miss more than three days of class session. Please see me ASAP if you must miss more than two days, for whatever reason. There is no distinction made between excused and unexcused absences. All absences (even “excused” ones) count against your grade, unless they are redeemed.

### *Redemption of Missed Classes*

You can redeem your attendance points for up to three days by turning in a typed summary (2 pages for each book) of the required reading for each day that is missed. You will be graded Pass/Fail on these summaries. Redemption will return your attendance grade to full points.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

| Dates    | Readings   |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 11 | <i>Introduction &amp; Set Up</i> (no readings!)  |
| Sept. 18 | Bradley/Muller, 1-62; Barth, v-36. Evans, Intro & ch. 1; Nichols, ch. 1  |
| Sept. 25 | Barth, ch.4-6; Nichols, ch. 2-4;Evans, ch. 2   |
| Oct. 2   | Barth, ch. 7-9; Nichols, ch. 5-7; Evans, ch. 3   |
| Oct. 9   | MW [Anselm, <i>Major Works</i> ], ( <i>Cur Deus Homo</i> , i.1-12), 260-286;<br>Barth, ch. 10-11; Nichols, ch. 8-9; Evans, ch. 4 |
| Oct. 16  | MW, 286-308 (CDH, i.13-22); Southern, ch. 1-3 & 9  |
| Oct. 23  | MW, 308-324 (CDH, i.23-ii.8);Southern, 4-6; Barth, ch. 12-13   |
| Oct. 30  | MW, 324-356 (CDH, ii.9-22);<br>Barth, ch. 14-15; Southern, ch. 7-8; Nichols, ch. 10  |
| Nov. 6   | MW, 81-98 (Pros.,pref.-18);<br>Southern, ch. 10-12; Evans, ch. 5; Nichols, ch.11; Barth, ch. 16                                  |
| Nov. 13  | MW, 99-122 (Pros., 19-26, Gaunilo, <i>Pro Ins.</i> + reply);<br>Southern, ch. 13-15; Barth, ch. 17                               |
| Nov. 20  | MW, 3-28 (Mono., 1-15);<br>Southern, ch. 16-17;Evans, ch. 6; Nichols, ch. 12-13<br><i>(Happy Thanksgiving)</i>                   |
| Dec. 4   | MW, 28-53 (Mono., 16-38);<br>Southern, ch. 18;Evans, ch. 7; Nichols, ch. 14-16   |
| Dec. 11  | MW, 53-81 (Mono., 39-80); Evans, ch. 8; Nichols, ch. 17-20   |

### BIBLIOGRAPHY (on reserve)

See the excellent bibliography in B. R. Davies and B. Leftow, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Anselm* (Cambridge).

For the Latin text of Anselm, see *Opera Omnia*, ed. F. S. Schmitt, 6 vols. (Edinburgh: T. Nelson, 1946-61); some online at <http://individual.utoronto.ca/pking/resources/>.