

ST 2415
Systematic Theology II:
Jesus the Savior and Triune God

Luther Seminary ~ ST2415 (full course) ~ Fall 2009
Thur 4:10-6pm ~ Room: GH103

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION: A study of the Christian confession that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Biblical, historical, creedal, confessional and contemporary models provide the basis for understanding and interpreting the person and work of Jesus Christ and the consequent Trinitarian understanding of God. Through writing and public conversation, students undertake the constructive task of understanding the gospel's claim to be God's truth for the world and asserting and commending that claim faithfully, coherently, and effectively.

PURPOSE: This course will introduce the major terms, issues, Biblical and historical resources in the area of Christian doctrine associated with the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed. These theological *loci* all focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ, including his birth, ministry, teachings, death and resurrection, and the theological themes of incarnation, salvation and redemption, the two natures of Christ, and God the Son within the Trinity. Our perspective in doctrine will be ecumenical and evangelical, biblical and critical. We will explore together the theological dimension of our faith, and develop skills in critical thinking, reading, clear development of arguments, and discussion. The importance of questioning is emphasized, as well as seeking answers to questions using the resources of our common faith, centered in Christ Jesus. This course is required for M.Div. students, and may meet a requirement for M.A. students.

RELEVANCE TO MISSION: Luther Seminary "educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit, to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ, and to serve in God's world." In this class we learn to think theologically, in order to better lead in and serve the world and the Church. We explore the character of Jesus Christ, and the salvation wrought by God through him, in order to better understand the shape and character of our mission in the world.

LEARNING GOALS:

1. Understand and appreciate the place of theology in the Christian life, ministry and mission.
- 2.: Express one's own theology clearly and present reasonable arguments for one's own opinions and beliefs.
3. Grasp the basic questions and positions concerning the person and work of Jesus the Messiah.
4. Respect the intellectual rights of others, and treat them with respect.
5. Understand the nature and Biblical basis of some key foundational doctrines of the Christian faith, its Traditions and Creeds, with respect to the Savior, Christ Jesus.

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

1. Recognize and name the major doctrines in Christology and soteriology.
2. Recognize key philosophical terms which are important for theology.
3. Show familiarity with central theological terms, themes, and thinkers in Christology.
4. Demonstrate a basic ability to interpret Scripture, liturgy and hymnody theologically.
5. Create a solid sermon on a doctrinal theme, or a term paper.

6. Participate in class discussion of the readings in class and online (precept).
7. Prepare a report on classical and contemporary sources for an assigned doctrine.

CONTENT: The course will consist of assigned readings, small group discussion and online precept discussion, a written sermon or term paper, and three short essay assignments. Students are encouraged to participate by discussion with each other and with the instructor by dialoging, questioning, and answering questions. This course will be much more rewarding if you come prepared (i.e., *study* the readings), and keep an open mind and a heart of love for God and for each other (including the instructor, don't forget). True spirituality and intellectual openness are essential components of the theological quest.

TEXT BOOKS AND READINGS:

Required:

1. Braaten, C. *Principles of Lutheran Theology* (2nd ed., Fortress).
2. Clark, Kelly James, et al. *101 Key Terms in Philosophy and their Importance for Theology*.
3. O'Collins, G. *Christology*. (Oxford).
4. Moltmann, J. *The Crucified God*. (Fortress).
5. "The Apostle's Creed" and "The Nicene Creed" from the ELW, LBW or other source (on the Web at: www.creeds.net).
6. Book chapters (books also on reserve in library, NOT on e-reserve!) for you to borrow, copy or even buy (!):
 - C. Braaten, "Sixth Locus: The Person of Christ," from Braaten & Jenson, eds., *Christian Dogmatics*, vol. 1.
 - G. Forde "Seventh Locus: The Work of Christ," from Braaten & Jenson, *Christian Dogmatics* vol. 2.
7. 4 classic sermons, on reserve in the Library, and one book chapter (reserve through MyLutherNet).
 - Sermon #1: Kathleen Norris, "The Virgin Mary."
 - Sermon #2: Elisabeth Achtemeier, "Of Childern, and Streets, and the Kingdom."
 - Sermon #3: Martin Luther, Sermon for Third Sunday after Easter
 - Sermon #4: John Wesley, "Justification by Faith"
 - Book chapter: E. Johnson, "Redeeming the Name of Christ," from C. LaCugna, *Freeing Theology*.

Recommended:

- Hardy, Edward, ed. *Christology of the Later Fathers* (Westminster).
 Grenz, Stan, et al, *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*.
 Steward, David, *The Literature of Theology* (Westminster)
 R. Jenson and C. Braaten, *Christian Dogmatics*, 2 vols. (Fortress)

COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION:

GRADING:

Traditional Grading In general, you can expect 90% to be the cut-off for an "A-," 80% for a "B-," etc. If you wish to have a traditional (A-F) grading scheme, please fill out the print form and hand it in during the first ten days of the semester. Forms can be found online at the registrar's web pages or at my faculty web page. *Online grade book*. I use the online grade book in MyLutherNet to give you an idea of your progress in the class. These grades are NOT official. In particular, pass/fail students will see a "C" instead of a "P" because the latter grade is not available in our software.

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|----------------------------------|-------|
| Quiz | 20 |
| Midterm. | 25 |
| Theological exegesis (oral)..... | 35 |
| Bibliography | 50 |
| Hymns, liturgy | 40 |
| Final Exam..... | 75 |
| Sermon [or term paper] | 100 |
| Precept..... | 55 |
| | ===== |
| Course Total..... | 400 |

Pass/Fail Grading

For any element of this class, a “Pass” will be at least a “C+” in traditional terms. Assignments which “Fail” will be returned for no credit. You will have to do them over again (or a substitute assignment), in order to earn a passing grade for the assignment. Marginal assignments may also be rewritten in order to improve to a Pass level. You may receive one “marginal” grades for an assignment and still Pass this class. The final grade of M will be assigned to those who receive a Marginal grade in more of the assigned elements of this class, or who flunk one element. Lower achievements will be graded F.

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 fail the class. 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 your essays for this class (e-files are OK) until after you receive your final grade. I may ask to see them!

QUIZ:

The quiz will be over terms and names drawn from *101 Key Terms*. I will supply you with a list to study. It will be multiple-choice, matching & T/F.

EXAMS:

Your final exam will be short-answer (250 words or so) essay questions. Your midterm will be just one of these (to get you used to them). Both will be taken in class and will have a study guide given out in advance.

ONLINE PRECEPT:

Your participation in the online precept for this class is required. Your weekly assignments and due dates will be posted in the MyLutherNet web pages *for the precept* (which is not the same as the class web pages).

You will participate in three kinds of writing for these assignments:

Opening statements, 250-300 words, by the weekly leader are due on Saturdays, noon.

Response statements, 100-200 words, by everyone are due on Mondays, 7pm

Summary statements, 100-200 words, by the weekly leader are due on Wednesdays, 9am.

Remember to post the summaries to the full class and not your group..

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Your written assignments for this class will be based upon an assigned doctrine for the semester, which you will investigate and develop. The cap-stone of this entire process will be your doctrinal sermon. Samples of the written assignments can be found on my faculty Web page.

General Remarks

In general, your papers should be written in good English style and follow standard academic norms. Begin with an introduction and end with a summary conclusion. Follow standard footnote (or endnote) format for the humanities. We prefer but do not require Chicago style (the “Short Cut”). Whatever style you use, **always include a list of Works Cited** (i.e., a bibliography). If you are not familiar with these standards, I recommend you study the seminary “Short Cut” available at the Library circulation desk, online at the Library web site, or in the seminary bookstore. This Short Cut is based upon Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers*. For each written assignment, I have placed some sample papers on my web page (www.luthersem.edu/apadgett). They are not perfect, but will give you an idea of what is wanted.

Late Papers: I will not accept late papers, unless you contact me *before the due date* to explain why the paper will be late. Unexcused lateness will result in a lower grade.

Annotated Bibliography (about 5 pages or so): **See handout** (also online at my faculty web page).

Hymns, Songs, and Liturgy (about 5 pages or so)

Liturgy and hymnody are important theological literature. Choose two hymns (or songs) and discuss their theological meaning for your assigned doctrine. One of your songs/hymns must be from before 1900. Then, either create a piece of liturgy (such as a public prayer or part of a worship service or sacrament), or choose an existing section of written prayers/liturgy from your denominational resource. In either case, explain the theological meaning of this liturgical text for your assigned doctrine. Include the full text (photocopy is OK) of all hymns, songs, and liturgy you discuss, OR, give the page number from the LBW or ELW. Also, give a full citation of the sources you used.

Theological Exegesis (oral report & one-page summary with second bibliography page)

Choose a main pericope or passage of Scripture to exegete that discusses your assigned doctrine. In your works cited page also list three other passages from the Bible that develop your theme. You will give this “paper” as an oral report in a small group. You may want to give your group members a handout/summary. You will be evaluated by your other group members.

Your oral report will have four parts: (1) Mention your assigned doctrine, and introduce the Bible book you are discussing, and to the place of your passage in it. (2) Formal Analysis. Explain the structure of the passage, the meaning of its key words, and the overall purpose/teaching/meaning of the passage. (3) Explain the meaning of the passage for your assigned doctrine. (4) Any conclusion or reflection you want to end with.

In doing research for your oral report, use modern critical commentaries and Bible encyclopedia articles. Write-up a one page summary of your oral report in good English prose style with full paragraphs (NOT just bullet points!). To this attach another page with a bibliography of all sources used for this assignment, and your three other passages from Scripture (mentioned above).

Doctrinal Sermon (about 8 to 10 pages) [or term paper]

Create a “teaching” or doctrinal sermon on your assigned theological theme that would take 20–30 minutes to deliver. This is usually about eight to ten pages of text (double-spaced). For your audience, imagine a University Church or Seminary chapel context of interested and learned believers. You may use as your text any of the Bible passages you list in your theological exegesis paper. In your sermon, discuss your text but also allude to the hymns, songs, or liturgy, and the authors or books, which you wrote about in your previous three written assignments. Include a set of footnotes written to me in which you give a

full citation or a fuller explanation for the passing allusions in your sermon. Attach a full bibliography of all commentaries, reference works, and theological books which you used in creating your sermon.

Term Paper: if you wish to do a term paper instead of a doctrinal sermon, please see me or the TA to discuss this option.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not required for this class, apart from test days. I expect attendance, and may call the roll from time to time, because it helps me get to know you all better. There is no penalty for missing class, apart for the learning experience you deprive yourself of.

Students with Disabilities

Students in this class with a disability which could prevent them from fully demonstrating their learning should let me know as soon as possible, and contact the Student Resource Center (Dean of Student's Office), to begin disability verification and discuss necessary accommodations for full participation and completion of course requirements.

Course Schedule

| Dates (Thur) | Topic | Readings NB: <u>Two</u> Braaten books! |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Sept. 10 | Introduction & Assignments | <i>None today!</i> |
| Sept. 17 | <i>How shall we study Christ Biblical Authority and Interpretation</i> | Braaten, Locus 6, 469-481; Braaten, <i>Principles</i> , ch. 1; O'Collins, ch. 1 & pp.47-54; Moltmann, ch. 1 |
| Sept. 24 | <i>Jesus, Israel and OT; Virgin Mary & Virgin Birth</i> QUIZ | O'Collins, ch. 2 & pp. 273-278; Braaten, Locus 6, 545-547; Sermon #1 |
| Oct. 1 | <i>His Ministry and Message</i> Annotated Biblio due Monday at 10am | O'Collins, pp. 54-81, 250-273 Braaten, Locus 6, parts 2; Sermon #2 |
| Oct. 8 | <i>Crucifixion; Theology of the Cross</i> | O'Collins, 67-81; Moltmann, ch. 2 & 4; Forde, parts 1& 2 |
| Oct. 15 | Resurrection; Feminist Theology & Christology <i>Hymns, Liturgy paper due Friday by 5pm</i> <i>Midterm Study Guide given out</i> | Elisabeth Johnson – all; Braaten, Locus 6, part 6; O'Collins, ch. 4 Moltmann, ch. 5; Sermon #3 |
| Oct. 22 | <i>The Person of Christ</i> Midterm Question – in class | Braaten, Locus 6, part 4 & 5 O'Collins, ch. 5&6 |
| Oct. 29 | <i>Theological Exegesis Oral Reports</i> | <i>None today!</i> |
| Nov. 5 | <i>The Person of Christ Continued</i> | Braaten, Locus 6, part 3; O'Collins, 8, 9 & 10 Moltmann, ch. 3 |
| Nov. 12 | <i>Jesus and the Triune God; The Work of Christ (intro)</i> | Braaten, <i>Principles</i> , ch. 4; Moltmann, ch. 6 Forde, part 3; Sermon #4 |
| Nov. 19 | <i>The Work of Christ Continued</i> Doctrinal Sermon due Monday Nov. 30 th by 10am | Braaten, ch. 5; Forde, part 4; O'Collins, ch. 12 & 13 |
| Nov. 26 | Happy Thanksgiving! | |
| Dec. 3 | <i>Work of Christ Continued</i> (Final Exam study guide) | Braaten, <i>Principles</i> , ch. 7 Braaten, Locus 6, part 7; Moltmann, ch. 7 & 8 |
| Dec. 10 | <i>Final Exam – in class</i> | |