

SYT 385/STD 451 Theology of God

Winter 2020

Course Outline*

*subject to revision by professor

Class Start Date & End Date

Thursday, June 7, 2020. Final class date: Thursday, April 15, 2020.

**Note: On-campus courses begin on the first date the course is offered and the last date the course is offered excluding exam week.

**Online courses begin on the first day of any semester and end on the last day of the semester including exam week.

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

**Room assignments are located on the website under course offerings.

Instructors Name: Rev. Shayne Craig, PSS
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Course Description

Aspects of the problem of God in the modern era. Preparations for belief in the Trinity in the history of Israel. The Christ event and the Trinity. The Trinity and the early Church Councils. "Explanations" of the Trinity old and new. Special questions regarding the Trinity (the Trinity and the immutability of God, creation, modern science, evil, gender, Christian worship and spirituality). Pneumatology.

Course Objectives

Formulated to address one or more of the four goals of theological education at NTC as articulated in the context and scope section of the catalogue.

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course seeks to deepen students' knowledge of the Triune God as revealed in Scripture and the Church's Tradition. This is achieved through class lectures and discussions as well as assignments involving research and personal reflection.
- b) **Cultural Context** - This course will take account of the diversity of contemporary culture in which faith in the triune God is both challenged and lived. Consideration will be given to the negative effects of contemporary relativism and individualism as well as the positive search for authenticity and freedom in the "reception" of this faith.

- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course will offer an understanding of the triune God that fosters a mature moral and spiritual life.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The course will seek to demonstrate the importance of a sound faith understanding of the triune God for effective pastoral leadership in today's Church. It will also seek to demonstrate how this doctrine is central to a theological synthesis.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

1. Read the following books:

Coda, Piero. **From the Trinity**. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2020.

O'Collins, G. **The Tripersonal God. Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity**. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.

2. A 5 page reflection paper on CantaleMESSA, R. **Contemplating the Trinity**. Ijamsville, Maryland: The Word Among Us Press, 2007 (worth 20% of final mark). Due January 14, 2020.

- a. One term paper between 15 and 18 pages to be handed in no later than Thursday, March 25, 2020 (worth 40% of final mark).

Term paper topics:

- The Trinitarian theology of one of the following: St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar or Jurgen Moltmann
- One of the topics in Contemporary Trinitarian Theology:
 - o The Trinity and the Paschal Mystery
 - o The relationship between the immanent and economic Trinity
 - o The Trinity and the Immutability of God
 - o The Trinity and Creation
 - o The Trinity and Modern Science
 - o The Trinity and the Mystery of Evil
 - o Pneumatology (Theology of the Holy Spirit, including the question of the *filioque*).
 - o Trinity and Gender
 - o The Trinity, Christian Worship and Spirituality
 - o Another topic which interests you, with professor's permission.

OR

- b. Two term papers between 8 and 12 pages, the first to be handed in no later than Thursday, February 11th, 2020, the second no later than Thursday, April 8th, 2020 (each worth 20% of final mark). Topics for the shorter papers: the first paper, on the Trinitarian theology of one of the theologians listed above; the second, on one of the topics listed above.

3. A final exam at the end of the course (worth 40% of final mark.)

FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

1. Read O'Collins, G. **The Tripersonal God. Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity.** New York: Paulist Press, 1999. Read selections from Coda, Piero. **From the Trinity.** Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2020.
2. A 5 page reflection paper on Cantalemba, R. **Contemplating the Trinity.** Ijamsville, Maryland: The Word Among Us Press, 2007 (worth 20% of final mark) Due January 14, 2020.
3. One term paper between 8 and 12 pages to be handed in no later than, Thursday, March 25, 2020 (worth 40% of final mark). Topics to be discussed with professor at the beginning of the course.
4. A final exam at the end of the course (worth 40% of final mark).

Textbooks

O'Collins, G. **The Tripersonal God. Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity.** New York: Paulist Press, 1999.

Coda, Piero. **From the Trinity.** Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2020.

Recommended Reading

Dominum et Vivificantem (encyclical of Pope John Paul II on Holy Spirit (1986))

Pope John Paul II. **Celebrate 2000! Reflections on Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father.** Ann Arbor: Servant Publications, 1996.

Select Questions on the Theology of God the Redeemer (International Theological Commission, 1995)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (articles 232-267).

Emery, G. **The Trinity: An Introduction to the Catholic Doctrine of the Triune God.** Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2011.

Course Requirements

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Written Reflection Paper | 20% |
| 2. Term Paper(s) | 40% |
| 3. Final Exam | 40% |

Late Submission Policy.

Late assignments are accepted only with the prior permission of the professor.

Course Schedule

I Introducing Trinitarian Theology

II The Trinity and Its Scriptural Roots

III The Doctrine of the Trinity: Its Emergence and Development in the Early Church

IV Theology of the Trinity in the Medieval Period

V Contemporary Trinitarian Theologians.

VI Contemporary Trinitarian Theology: Problems and Perspectives

Date	Topic
January 7	Introducing Trinitarian Theology
January 14	The Trinity and its Scriptural Roots
January 21	The Trinity and its Scriptural Roots
January 28	The Doctrine of the Trinity: Its Emergence and Development in the Early Church
February 4	The Doctrine of the Trinity: Its Emergence and Development in the Early Church
February 11	The Doctrine of the Trinity: Its Emergence and Development in the Early Church
February 18	READING BREAK
February 25	Theology of the Trinity in the Medieval Period
March 4	Theology of the Trinity in the Medieval Period
March 11	Theology of the Trinity in the Medieval Period
March 18	Contemporary Trinitarian Theologians
March 25	Contemporary Trinitarian Theologians
April 1	HOLY THURSDAY
April 8	Contemporary Trinitarian Theology: Problems and Perspectives
April 15	Contemporary Trinitarian Theology: Problems and Perspectives

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Aichters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography

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