

THE 783 Contemporary Theology: Mid-20th Century to the Present
Fall 2007
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Course Description: A study of the various kinds of theological work since the decline of neo-orthodoxy. This will include the secular theology of the 1960's, process theology, liberation theology (including black theology and feminist theology as well as South American liberation theology, story theology, the theology of hope, especially the work of Jurgen Moltmann, the theological contribution of Pannenberg, and the recent work of evangelical and Roman Catholic theologians.

This course intends to: a) introduce the major theological voices in Christian Theology since 1960, b) define and analyze the most significant themes in Christian theology since 1960, c) read contemporary theology, and d) encourage critical writing and thinking.

Texts

John Milbank, *The Suspended Middle: Henri de Lubac and the Debate Concerning the Supernatural*/Eerdmans, 2005.

Creston, Davis, John Milbank, Slavoj Zizek, ed, *Theology and the Political: The New Debate*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2005.

Jon Sobrino and Ignacio, ed, *Systematic Theology: Perspectives from Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 1993,1996.

Susan Frank Parsons, *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Assignments

Theological Essays. Each student will write three theological essays on assigned topics. Each essay will be worth a total of 80 points. Criteria for evaluation: clarity of the description – 30 pts, strength of the critical analysis – 25 pts, reflection upon class lecture and assigned reading – 15 pts, and quality of writing – 10 pts.

Book Review. Each student will write a critical book review on a significant theological work published by a recognized theologian after 1960. The student can either choose from the bibliography (primary sources) or propose a work for approval by the professor. Criteria for evaluation: grasp of content – 50 pts, grasp of theological issues – 35 pts, connection to material covered in class – 25 pts, force of the argument and writing – 15 pts. Total points - - 125 points.

Participation. The quality of this class is dependent upon the active participation of each member of the class. A student can participate in class in two ways: a) comments/questions made in class and/or b) blackboard discussion. This assignment will be 100 points. Criteria for evaluation: Degree of insight in questions/comments – 50 pts; Connection of comments/questions to assigned reading – 25 pts; and Breadth of comments/questions over the semester – 25 points.

Academic Policies

1. All work will be due no later than **December 11 at 3:00pm.**
2. All work must be submitted through the assignments function of Blackboard set up for this class.
3. All grades are open to reasonable and respectful review.

4. It is expected that all work turned in for this class reflect the labors of the person whose name appears on the paper. If there is any evidence to the contrary of this the student will receive a zero for the assignment. This includes any cheating an examination.

Grade Scale

A	465-418
B	417-372
C	371-325
D	324-279
F	278-000

Class Schedule

September 11

No class

September 18

Where Have the Titans Gone?: Theology Since Tillich

September 25

Pannenberg

October 2

Moltmann

October 9

Process Theology

October 16

Feminist Theology

Read: Susan Frank Parsons, *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*

Essay #1 is due by 3:00pm

October 23

Reading and Research Week

October 30

Liberation Theology

Read: Jon Sobrino and Ignacio, ed, *Systematic Theology: Perspectives from Liberation Theology*

November 6

Evangelical Theology

November 13

No class

Essay #2 is due by 3:00pm

November 20

Radical Orthodoxy

Read: John Milbank, *The Suspended Middle: Henri de Lubac and the Debate Concerning the Supernatural*

November 27 and December 4

New Directions for a New Century

Read: Creston, Davis, John Milbank, Slavoj Zizek, ed, *Theology and the Political: The New Debate*

Book Review is due by 3:00pm

Essay #3 is due on December 10 by 3:00pm

Selected Bibliography

Boff, Leonardo, *The Maternal Face of God: The Feminine and its Religious Expressions*. Blackburn, VA: Collins Religious Publications, 1979.

Carlson, Thomas, *Indiscretion: Finitude and the Naming of God*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Cobb, John and Pinnock, Clark., eds, *Searching for an Adequate God: A Dialogue between Process and Free Will Theists*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

Farley, Edward, *Divine Empathy: A Theology of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

Farley, Edward, *Good and Evil: Interpreting the Human Condition*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schussler, *Discipleship of Equals: A Critical Feminist Ekkesia-logy*. New York: Crossroad, 1993.

Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schussler, *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. New York: Crossroads, 1989.

Gilkey, Langdon, *Reaping the Whirlwind: A Christian Interpretation of History*. New York: Seabury Press, 1981.

Hutter, Reinhard, *Suffering Divine Things: Theology as Church Practice*. Grand Rapids: Translated by Doug Scott. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.

Jenson, Robert. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997, 1999.

Jewett, Paul K. *God, Creations, and Revelation: A Neo-Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991.

Jungel, Eberhard, *God as the Mystery of the World: On the Foundation of the Theology of the Crucified One in the Dispute between Theism and Atheism*. Translated by Darrell L. Gunder. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983.

- Kaufman, Gordon, *Systematic Theology: A Historicist Perspective*. New York: Charles Scriber's Sons, 1968.
- McClendon, James W., *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986, 1994, 2000.
- Oden, Thomas, *The Rebirth of Orthodoxy: Signs of New Life in Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 2003.
- Oden, Thomas, *Requiem: A Lament in Three Movements*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Ogden, Schubert. *On Theology*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1986.
- Placher, William, *Unapologetic Theology: A Christian Voice in a Pluralistic Conversation*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- Rahner, Karl, *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity*. Translated by William V. Dych. New York: Crossroad, 1987.
- Ruether, Rosemary Radford, *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1983.
- Schillebeeckx, Edward, *Christ: The Experience of Jesus as Lord*. Translated by John Bowden. New York: Crossroad, 1981.
- Schillebeeckx, Edward, *Jesus: An Experiment in Christology*. Translated by John Bowden. New York: Crossroad, 1981.
- Suchocki, Margorie Hewitt, *God Christ Church: A Practical Guide of Process Theology*. New York: Crossroad, 1997.
- Taylor, Mark C. *Erring: A Postmodern A/theology*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1984.
- Tracy, David. *Plurality and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, and Hope*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987.
- Tracy, David, *The Analogical Imagination: Christian Theology and the Culture of Pluralism*. New York: Crossroad, 1987.
- Weaver, J. Denny, *The Nonviolent Atonement*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2001.
- Williams, Delores S. *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2004.
- Wright, N. T., *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.