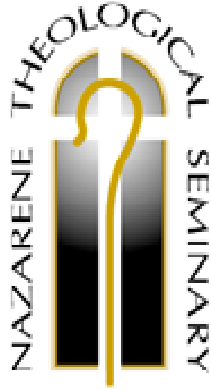


Theology of Atonement - THE 790/890

Fall Semester 2009



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Course Description:

This seminar will explore the biblical, historical and systematic theology of the Christian doctrine of Atonement. Special attention will be given to how Wesley's theology engages Cross and Atonement in the *missio dei* of the Church.

Course Objectives:

- * To become familiar with the biblical narrative of Cross and Atonement through the Holy Scriptures rich diversity of metaphors.
- * To become better acquainted with former theories of Atonement in the Church's renewing vision to proclaim God's love for the world.
- * To begin to integrate the doctrine of Atonement with '*all the rest*' of the Church's dogma.
- * To be able to engage Wesley's theology in the doctrine of Atonement.

Course Assignments:

1. Table Talks

There will be four class periods (*TBA*) set aside to discuss the assigned textbooks on the doctrine of Atonement. The first round of *Table Talks* will consist of two groups with five students in each group. Each group of five will engage the other group in a lively spirited *Table Talk* (designed after Luther's *Table Talks*) ☺ ☺ on specifically chosen chapters of the assigned texts. The professor will serve as the moderator of the discussions. Assigned chapters of the book to be discussed by each group will not be given until the day of the class seminar. The configuration of the second round of *Table Talks* will be as the first round but will be given a different set of chapters on the assigned readings. Specific instructions along with the assigned texts, and dates for each round of *Table Talks*, will be given on the first day of class. *Table Talk* will constitute 1/8th of your final grade. All of the *Table Talks* covering seven assigned textbooks will comprise 1/4th of the course grade.

2. Research Project

A maximum of 4 students will be assigned to a collaborative *Research Project*. The final product of each *Research Project* will consist of a 30 page (7,500 words of text) typewritten research paper that is fully footnoted, with bibliography, table of contents, and in Turabian format. *Specific Detail* pertaining to the *thesis* of each *Research Project* surrounding various topics, themes, problems and issues pertaining to the doctrine of Atonement will be discussed more fully in class. The *thesis* of each *Research Project* will be presented and defended in the Seminar (2 hours of presentation and defense) and after sufficient time for presentation and defense it will be *rebutted* by an assigned group. The remainder of the class time will be spent by the *Research Group* engaging the rest of the class in a critical discussion of the issues and implications of their thesis. *Further details* will be given on the first day of class. Seminar presentations will begin on the date all *Research Projects* are due—**November 2.**

Each group of 4 participants will be assigned to a threaded **MOODLE 'Research Discussion Group.'** This is a collaboratively earned grade, unless it can be determined by the members of the group and the threaded blackboard discussion that full participation was missing. I will periodically drop into the threaded discussion. I may or may not offer response(s) to the ongoing dialogue. Part of your final grade will be determined by your responsible involvement "documented" on the **MOODLE** (*what a name* ☺) with the other members of your assigned group. This paper is to be placed in the specific digital drop box designated for each **Research Project.** The due date for the **Research Project Paper** is **November 2.** This **Research Project Paper** will constitute 1/2 of your final grade.

3. Comprehensive Essay Exam

There will be one **Comprehensive Essay Exam** given at the end of the semester covering seminar discussions, lectures, research projects, and assigned readings. This exam will comprise 1/4th of your final grade. The date is *TBA.*

Course Textbooks:

- Hans Boersma, ***Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross***, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic), 2004.
- Paul S. Fiddes, ***Past Event and Present Salvation: The Christian Idea of Atonement***, (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press), 1989.
- Stephen Finlan, ***Problems with Atonement: The Origins of, and Controversy About, the Atonement Doctrine***, (Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, A Michael Glazier Book), 2005.
- Joel B. Green & Mark D. Baker, ***Recovering the Scandal of the Cross***, (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press), 2000.
- Colin E. Gunton, ***The Actuality of Atonement***, (London: T&T Clark), 1988.

- Mark Heim, *Saved from Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.), 2006.
- Peter Schmiechen, *Saving Power: Theories of Atonement and Forms of the Church*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.), 2005.