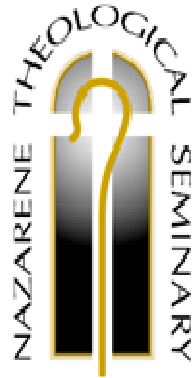


# Theology of Irenaeus - THE 790A

Spring Semester, 2010



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## Course Description:

This seminar will explore the life and thought of St. Irenaeus in an attempt to 'place' him within Christendom. Special attention will be given to how Wesley's theology of the Christian life engages the legacy and theology of Irenaeus in the *missio dei* of the Church.

## Course Objectives:

- \* To become familiar with the theology of Irenaeus.
- \* To become better acquainted with the '*place*' of Irenaeus in the Church.
- \* To be able to engage Wesley's theology in the theology of Irenaeus.

## Course Assignments:

### *1. Table Talks*

There will be 7 class periods (**Feb. 15-March 29**) set aside to discuss the assigned textbooks on the theology of St. Irenaeus. Each 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* <sup>(designed after Luther's *Table Talks*)</sup> 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. More specific detail will be given on the first day of class. All *Table Talks* (along with the '*critical response*' to the '*thesis paper*') covering all of the assigned textbooks will comprise 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the course grade.

## **2. Research (Thesis) Papers**

Every student will write and present a researched *thesis paper* in class. Every student will be assigned as a *critical respondent* to each presenter of the *thesis paper*. The final product of each *Thesis* will consist of a 20 page (5,000 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 Paper* surrounding various topics, themes, problems and issues pertaining to the theology of Irenaeus will be discussed more fully in class.

The *thesis* of each *Research Paper* will be presented and defended in the Seminar (1 hour of presentation and 10 minutes defense) after a 15 minute *critical response*. The remainder of the class time will be spent by the *Presenter* 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 one week after all *Research Projects* are due—**April 5**.

This paper is to be placed in the digital drop box designated for each *Research Paper*. The due date for the *Research Paper* is **March 29**. This *Research Project Paper* will constitute 1/2 of your final grade.

## **3. Comprehensive Essay Exam**

There will be one *Comprehensive Essay Exam* given toward the end of the semester covering seminar discussions, lectures, research projects, and assigned readings. This exam will comprise 1/4<sup>th</sup> of your final grade. The date is **Monday, May 3**.

Course Textbooks:

- John Behr, (editor) *St. Irenaeus of Lyons: On the Apostolic Preaching*, (Crestwood, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press), 1997.
- Mary Donovan, *A Guide to Irenaeus*, (Collegeville, Minnesota: Michael Glazier Books), 1997.
- Robert M. Grant, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, (London & New York: Routledge), 1997.
- St. Irenaeus of Lyons: *Against Heresies*. A Free text from this can be found from this website:  
<http://www.textexcavation.com/irenaeusah.html>. Cf. also the following from Early Christian Writings:  
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/irenaeus.html>
- For PDF downloads of *Against Heresies*:  
<http://pdfdatabase.com/index.php?q=irenaeus+against+heresies>
- John Lawson, *The Biblical Theology of Saint Irenaeus*, (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers), 2006.
- Eric Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, (Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press), 2001.
- Gustav Wingren, *Man and the Incarnation: A Study in the Biblical Theology of Irenaeus*, (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers), 2004.