

**NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
THE850 THEOLOGY OF THE MAJOR EASTERN FATHERS  
FALL SEMESTER, 2006  
Dr T.A. Noble**

**SYLLABUS**

**I OBJECTIVE**

To understand the theology of the major Eastern Fathers in the context of their time so that we can wrestle with the contemporary relevance of their insights to our Theology and preaching.

**II BOOKS FOR USE IN CLASS**

Edward R. Hardy (ed), *Christology of the Later Fathers* (Vol. 3 of *The Library of Christian Classics*), London & Philadelphia, 1954

T.F. Torrance, *The Trinitarian Faith*, Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1998

**III OUTLINE**

Section A

Most of the primary documents which are not in Hardy's *Christology of the Later Fathers* are available in the reference section of the library and on the internet at [Ante-Nicene Christian Library](#) and at [Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers](#). You need to run off a copy of each document not in Hardy and bring it to class.

All students are expected to read the primary documents in advance of discussion in class. Those who are leading each seminar are expected also to have read the secondary works given in the Select Bibliography.

1. Irenaeus [19 September: T. Bridges, D. Davis]

*Proof of the Apostolic Preaching* (trans. Joseph P. Smith), *Ancient Christian Writers*, Vol. 16, New York: Newman Press, nd

[On line: search under 'Irenaeus', then click on the second entry on page I, [Irenaeus of Lyons](#), then click on [CCEL English Translation The Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching](#): that gives you the Table of Contents; click on [Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching](#)]

*Against Heresies* (*Ante-Nicene Christian Library*, Vol. 5), Bk II, 1-2, 9-10; Bk III, 1-2, 5-7, 16-20

2. Clement of Alexandria [26 September: H. Bryant, C. Canton]

*The Miscellanies* (*ANCL*, Vols 4 & 12), Bk I, 9; Bk 2, 2-4, 6, 11-15; Bk IV, 18-26; Bk VII, 1-3, 6, 7, 10-16

3. Origen [10 October: N.B. Sweeden, J. Graham]

*On First Principles [De Principiis]*, (*ANCL*, Vol. 10), Preface, Bk I, 1-8; Bk. II, 1-3, 6-7

4. Athanasius [24 October: J. Hancock, G. Harris, W. Rice]

*On the Incarnation [De Incarnatione]* (in *Library of Christian Classics*, Vol. 3, *The Christology of the Later Fathers*, ed. E.R. Hardy). See also Athanasius, *Contra Gentes* and *De Incarnatione*, ed. Robert W. Thomson, Oxford: Clarendon, 1971, and *St Athanasius on the Incarnation*, trans by a Religious of CSMV, introduction by C.S. Lewis, London: Mowbray, 1946, etc.

*Against the Arians [Contra Arianos]* (in *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Second Series, Vol 4)

5. The Cappadocians [31 October: L. Lyons, J. Main, G. Miller]

Basil of Caesarea, *On the Spirit* (in *NPNF*, Second Series, Vol. 8)  
Gregory of Nazianzus, *Five Theological Orations* (in *LCC*, Vol. 3, ed. Hardy)  
Gregory of Nazianzus, *Letters on the Apollinarian Controversy* (in *LCC*, Vol. 3, ed. Hardy)  
Gregory of Nyssa, *The Catechetical Oration [=Address on Religious Instruction]* (in *LCC*, vol. 3)

6. Cyril of Alexandria [7 November: H. Norris, M. Purlee, S. Savage]

*Third Letter to Nestorius* (*LCC*, Vol. 3, ed. Hardy)  
*On the Unity of Christ* (trans. J. McGuckin), Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1995

### Section B

Discussion in the remaining seminars: T.F. Torrance, *The Trinitarian Faith* (1988). Prepare for each seminar by reading the chapter(s) carefully in advance.

14 November	Chapter 1, 'Faith and Godliness', and Chapter 2, 'Access to the Father'
28 November	Chapter 3, 'The Almighty Creator'
28 November	Chapter 4, 'God of God, Light of Light'
28 November	Chapter 5, 'The Incarnate Saviour'
5 December	Chapter 6, 'The Eternal Spirit'
5 December	Chapter 7, 'The One Church'
5 December	Chapter 8, 'The Trinity of God'

## IV REQUIREMENTS

1. To read the primary texts in advance of each seminar.
2. To lead a one-hour seminar during Section A and possibly another seminar in Section B
3. To submit a file of theological reflections on each seminar (one page per seminar hour) summarizing the theological contribution of each major Father studied and their significance for contemporary issues (Due 14 November).
4. An essay of around 3,000 to 4,000 words on one of the Fathers or on an aspect of the theology of the Fathers (Due 28 November).
5. Final examination

## V BIBLIOGRAPHY

A '**Patrology**' is an encyclopedia of Patristics. The best known is:

Johannes Quasten, *Patrology*, Westminster, Maryland: Christian Classics, 1992

This is in four volumes:

Volume 1 The Beginnings of Patristic Literature From the Apostles to Irenaeus  
Volume 2 The Ante-Nicene Literature after Irenaeus  
Volume 3 The Golden Age of Greek Patristic Literature

Volume 4 The Golden Age of Latin Patristic Literature from the Council of Nicea to the Council of Chalcedon

For each of the Fathers you will find a brief biography, a survey of his writings (with full bibliographies of editions, translations and studies), and an outline of his theology (with a bibliography of secondary works).

The following **standard works of *Dogmengeschichte*** may be helpful as background reading:

- J.F. Bethune-Baker, *The Early History of Christian Doctrine*, London: Methuen, 1942  
Gerald Bray, *Creeds, Councils and Christ*, Downers Grove: IVP, 1984  
G.R. Evans, *The First Christian Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Early Church*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004  
Justo L. Gonzalez, *A History of Christian Thought*, Vol. 1, Nashville: Abingdon, 1970  
J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*, London: Black, 1968 (4)  
J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Creeds*, London: Longman, 1972 (3)  
James Orr, *The Progress of Dogma*, London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1908

See also:

- John Anthony McGuckin, *The Westminster Handbook to Patristic Theology*, Louisville/London: Westminster John Knox, 2004  
Christopher A. Hall, *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers*, Downers Grove: IVP, 1998

The following are **more specialized** in some cases dealing with Orthodox theology since the Fathers:

- Georges Florovsky, *The Eastern Fathers of the Fourth Century*, Vaduz: Buchervertriebsanstalt, 1987  
R.P.C. Hanson, *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God*, Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1988  
Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, Cambridge: James Clarke, 1957  
Richard A. Norris, *God and World in Early Christian Theology*, London: Black, 1966  
G.L. Prestige, *Fathers and Heretics*, London: SPCK, 1940 (Chapters on Origen, Athanasius and Cyril)  
G.L. Prestige, *God in Patristic Thought*, London: SPCK, 1936  
Frances Young, *From Nicea to Chalcedon*, London, 1983  
John Zizioulas, *Being as Communion*, London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1985

More recent publications which specialize in the Patristic teaching on **Christian holiness**:

- Mayeul de Dreuille, *Seeking the Absolute Love*, New York: Gracewing, 1999  
Harriet A. Luckman & Linda Kulzer (eds), *Purity of Heart in Early Ascetic and Monastic Literature*, Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1999

**Works on specific Patristic theologians:**

Irenaeus

- John Lawson, *The Biblical Theology of Irenaeus* London: Epworth, 1948  
R.M. Grant, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, London & New York, 1997  
Denis Minns, *Irenaeus*, London, 1994  
Eric Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, Cambridge, 2001  
G. Wingren, *Man and Incarnation. A Study in the Biblical Theology of Irenaeus*, Edinburgh, 1959

### Clement of Alexandria

- C. Bigg, *The Christian Platonists of Alexandria*, Oxford, 1913  
H. Chadwick, in A.H. Armstrong, *The Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Mediaeval Philosophy*, Cambridge, 1967, 137-192  
E. Osborn, *The Philosophy of Clement of Alexandria*, Cambridge, 1957

### Origen

- Henri Crouzel, *Origen*, Edinburgh & San Francisco, 1989  
Jean Daniélou, *Origen*, London & New York, 1955  
J.W. Trigg, *Origen: The Bible and Philosophy in the Third-Century Church*, London & Atlanta, 1983

### Athanasius

- Khaled Anatolios, *Athanasius, The Coherence of his Thought*, London & New York: Routledge, 1998  
Alvyn Petterson, *Athanasius*, London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1995  
T.F. Torrance, 'Athanasius: A Study in the Foundations of Classical Theology,' *Theology in Reconciliation*, London, 1975

### The Cappadocians

- Philip Rousseau, *Basil of Caesarea*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: Univ. of California Press, 1994  
John McGuckin, *St Gregory of Nazianzus: An Intellectual Biography*, Crestwood: St Vladimir's, 2001  
Anthony S.J. Meredith, *The Cappadocians*, New York, 1995  
Anthony S.J. Meredith, *Gregory of Nyssa*, London, 1999

### Cyril of Alexandria

- Norman Russell, *Cyril of Alexandria*, London: Routledge, 2000  
Lionel R. Wickham, *Cyril of Alexandria: Select Letters*, OUP, 1983  
John A. McGuckin, *St Cyril of Alexandria: The Christological Controversy*, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994, Chapter Three  
Thomas G. Weinandy and Daniel A. Keating (eds), *The Theology of St Cyril of Alexandria: A Critical Appreciation*, London/New York: T. & T. Clark, 2003