

Fuller Theological Seminary

Systematic Theology I

ST501

Revelation, God and Creation

Dr. William Dyrness

With Dr. Linda Wagener

Fall, 2002

Monday 3:00-5:50.

Part One: General Introduction

a. Goals of the course. Through lectures, discussions, reading and writing this course is designed to provide an introduction to the theology of the Church with respect to Revelation, God, Creation and the Person. Systematic theology is that discipline of the Church in which Christians reflect on their faith and worship in the light of their contemporary context. This reflection grows from re-reading Scripture and the Christian tradition while listening to contemporary voices.

At the end of the course it is expected that the student, (1) will be familiar with the major issues and perspectives on God and Creation, (2) will be able to express her/his own point of view on the major questions, (3) support these views from Scripture and appropriate authorities and (4) begin to reflect on this in the light of their professional goals.

b. Format of the course. The class will meet once a week, on Monday afternoons for three hours. Class will consist of lecture and discussion—both in small and large groups.

The weekly format will be: Devotions and a lecture on the topics of the day by Dr. Dyrness; Following a break, Dr. Wagener will respond to the week's readings and, with Dr. Dyrness, lead a discussion. Finally Dr. Dyrness will sum up the issues raised in discussion.

The class is encouraged to meet in small groups outside of class, and, by special permission, group assignments are encouraged. Students are welcome to meet with Professor Dyrness outside of class during his office hours (at 456 Ford Place upstairs at the back), Tuesdays 10-3, Wednesdays 1-3, before or after class or at other times by special arrangements. The best means of communication is via email: wdyrness@fuller.edu. Appointments can be arranged with Professor Wagener by calling her extension 5603 or via email: lwagener@fuller.edu. The TA for the class Tim Stanley can be reached via email: timothywstanley@cp.fuller.edu.

c. Assignments.

1. Attendance at class, active listening to the lectures and participation in discussion. The instructor should be notified, in advance if possible, when a student needs to miss class. It will be the student's responsibility to get class notes and assignments from a fellow student.
2. Reading required texts as indicated in the class schedule, and preparing a one (two maximum) page (typed) summary and response. Responses for eight (of ten) weeks will be required and will make up 20% of the grade. If possible students are urged to do the reading in preparation for the first day of class, as each day will feature a discussion of the reading.
3. Writing two short papers (6-8 pp NOT MORE), on two of the three topics listed below. These papers are designed to provide opportunity to reflect theologically on the material presented in the lectures and reading. Grading will depend on the quality of the student's own theological interaction with the readings and lectures.

(1). Topic one paper due at class time October 14 will interact with issues of theological method as described in the reading and class lectures, especially as theological and psychological method interact.

(2.). Topic two paper due at class time November 4 will discuss a particular issue related to God or the Trinity.

(3). Topic three paper due at class time November 25 will discuss a specific issue related to the human person and sin.

N. B. Students who have previously had an overview course in theology may be permitted, with the instructor's permission, to submit a single research paper in place of these two (12-14 pp in length). This will be due on class time the week of November 25.

Note these papers should reflect the students' reading, both assigned and suggested on these topics, including the suggested integration literature. They can focus on a specific topic (or theologian) in the area of interest to the student.

4. The final exam will be in the form of a take home exam. It will be distributed on the last day of class, December 2, and will be due at 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2002 at Professor Dyrness' office.

The final grade will be determined on the following basis: Reading responses 20%; Papers 20% each (or 40%), Final Exam 40%.

d. Reading.

1. Required reading

(a). A reader consisting of the following articles:

Ellen T. Charry. *By the Renewing of Your Minds* (Oxford, 1997), p. 1-32.

William Dyrness. "How Does the Bible Function in the Christian Life" in Robert Johnston, ed. *The Use of the Bible in Theology* (1985).

Kazoh Kitamori. *Theology of the Pain of God* (John Knox, 1958), Ch. 1,2, and 6. Pp. 19-43 and 71-84.

Emmanuel Levinas. "Substitution". *The Levinas Reader* (Blackwell, 1989), pp. 89-125.

Martha Nussbaum. "Transcending Humanity" from *Love's Knowledge* (1990.) Pp. 365-391.

Gerrit Singgih. "Let me not be put to Shame: Toward an Indonesian Hermeneutic" *Asia Journal of Theology*, 9(1995), no. 1, pp. 71-85.

David Tracy. "Theological Method." in Hodgson and King, eds. *An introduction to Theology* (1982).

_____. "African American Thought: The Dynamics of fragments." in Dwight Hopkins, ed. *Black Faith and Public Talk: A Tribute to James Cone* (Orbis, 1999).

Trierweiler, S.J. & Stricker, G.(1998). *The Scientific Practice of Professional Psychology*, pp 37-68. New York: Plenum Press.

(b). The following texts are required as noted in the class schedule:

Note: Required and recommended books will be available on the theology library reserve shelf under Dyrness.

Karl Barth. *Dogmatics in Outline* (Harper, 1959).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer. *Creation and Fall* (SCM, 1959).

Mark R. McMinn & Timothy R. Phillips, ed., *Care for the Soul:*

Exploring the Intersection of Psychology and Theology (IVP, 2000).

Gustavo Gutierrez. *A Theology of Liberation* (Orbis, 1973), Part I, pp 1-42.

John Calvin. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. (McNeill, ed.)

(Westminster, 1960). Book I, Chapters i-vii and xiii, xv and xvi.

(c). The student is to select one of the following Systematic Theologies to read in the areas covered by the course (as noted below). Evidence of this reading should appear both in the papers and in the take home exam.

S. J. Grenz. *Theology for the Community of God* (Eerdmans, 2000). Parts 5 and 6, pp. 1-123.

*Herman Bavinck. *Our Reasonable Faith* (Baker, 1956). Chapters I-XIII.
OR. Louis Berkhof. *Systematic Theology*. (Eerdmans, 1996).

A. McGrath. *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Blackwell, 1994),
Chapters 5-8.

(d). Recommended. Appropriate sections of one of the following contextual theologies may be read alongside the systematic theology chosen above (with the permission of the instructor the student may suggest an alternative theology that better reflects his/her own interests or tradition).

*William R. Barr. *Constructive Theology in the Worldwide Church*
(Eerdmans, 1997). Especially pages 391-545.

James Evans. *We Have Been Believers: African American Systematic
Theology* (Fortress, 1992).

Justo González. *Mañana: Christian Theology from an Hispanic
Perspective* (Abingdon, 1990).

Sallie McFague. *Metaphorical Theology: Models of God* (Fortress, 1997).

2. Recommended Reading.

While there will be bibliography noted for each section of the course, the following are especially important resources for the course as a whole. While the student will not be expected to have read them, they will be valuable resources for the papers and the final exam.

*Emil Brunner. *Man in Revolt: A Christian Anthropology*. (Westminster, 1957) One of the most substantial 20th century treatments of the person.

Colin Gunton. *The One, The Three and the Many* (Cambridge, 1994). Shows relation of the trinity to developments in culture.

_____. *The Triune Creator* (Eerdmans, 1999). One of the best contemporary treatments of trinity.

Paul Jewett. *God, Creation and Revelation* (Eerdmans, 1989).

Paul Jewett with Marguerite Shuster. *Who We Are: Our Dignity as Human*
(Eerdmans, 1996). Excellent treatment of contemporary issues (cf. Homosexuality).

Jürgen Moltmann. *The Trinity and the Kingdom: The Doctrine of God*
(Harper, 1981). Important critique of Greek categories for God.

Wolfhart Pannenberg. *Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans, 1998), Volume

- One. Probably the most important systematic theology to have been written in the last generation – comprehensive and demanding.
_____. *An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans, 1991)
- Miroslav Volf. *After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of God* (Eerdmans, 1998). Important argument that various ecclesiologies grow out of particular views of the trinity. Points out connection between basic theological assumptions and church practices.
- J. Zizioulas. *Being as Communion*. (St. Vladimir's Press, 1985). Accessible description of the Trinity from an Orthodox perspective. Argues the idea of the 'person' has its origin in patristic theology.

*Out of print but available on reserve and at Archives or other used book source.

e. Writing.

The papers give the student opportunity to interact with a particular issue or perspective on the doing of theology. In general the following format should be followed:

Students should seek to develop a consistent argument which consists of (1) a concise statement of the position being developed (For example how Liberation theologians have defined the work of theology) 2-3 pp; (2) its critical and/or historical context (e.g. ways in which the Liberation view of method reacted to and/or developed out of existing theological traditions) 2-3 pp; and (3) a critical evaluation and comment from the students point of view, including significance of this topic for counseling (2-3 pp).

Format should be some regular method such as that outlined in Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers...* (6th ed. 1996). Notes may be either placed as footnotes or as endnotes. Or students may elect to use the appropriate social science format (author, date and page, in the text, with full reference in the bibliography at the end).

The following policy on academic integrity has been approved by the faculty and is to be included and affirmed at the beginning of each course:

At the beginning of this course we, as faculty and students, reaffirm our commitment to be beyond reproach in our academic work as a reflection of Christian character. We commit to honesty in all aspects of our work. We seek to establish a community which values serious intellectual engagement and personal faithfulness more highly than grades, degrees, or publications.

Students are expected to review and understand the commitments to academic integrity as printed in the Student Handbook and the Seminary catalogue. Some

infractions can be addressed by personal confrontation and corrective counsel. The following violations of these commitments will be firmly addressed formally:

- Submitting the same work in whole or in part in more than one course without the permission of the professor(s);
- Submitting as one's own work paper(s) obtained from another source;
- Plagiarism, i.e., large and/or multiple unattributed quotations or paraphrases of ideas from published or unpublished sources;
- Unpermitted collaboration in preparing assignments;
- Cheating on exams by any means;
- Aiding another student on papers and tests in violation of these commitments.

Any of these violations will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly in the course, and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Group which may impose further sanctions in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. Evidence of repeated violations will result in a formal disciplinary process. (For the full statement on Academic Integrity see *The Student Handbook 2001-2002* pages 58-60.)

Part Two: Outline of the course.

Week one: week of September 30

Lecture/discussion: Introduction to Theology.

1. What is theology? Whose interest does it serve?
2. Authority: Where do we begin?
3. The place and role of Jesus and of God.

Reading assignments: John Calvin. Institutes, Bk. I, Chapter 1.
Gustavo Gutierrez. *A Theology of Liberation*. 1-42.

Additional Resources:

Robert Banks. *Reenvisioning Theological Education: Exploring a Missional Alternative to Current Models* (Eerdmans, 1999).

Richard Muller, *The Study of Theology: From Biblical Interpretation to Contemporary Formulation* (Zondervan, 1991).

Wolfhart Pannenberg. *An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans, 1991).

Clark Pinnock, *The Openness of God* (IVP, 1994). Chapter One.

Week two: week of October 7

Lecture/discussion: God and creation

1. Creation as context of moral life and knowledge
2. Creation and continuing care (providence)
3. Importance of creation.
4. Creation and evolution.

Reading assignment: Bonhoeffer. *Creation and Fall*. Pp. 1-63. Calvin, Book I, Chapters ii through v.

Additional Resources:

Robert Banks. *God the Worker: Journeys into the Mind and Imagination of God* (Albatross, 1992).

Colin Gunton. *Christ and Creation* (Eerdmans, 1992).

Sallie McFague. *Metaphorical Theology: Models of God* (1997).

Nancey Murphy and George Ellis. *On the Moral Nature of the Universe* (1996).

James K. Smith. *The Fall of Interpretation* (IVP, 2000).

Week three: week of October 14 **First Paper on Methodology/creation is due.**

Lecture/discussion. God and Revelation

1. Models of Revelation: the Contemporary debate
2. General Revelation and Natural Theology: The role of experience
3. Special Revelation as redemptive revelation

Reading Assignment: Karl Barth. *Dogmatics in Outline*. Pp. 1-34. David Tracy "Theological Method" and "African American Thought: the Dynamics of Fragments", and Trierweiler, S.J. & Stricker, G.(1998). *The Scientific Practice of Professional Psychology*, pp 37-68. New York: Plenum Press (all from reader).

Additional Resources:

Abraham Kuyper. *Principles of Sacred Theology* (Eerdmans, 1968), Third Division.

Wolfhart Pannenberg: *Revelation as History: A Proposal for a more open less*

authoritarian view of an important theological concept (Macmillan, 1968).
_____ Systematic Theology. Volume 1. (Eerdmans, 1991), Ch. 4.

Week four: week of October 21

Lecture/discussion. The Word of God.

1. Jesus Christ and Scripture
2. Its God-breathed character. Inspiration and the Holy Spirit.
3. The Protestant principle: Sola Scriptura

Required reading: Dyrness article. "The Use of the Bible in the Christian Life."
(Reader), Calvin, Bk 1 Ch. vi and vii.

Additional Resources:

G. C. Berkouwer. Holy Scripture (Eerdmans, 1975).

David H. Kelsey. The Uses of Scripture in Recent Theology (Fortress, 1975).

Week five: week of October 28

Lecture/discussion: The Triune God.

1. God in the Old Testament.
2. God and the ministry of Jesus; the Pentecost
3. Trinity in contemporary conversation.

Reading assignment: K. Barth. Dogmatics in Outline, Pp. 35-100.

Additional Resources:

Colin Gunton. The One the Three and the Many (Cambridge, 1994)

_____. The Triune Creator (Eerdmans, 1999).

Catherine Mowry LaCugna. God For Us: The Trinity and the Christian Life
(HarperCollins, 1991).

James B. Torrance. Worship, Theology and The Triune God of Grace (IVP, 1996).

Week six: week of November 4 **Second Paper on God is due.**

Lecture/discussion: Creation of the Person and the response to God

Image of God as embodied responsibility

Hearing the word: Inspiration and Illumination
Doing the word (Hermeneutics and ethics).

Reading assignment: Gerrit Singgih article "Let me not be put to Shame: Toward an Indonesian Hermeneutic" (1994). (Reader) and McMinn and Philipps ed. Chapter 3.

Additional resources:

G. C. Berkouwer. *Man: The Image of God* (Eerdmans, 1962).

Paul Brand and Philip Yancey. *In His Image* (Zondervan, 1984).

Emil Brunner. *Man in Revolt*. (Westminster, 1957)

_____ *The Divine Imperative* (Westminster, 1957).

Wolfhart Pannenberg. *What is Man?* (Fortress, 1970).

Week seven: week of November 11

Lecture/discussion: Evil and Sin.

1. The origin of evil and sin.
2. Biblical views of the person
3. Contemporary issues.

Reading assignment: Mark R. McMinn & Timothy R. Phillips, eds., *Care for the Soul*. Chapters 9, 11, and 17.

Additional Resources:

John Hick. *Evil and the God of Love* (London: 1966).

M. Scott Peck. *People of the Lie; The Hope for Healing Human Evil* (1983).

Cornelius Plantinga. *Not the Way its Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin* (Eerdmans, 1995).

Paul Ricoeur. *The Symbolism of Evil* (Beacon, 1969).

Week eight: week of November 18

Lecture/discussion: The Person in Relation

1. Gender, sex and marriage
2. Community and culture
3. The earth as home and calling.

Required reading: Martha Nussbaum article "Transcending Humanity" from

Love's Knowledge 1990. Pp. 365-391. Levinas, "Substitution". (Reader).

Additional Resources:

Steve Bouma Prediger. For the Beauty of the Earth; A Christian vision for Creation care (Baker, 2001).

Immanuel Levinas. The Levinas Reader. Sean Hand, ed (Blackwell, 1989).

John MacMurray. The Self as Agent (London: Faber, 1957).

Week nine: week of November 25 **Third Paper on the Person is due.**

Lecture/discussion: The Person and the Spiritual world

1. Contemporary notions of the soul and spirituality
2. The Spirit world: angels and demons
3. The reign of God

Required reading :

J. Boyd "Self Concept: In Defense of the word Soul." And Ellen Charry, "Theology after Psychology". In McMinn and Phillips. Care of the Soul.

Additional resources:

Hendrik Berkhof. Christ and the Powers (Herald Press,1953).

Warren Brown, Nancey Murphy and Newton Maloney, eds. Whatever Happened to the Soul? (Fortress, 1997).

Walter Wink. Naming the Powers: The Language of Power in the New Testament (Fortress, 1984).

Week ten: week of December 2

Lecture/discussion: The Person living between hope and despair

1. Why does evil exist?
2. The Person: a creature of greedy need.
3. Therapeutic approaches to healing.
4. Summary and discussion

Required reading: Kazoh Kitamori. A Theology of the Pain of God (selection) 1965. Ellen Charry. By the Renewing of your Minds. Pp. 1-32. (Reader).

Additional resources:

Ray Anderson. *Self-Care: A Theology of Personal Wholeness and Spiritual Healing* (Victor, 1995).

Ellen Charry. *By the Renewing of your Mind: the Pastoral Function of Christian Doctrine* (Oxford, 1997).

Leslie Stevenson. *Ten Theories of Human Nature* (Oxford University Press, 1998 3rd ed.).

Hans Walter Wolff. *The Anthropology of the Old Testament*. (Fortress, 1979).