

BTS 4740-5780/3 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
FALL SEMESTER 2018-2019
CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

Professor: Karl Koop, Ph.D., University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto
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Course Schedule and Location: Monday 2:30 to 5:15; Location: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course attends to the foundations, assumptions and basic convictions of the Christian faith as expressed and embodied in particular Christian communities in a given time and place. It focuses on the classical loci or "common places" of Christian belief and practice giving consideration especially to the following: revelation and the authority of Scripture, God and creation, the nature of humanity, the person and work of Jesus Christ, sin and salvation, the nature of the church and its practices, the Christian life, and eschatology. Class sessions involve critical and constructive reflection, drawing on historical and contemporary perspectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: It is anticipated that students taking this course will: 1) Become acquainted with the central questions and issues that have been, and continue to be addressed in Christian theology; 2) Become critically aware and knowledgeable of, and increasingly articulate in, their own theological convictions and commitments; 3) Develop an ability to locate themselves theologically in the context of the wider Christian tradition; 4) Acquire an awareness of the historical nature of religious expression; 5) Discover the transformative potential of Christian belief and practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SUMMARY:

Class Participation	20%	
Class Presentations—Reading Responses	20%	Due dates will be determined at the first class
Essay	50%	TBA
Presentation of Essay and Abstract	10%	TBA

GRADING SCALE: A+ 95-100; A 88-94; B+ 81-87; B 74-80; C+ 67-73; C 60-66; D 50-59; F < 50

TEXTS:

- Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, Second or Third Edition (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2004, 439pp).
- William C. Placher, ed., *Essentials of Christian Theology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003), 422pp (This is a text that includes a wide selection of women and men theologians).
- A confession of faith: students should choose their denominational confession of faith or a confession of faith that they are interested in getting to know better.
- A collateral text in systematic theology (Students may choose a text that interests them)
- There may be other readings assigned. If so, they will likely appear on the student portal

MORE ON THE SHAPE OF THE COURSE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Course Format: Class sessions will include brief introductory lectures, student presentations and discussion. Typically the first half of each class will attend to the Migliore, collateral and confessional texts. The second half will focus on the readings from Placher. The success of the class will depend significantly on student preparation and participation.

Attendance and Class Participation: It is expected that students, including those who are auditing the class, will have studied all the required readings for each class, and have some form of access to the readings during class time. Students will be asked to raise points of analysis, offer critical interpretations of the readings, and raise appropriate questions for discussion. Dialogue in the classroom should be collegial and respectful. Students taking the course for credit will be graded on the basis of their attendance and ability to engage with the readings and class discussions. Students will regularly be called upon to share from their confessional and collateral texts. The collateral text can be borrowed from the library, or ordered through the bookstore. A list of potential collateral texts is provided at the end of the syllabus. In consultation with the instructor, students may choose another text.

Reading Responses: At some point in the semester (to be determined at the first class) students will be responsible for presenting reading reflections (one or two) which will be made available to the rest of the class. The first half of the reflection should summarize the contents of the reading, highlighting in particular its main argument and how it is developed. The second half of the presentation should give attention to questions, further issues, problems, or insights that emerge from the readings. The reflection should be about 1,000 words in length and submitted as an attached Word Document. Note the formatting: maximum two pages; no title page but appropriate heading on the first page; single-spaced; double-spaced between paragraphs; one-inch margins; 10-12 point font as appropriate; contents should be thoroughly referenced using parenthesis. The presentation must be submitted on Friday, prior to Monday's class.

Term Essay: Students will write an essay that will give attention to a particular author, theme or issue related to the course. It is strongly recommended that students consult with the professor prior to the mid-term break before embarking on their research and writing. The essay must have a purpose or thesis statement. The essay will be evaluated on the basis of form and content. It is expected that the essay will provide documentation according to the University of Chicago style with the use of footnotes (not parenthetical referencing--MLA or APA style etc.). The undergraduate student essay should be about 3500-4500 words in length; the graduate student essay should be about 4500-6000 words in length (word-count includes footnotes)

Presentation and Abstract: On the final day of class, students will present a one-page 400-word abstract or precis (single-spaced) that summarizes the purpose or thesis of their work, a brief outline indicating how the essay is developed, and a summary of key insights that have been gathered. The abstract will also include the bibliography of the essay. The assignment will be emailed on Friday in advance of the class through a Word document and will cover no more than two sides of one page.

Policy for Late Submissions: Late submissions may only receive minimal or no feedback. The professor reserves the right to reduce the grades of any assignments that are handed in late.

Course Outline

- 1) Introduction to the Course/ What is Systematic Theology?
- 2) Historical and Contemporary Perspectives/ Mennonites and Systematic Theology
-Migliore, 1-19; Placher, 1-10;
- David C. Cramer, "Mennonite Systematic Theology in Retrospect and Prospect," *Conrad Grebel Review* 31, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 255-273; (on the student portal).
- 3) Revelation, Scripture and Authority: Migliore, 20-63, Placher, 11-49.
- 4) God: Migliore, 64-91; Placher, 51-92,
- 5) Creation, Providence of God and the Reality of Evil: Migliore, 92-138; Placher, 93-131
- 6) The Human Condition: Migliore, 139-162; Placher, 133-181
- 7) Person and Work of Jesus Christ: Migliore, 163-222; Placher, 183-220
- 8) The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life: Migliore, 223-247; Placher, 257-295
- 9) The Nature of the Church and Sacraments: Migliore, 248-300; Placher, 221-255
- 10) Christianity and Religious Pluralism; Migliore, 301-329; Placher, 297-328
- 11) Eschatology and Christian Hope; Migliore, 330-353; Placher, 329-365
- 12) Presentations

SELECT COLLATERAL TEXTS OPTIONS

In consultation with the instructor, students should feel free to propose an alternative text. Most, but not necessarily all, of the following can be found in our library.

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, many volumes (1955-1969); Reformed; neo-orthodox
Hans Urs von Balthasar, *The Von Balthasar Reader*, edited by Medard Kehl and Werner Löser (1905-1988); Roman Catholic
Henrikus Berkhof, *Christian Faith* (1979, 1986); Reformed; neo orthodox
Emil Brunner, *Dogmatics*, Vols. I-III (1950-1962); Reformed; neo orthodox
James Cone, *A Black Theology of Liberation* (1970)
Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology* (1983-1985); Evangelical; conservative
James Evans, *We have been believers: an African-American Systematic theology*
Thomas N. Finger, *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology* (2004); Anabaptist and orthodox
Thomas N. Finger, *Christian Theology: An Eschatological Approach* (1985, 1989)
Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. (InterVarsity 1994) conservative; evangel.
Colin Gunton, *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine* (2002) Evangelical
Douglas Hall, *Thinking the Faith; Professing the Faith; Confessing the Faith* (1989-1996); Liberal Protestant/orthodox
Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology* (1871-1873); Protestant/Fundamentalist
Robert Jenson, *Systematic Theology* (1997-99); Lutheran orthodox
Daniel Kauffman, *Doctrines of the Bible: A Brief Discussion of the Teaching of God's Word* (1929); Mennonite, conservative
Edmund G. Kaufman, *Basic Christian Convictions* (1972); General Conference Mennonite, progressive
Gordon D. Kaufman, *Systematic Theology: A Historicist Perspective* (1968/78); Mennonite, liberal
C. Norman Kraus, *God our Saviour: Theology in a Christological Mode* (1991) Anabaptist
Hans Küng, *On Being a Christian and The Church* (1967, 1976); Catholic Progressive
Jan Milic Lochman, *The Faith We Confess* (1984); Reformed; orthodox
Andrew Louth, *Introducing Eastern Orthodox Theology* (2013); Orthodox
Richard McBrien, *Catholicism* (1981)
Jürgen Moltman, selected volumes (ca. 1970 to 2000); Reformed; political theological
James William McClendon, *Systematic Theology* (1986, 1994); Anabaptist
Thomas Oden, *The Living God, The Word of the Spirit, Life in the Spirit* (1987-1992); orthodox, "traditional"
Wolfart Pannenberg, *Systematic Theology*, 3 vols (1991-1998); Reformed
Ted Peters, *God—The World's Future* (2000); Lutheran
Michael Pomazansky, *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology* (1994)
Samuel Powell, *Discovering our Christian Faith: An Introduction to Theology* (Wesleyan/Holiness tradition)
Karl Rahner, *Theological Investigations*, 2 volumes (1974/75; Roman Catholic
Karl Rahner, *Foundations of Christian Faith* (1982)
Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Sexism and God-Talk* (1983); feminist
Friedrich Schleiermacher, *The Christian Faith* (1830); liberal
Francis Schüssler Fiorenz and John P. Galvin, eds., *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives* (2011)
Paul Tillich, *Systematic Theology*, Vols I-III (1951-1962); Protestant; "correlational"
Geoffrey Wainwright, *Doxology: The Praise of God in Worship, Doctrine and Life* (1980); Methodist
J. C. Wenger, *Introduction to Theology* (1954); Anabaptist, Conservative, Evangelical
Rowan Williams, *On Christian Theology* (Blackwell, 2000); Anglican
Clark M. Williamson, *Way of Blessing; Way of Life: A Christian Theology* (1999); orthodox/progressive/liberal
John Howard Yoder, *Preface to Theology: Christology and Theological Method* (1981, 2002); Anabaptist
Amos Yong, *Renewing Christian Theology: Systematics for a Global Christianity* (2014); Pentecostal

ACCESSIBILITY

CMU strives to provide a fair and supportive learning environment for academically qualified students with disabilities. If you are eligible for these services or have questions about becoming eligible, please contact Sandra Loeppky, Coordinator of Accessibility Programs at sloeppky@cmu.ca or 204.487.3300 x.340.