

**Trinity
ST 2300**

Spring, 201

Thur 12:40-3:30, DSPT 1

Office hours: By appt, or Mondays 3:30-4:30, DSPT Fac, Off. Bldg. #201

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DSPT**

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Course Description: *Through readings, class discussions and written assignments, students will develop a knowledge of the scriptural understanding of the Trinity and the development of the doctrine through the patristics and councils, culminating in the theology of Thomas Aquinas. Against this theological background, they will then study certain contemporary approaches and issues in Trinitarian theology (Schleiermacher, Barth, Rahner, Moltmann, Boff, LaCugna).*

Objectives: *Students will be able to explain the key events, issues and concepts in the development of the doctrine of the Trinity. They will be able to show how Aquinas's Trinitarian theology illustrates his theological method and discuss its key concepts. They will be able to discuss key issues in contemporary and classical Trinitarian theology, including the immanent and economic Trinity, the significance of the term "person", the issue of language and analogy, the use of philosophy, and the relation of the doctrine of the Trinity to Christian prayer and practice.*

- Feb. 7 Introduction
- Feb. 14 Trinity in Scripture
Wainwright, Chaps. 1, 3, 4, 10, 13, 14
Marmion, p. 1-51
(Recommended: Kelly, Chaps 2-3)
- Feb. 21 Early Development of the Doctrine; Origen, Tertullian
Rusch, *Trinitarian Controversy*, p.1-17 (i.e., relevant sections of "Introduction")
Marmion, p. 52-62
Kelly, Chaps. 4 and 5.
- Feb. 28 Nicaea & Athanasius
Rusch, p.17-23, 29-44, 45-49, 57-60, 63-129; (i.e., relevant sections of "Introduction" and chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10).
Kelly, Chap. 9, sections 1-2
Marmion, p. 62-69
- Mar. 7 Cappadocians & Augustine
Rusch, p.23-27, 131-179; (relevant sections of "Introduction" and chapters 11, 12, 13).
Kelly, Chap. 10, sections 3-6
Marmion, p. 69-95
- Mar. 14 Richard of St. Victor & Bonaventure
Richard of St. Victor, *The Trinity*, Book III
Bonaventure, *Disputed Questions on the Trinity*, Q.1, a.2
Bonaventure, *The Mind's Journey to God*, chapters 5 & 6
Marmion, p. 96-114
- Mar. 21 St. Thomas Aquinas: Processions & Relations
ST I, Q.27, aa.1-4; Q.13, a.7; Q.28, aa.1-4
Dodds, "Ultimacy and Intimacy."
Marmion, p. 114-120
G. Emery, "The Doctrine of the Trinity in St. Thomas Aquinas"
- Mar. 28 Spring break (no class)
- Apr 4 Persons
ST I, Q.29, aa.1, 3-4; Q.30, aa.1-2; Q.32, aa.1-3; Q.33, a. 1; Q.34, aa.1, 3; Q.36, aa.1-2;
Q.37, a.1; a.2 ad 3
Marmion, p. 120-25

- Apr. 11 Divine Persons / Divine Essence / Missions
 ST I, Q.39, a.1, 7-8; Q.40, a.1; Q.42, aa.1-2, 5-6; , Q.43, aa.1-6.
- Apr. 18 Holy Thursday (no class)
- Apr. 25 Trinity in Creation; Image of God
 ST I, Q.45, 6-7; Q.93, aa. 1, 4-9
 "Human Persons Created in the Image of God," International Theological Commission
 [http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20040723_communion-stewardship_en.html]
- May 2 Friedrich Schleiermacher & Karl Barth
 F. Schleiermacher, "The Divine Trinity," (Concluding chapter (appendix) to *The Christian Faith*, p.738-751.)
 K. Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, Vol. I, part 1, p. 348-383.
 Marmion, p. 142-48, 155-65
- May 9 Karl Rahner & Jürgen Moltmann
 K. Rahner, "Remarks on the Dogmatic Treatise 'De Trinitate,'" in *Theological Investigations*, Vol.4, p.77-102.
 K. Rahner, "Trinity" in *Encyclopedia of Theology (The Concise Sacramentum Mundi)*, p.1755-1771.
 J. Moltmann, "The Crucified God: A Trinitarian Theology of the Cross."
 Marmion, p. 165-76
- May 16 Leonardo Boff & Catherine Mowry LaCugna
 Boff, *Trinity and Society*, p.1-24, 123-154
 C. LaCugna, *God for Us*, chap. 7
 Marmion, p. 193-99, 201-206
- May 23 Final week of the semester (no class)

ASSIGNED READINGS: There are three required books: Declan Marmion and Rik Van Nieuwenhove, *An Introduction to the Trinity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) [ISBN: 978-0521705226]; J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines* (any edition), and William Rusch, *The Trinitarian Controversy* (Fortress Press) [ISBN: 978-0800614102]. (Available from your online bookseller.) If you are buying from Amazon.com, you might consider ordering through Amazon at the DSPT website. DSPT gets a percentage of the sale.

The readings from Aquinas, *Summa theologiae (ST)* are at the top of the Moodle page for the class (<http://moodle.gtu.edu/>). All other readings are available in Moodle under the individual weeks of the semester.

STRUCTURE: The structure of the class is lecture/discussion. Active participation is expected, and this presupposes a careful reading of the assigned texts.

ASSESSMENT

WEEKLY QUESTIONS: To help focus the class in reading the texts, I will give a few questions each class which deal with the reading material for the next class meeting. You are expected to type a brief (25-70 word) response to each question. The response is not meant to be exhaustive, but only to indicate a few principles or points that would be involved in answering the question. Alternatively, you may be asked to formulate one or two questions of your own regarding a certain text. They will not be graded as such, but their absence will have a negative effect on your grade. You can find the questions for each class session on Moodle. You will also find a place for each class on MOODLE to turn in your assignment. This should be done before the class for which they are assigned each week.

RESEARCH PAPER

The course will require either two 7-10 page research papers (due on April 25 and May 24) or one 15-20 page research paper (due on May 24). Each paper should explore a particular aspect of Trinitarian theology (e.g., the Trinity in Scripture or in a particular scriptural author; the Trinity in the thought of a particular theologian, or contrasting one theologian to another; the development of the doctrine of the Trinity; the Trinity in Christian prayer and practice.) If you are doing the two shorter papers, you need to present a "working title" and a one-paragraph "thesis statement" (explaining what you plan to research/argue/present in the paper) for the first paper on March 21, and a thesis statement for the second paper on April 25. If you are doing one longer paper, you need to submit a "working title" and thesis statement on April 4.

Students will be graded on class participation and completion of written assignments (30%), and on the research paper(s) (70%). Papers will be graded according to the quality of their research and engagement with Trinitarian theology, as well as their creativity, clarity, style, focus, organization and development. They must be written in accordance with the norms of Kate Turabian, *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, regarding form, footnotes and bibliography. . Work is also evaluated in terms of the institutional goals of the school. For these, see page 1 of the DSPT Student Handbook [http://www.dspt.edu/files/Student_Handbook.pdf].