

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

203.615 Theology: God and Creation Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

NQF Level: 6
Credit Value: 15

Campus: Christchurch
Lecturer: Bob Robinson

Semester 1, 2015

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The course has four main parts:

- The existence and nature of God
- God as Trinity; the Spirit of God
- God, creation and providence
- Humanity.

The course is based on (i) A series of excerpts, discussion notes and case studies in a coursebook; (ii) an intensive interaction with Parts 2, 6 and 7 of Michael F. Bird, *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013) and students are required to own a copy.¹

Class time will also be given to discussion of the issues – especially the biblical foundations - raised in the set readings from Bird, *Evangelical Theology*, and elsewhere, whose content students are expected to be familiar with before class discussion each week.

Abbreviations: the following will be used in course material and may be used by students in assignments (including the exam) without further explanation:

BET	Bird, <i>Evangelical Theology</i>	FM	Ford's Map
WP	Wesleyan Pentateuch		

ASSESSMENT

The assessment tasks are designed to determine whether students have achieved the learning outcomes. The tasks are:

1. **Reading responses (to BET or other material) (weeks 2-12) (20% final grade)**

This assignment requires you to engage weekly with BET, and other readings, by means of responsive email postings of c 300 words.

Detailed instructions will be issued, and posted on Moodle.

Due dates and times: responsive emails must be sent by 11.55 pm on the night before the relevant class.

¹ Available: Book Depository <www.bookdepository.co.uk> for just under NZ\$57 (including airmail postage).

Learning outcome assessed: 1, 3, 4.

Grading criteria:

- Discerning engagement with readings: accurate summaries; identification of good theology; relevance to contemporary life indicated.
- Timeliness: before-class deadlines met.
- Clarity and structure: coherent structure and writing; accurate spelling and grammar.

2. Research essay **(40% of final grade)**

Students will submit an essay that offers a well-informed and appropriately critical theological engagement with one topic related to the course content. The lecturer will provide a list of possible topics.

Due date and time: 11:55 pm, Friday 17 May, 2015

Length: 2500 words ($\pm 10\%$)

Learning outcomes assessed: either 1 (part) and 2 (option (i) above), or 3 (option (ii) above).

Grading criteria:

- Evidence of appropriate research, reading and interaction with sources.
- Balance and depth in understanding of issue.
- Employment of sound theological method in analysis and judgment.
- Structure: Clear and logical argumentation; valid conclusions.
- Communication and presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography.

[Note: Students in their third semester of Theology have the option of nominating their own essay topic in the two main areas covered by 203 - to be justified in a one-page proposal to the lecturer *at least four weeks before the due date.*]

(c) One 24 hour 'take-home' exam **(40% of final grade)**

The exam will consist of four questions.

The exam will be held in the semester exam period (15-19 June, 2015)

- The exam will assess learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4.

Grading criteria:

Coverage of main points

Critical theological understanding: analysis / depth / balance

Clarity & development of answer

LEARNING HOURS

203.615 is a 15 credit course and carries an expectation, therefore, of some 150 learning hours that should be allocated approximately as follows:

- Core lecture periods (12 x 3 hours) 36 hours
- Set reading and reflection prior to lectures 28 hours
(based on c 2.5 hours advance reading and written interaction for weekly sessions 2 - 12)
- Research essay 56 hours
- Course review and exam preparation 30 hours

Note that this allocation of learning hours implies some three times as many hours of work outside the classroom as inside it. Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload. Your comments will be appreciated.

Attendance. From Laidlaw *Academic Handbook*: full attendance at lectures, tutorials, seminars and other forms of designated class work is expected. Unsatisfactory attendance (less than 80%) is grounds for failure of a course.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following volumes, alongside BET, contain helpful discussions of the subjects covered by 203.615:

- Berkhof, Hendrikus. *Christian Faith*, revised edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986
- Dyrness, William A, Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti, editors. *Global Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2008 [BR95 GLO]
- Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1994; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000
- McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, fourth edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007
- McGrath, Alister, editor. *The Christian Theology Reader*, third edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007
- Migliore, Daniel M. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004

The following are among the more significant books on the topics to be looked at in 203.615::

God

- Boyer Steven D, and Christopher A. Hall. *The Mystery of God: Theology for Knowing the Unknowable*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic 2012.
- Bracken, Joseph A. *God: Three Who Are One*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2008 [BT111.3 BRA]
- Buxton, Graham. *The Trinity, Creation and Pastoral Ministry: Imaging the Perichoretic God*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2005 [BT111.3 BUX]
- Collins, Paul M. *The Trinity: a Guide for the Perplexed*. London: T&T Clark International, 2008 [BT111.3 COL]
- Copan, Paul. *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011.
- Coppedge, Allan. *The God Who Is Triune: Revisioning the Christian Doctrine of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2007 [BT111.3 COP]
- Crisp, Oliver D., and Fred Sanders, editors, *Advancing Trinitarian Theology: Explorations in Constructive Dogmatics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014) [BT111.3 LOS]
- Cunningham, David S. *These Three Are One: The Practice of Trinitarian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998
- Galli, Mark. *A Great and Terrible Love: A Spiritual Journey into the Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2009
- Grenz, Stanley J, *Rediscovering the Triune God: The Trinity in Contemporary Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004

Gunton, Colin E, *The Triune Creator: A Historical and Systematic Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000

_____, *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology*, second edition. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997

_____, *The One The Three and the Many*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993

Habets, Myk, and Phillip Tolliday, editors, *Trinitarian Theology After Barth* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011) [BT111.3 TRI]

Hart, David Bentley. *The Experience Of God: Being, Consciousness, Bliss* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013)

Holmes, Peter R. *Trinity in Human Community: Exploring Congregational Life in the Image of the Social Trinity*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster 2006

Humphrey, Edith, *Ecstasy and Intimacy: Recovering the Trinitarian Shape of Christian Spirituality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006. [BV4501.3 HUM]

Jewett, Paul K. *God, Creation, and Revelation: A Neo-Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God*. New York: Continuum, 2007

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *The Doctrine of God: A Global Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004 [BT103 KAR]

_____. *The Trinity: Global Perspectives*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007 [BT111.3 KAR]

_____. *Trinity and Revelation. A Constructive Christian Theology for the Pluralistic World*, 2. Grand Rapids, MI / Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2014. [BT111.3 KAR]

LaCugna, CM, *God With Us: The Trinity and the Christian Life*. San Francisco: Harper, 1991

Letham, Robert. *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, c2004 [BT111.3 LET]

Lister, Rob. *God is Impassible and Impassioned: Towards a Theology of Divine Emotion*. Nottingham: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Long, D Stephen, and George Kalantzis. *The Sovereignty of God Debate* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009) [BT135 SOV]

McCormack, Bruce L. *Engaging the Doctrine of God: Contemporary Protestant Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008 [BT98 ENG]

Metzger, Paul L. editor. *Trinitarian Soundings in Systematic Theology*. London: T & T Clark International, 2006

Moltmann, Jürgen, *History and the Triune God: Contributions to Trinitarian Theology*. Et: London: SCM Press, 1991

_____, *The Trinity and the Kingdom*. Et: San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1981

O'Collins, Gerald. *The Tripersonal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*. New York: Paulist, c1999 [BT111.2 O'C]

Olson, Roger E, and Christopher A. Hall. *The Trinity*. Guides to Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002

Parry, Robin, *Worshipping Trinity: Coming Back to the Heart of Worship* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2005)

Placher, William C. *The Triune God: An Essay in Postliberal Theology*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2007

Powell, Samuel M. *Participating in God: Creation and Trinity*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2003

Shults, F. LeRon. *Reforming the Doctrine of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005. [BT103 SHU]

Thompson, George E. *God is Not Fair, Thank God!* (Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2014) [BT130 THO]

Thompson, Michael E. W. *Where is the God of Justice?: the Old Testament and Suffering* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011) [BT161 THO]

Torrance, Alan J, *Persons in Communion: Trinitarian Descriptions and Human Participation*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996

Torrance, JB, *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996

Torrance, TF, *The Christian Doctrine of God, One Being - Three Persons*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996

_____, *Trinitarian Perspectives: Toward Doctrinal Agreement*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994

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Treier, Daniel J, and David Lauber, editors. *Trinitarian Theology for the Church: Scripture, Community, Worship*. Downers Grove, IL and Nottingham: IVP Academic and Apollos, 2009 [BT11.3 TRI]

Ware, Bruce A, editor. *Perspectives on the Doctrine of God; Four Views*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Academic, 2008 [BT103 PER]

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The Spirit of God

Badcock, G. *Light of Truth and Fire of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit*. Michigan: Eerdmans, 1997

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Creation

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Jowers, Dennis W., editor, *Four Views of Divine Providence* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011) BT135 FOU

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Southgate, Christopher. *The Groaning of Creation: God, Evolution and the Problem of Evil*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2008 [BT160 SOU]

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