



SHORT SYLLABUS

TH501 The Triune God Revealed in Jesus Christ

Instructor: Gary Deddo, PhD.

Course description

In this course we will consider who the God revealed in Jesus Christ is and who we are in relation to God. We will especially focus on the triune being and character of God, the purpose and work of creation, and God's sovereign and providential oversight of it throughout history. We will also consider the nature of humanity (according to the image of God), the nature of sin and evil and the fall, and our knowledge of God through the written Word of God and natural means. Finally, we will consider the nature of theological reflection and its place in the faith, worship and witness of the Christian life.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 145 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0061449710. Kindle version acceptable. Cost: about \$40 new or \$17 on Kindle. [Note, this textbook is three volumes condensed into one and is used in all three of our foundational TH500 courses (TH501, TH502 and TH503).]

Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*. New York: Harper and Row, 1959. 978-0061300561. \$13.50.
Bloesch, Donald G. *Holy Scripture: Revelation, Inspiration Interpretation*. IVP Academic, 2005. (Preface and Chaps. 1-5 excluding Appendices B and C) \$21-\$28

Johnson, Darrell. *Experiencing the Trinity: Living in the Relationship at the Centre of the Universe*. 2nd ed. edition. Canadian Church Leaders Network, 2021.

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 1997. \$20

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Recommended textbooks (optional/extra reading)

Torrance, T. F. *The Trinitarian Faith*, T & T Clark (Chap 1-4; pp.1-145 & Chap 8, pp. 302-340, 183 pp.). (\$24-\$35, new)

Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012. 978-0830839834. \$12.00.

Fairbairn, Donald. *Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of the Church Fathers*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2009.

Tanner, Kathryn. *Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity. A Brief Systematic Theology*. Fortress Press, 2001 (125pp.)

Grenz, Stanley, David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Handbook*. Boston, MA: Bedford Books, 1995. Other editions are acceptable.

Requirements and assignments (General Description)

1. Submit a one-page **Autobiographical Sketch** for the instructor and the rest of the class participants in the first week of class.
2. Completing all **assigned reading** of required texts and essays/articles due prior to participating in class forums. This amounts to about 675 pages of reading, accounted for in the **Reading Report List** and in the **Reading Assignment Quotation and Comment Notebook**. (Required to pass)
3. Reading all **instructor lectures/handouts** and any instructions posted during the assigned week, about 2.5 hrs. per week. (Required to pass, accounted for in the Instructor's Online Forum)
4. Keeping a **Reading Assignment Quotation and Comment Notebook** See detailed description of this assignment below. (25% of final grade).

5. Participation in two weekly **Online Forums**: Two or three entries per week in the *Instructor's Forum* and two entries per week in the *Class Discussion Forum*. See detailed description of this assignment below. (25% of final grade)
6. Completion of one 7-10 page (2225 to 3250 words) **written Sermon or Meditation** addressing one of the course's five key theological themes: the doctrine of the Trinity, the providence of God over all creation for all history, the nature of humanity created according to the image of God yet fallen, or the nature of the written Word of God and relationship to the Living Word. See detailed description of this assignment below. (20% of final grade)
7. Completion of the **Final take-home exam** (30% of grade)