



SHORT SYLLABUS

TH505 Doctrine of the Trinity

Instructor: Gary W. Deddo, PhD

(Instructor may be contacted through GCS course website)

Course description

This course explores in depth the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity, with its biblical foundations in God's revelation, the nature of theology, the foundational historic creeds and controversies, key elements and current obstacles to a fully Christian faith in the Triune God. This course examines vital implications of the doctrine of the Trinity for ethics, worship, the church and proclamation of the Gospel of the Grace of God through Jesus Christ in the Spirit

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 145 hours, or about 12-15 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Johnson, Darrell. *Experiencing the Trinity*, Vancouver, British Columbia: Regent College Publishing, 2002. ISBN 1-57383-216-2, \$10.66*

Toon, Peter. *Our Triune God: A Biblical Portrayal of the Trinity*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996. ISBN 1-56476-553-9, \$14.99*

Torrance, Thomas F. *The Christian Doctrine of God*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996 and 2016 reprint. ISBN 9780567097415 (hardcover), ISBN [9780567658074](#) (paper), \$21.74*

Required “On Reserve” Selected Excerpts (supplied in course)

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York: HarperOne, 1978. ISBN-13: 978-0060608521

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996. ISBN 0-8308-1895-2

Torrance, Thomas F. Ch. 5, "Atonement," *The Mediation of Christ*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Helmers & Howard, 1992. ISBN 0-939443-50-3

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 (for extra credit or supplementary reading)

Coppedge, Alan. *The God Who Is Triune*. InterVarsity Press, 2007

Fairbairn, Donald. *Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of the Church Fathers*. InterVarsity Press, 2009

Karkkainen, Veli-Matti. *The Trinity: Global Perspectives*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Kimel, Alvin F., editor. *This Is My Name Forever: The Trinity and Gender Language for God*. InterVarsity Press, 2001

Letham, Robert. *The Holy Trinity*. P & R Publishing, 2004

Leupp, Roderick T. *The Renewal of Trinitarian Theology*. InterVarsity Press, 2008

Metzger, Paul Louis, editor. *Trinitarian Soundings*. T & T Clark, 2005

Olson, Roger E. and Christopher A. Hall. *The Trinity*. Eerdmans, 2002

Seamands, Stephen. *Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service*. InterVarsity Press, 2005

Torrance, Thomas F. *The Trinitarian Faith*, T & T Clark, 1988

Grenz, Stanley, David Guretzki, Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*, InterVarsity Press, 1999 (for reference)

Requirements and assignments (General Description)

- 1) **Autobiographic Sketch.** Submit a one-page autobiographic sketch to introduce yourself to the instructor and fellow class participants.
- 2) **Read the lectures.** Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. This will take 1-2 hours per week.
- 3) **Read the textbooks.** They total about 650 pages, or about 65 pages each week. Students should allow around 3 hours a week to read.
- 4) **Read articles and essays as assigned each week.** Some weeks will be heavier than others.
- 5) **Keep a reading notebook.** Students will keep a reading notebook in which students outline all required reading. Further instructions included in full syllabus. This will count for 30

percent of the final grade.

- 6) **Participate in online forum discussions.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with the instructor and other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 25 percent of the final grade.
- 7) **Write reflection papers.** Write three reflection papers, as directed in full syllabus. These assignments will count for 15 percent of the final grade.
- 8) **Final exam.** This exam is four hours in length, and involves short identification questions and essays. This assignment will count for 30 percent of the final grade.