

Christian Theology: An Introduction (xtianthe755). Taught at Duke Divinity School in the fall semester of 2016 by Paul J. Griffiths (pgriffit@gmail.com, 056 Langford). Class meets 08:30–09:45 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in Westbrook 0016 at Duke Divinity School. Paul will keep office hours from 2–3pm on class days; please use email to make an appointment if you'd like to see him at other times.

*omnes cognitiones theologiae famulantur
every kind of knowledge is theology's slave*

This course presents a particular view of the grammar, which is to say the lexicon & syntax, of the content of the Christian faith. Its principal purpose is to help you become more skilled than you already are at thinking & writing & speaking in accord with that grammar. Its principal device is the display of Christian-theological thinking in lectures given by the instructor during the semester. These lectures are supported by assigned readings, & by small-group discussion & instruction from the course's preceptors. You'll be asked to show your understanding of & responsiveness to the material given in lecture & readings, as well as your skill in thinking theologically; you'll do this orally in your preceptorial sessions, & by way of a variety of writing assignments. The last two lectures of the course (on 11/29 and 12/01) will apply the theological grammar we'll have been studying & practising throughout the semester to two nontheological topics. You'll get to choose (by vote) these nontheological topics, & the instructor will endeavor to treat them Christian-theologically; this will be an exercise in applying the grammar of Christian theology to topics external to it.

Reading. Required reading is assigned to accompany each lecture, & recommended reading is assigned for many. You should do the required reading, which is usually brief, before the lecture in question. Because there isn't much required reading, you should do it slowly, attentively, &, when it seems necessary or useful (it almost always is), more than once. You're neither asked nor expected to do the recommended reading, but it will nourish you intellectually if you have time & energy for it.

Writing. You'll be asked to write two short papers, each of 2K words $\pm 10\%$, inclusive of everything. The first of these is due your preceptor in your precept session during the week beginning 18 September; the second likewise, during your precept of the week beginning 30 October. Length matters: writing to a required length is a skill important to master. Please note at the end of your paper – which you'll give to your preceptor in hardcopy – its number of words. If you write long, your preceptor will stop reading when (s)he reaches the upper limit (2200 words), and will grade on what's there to that point. If you write short (less than 1800 words), you'll be docked by half a grade-point for every hundred words short. The topics/titles for these papers will be given to you in precept one week before they're due.

Attendance. This course has 35 public sessions – 23 plenaries, in which the instructor will lecture; & 12 preceptorials, in which you'll meet in small groups for instruction and discussion with your preceptor. Attendance is recommended but not required at lectures. Every lecture will be recorded (audio & video), and will be available to you via Panopto shortly after being delivered. Recorded lectures will remain available to you until the day/time of the final

examination. You're encouraged to come to the live lectures; but if you find it preferable to watch & listen to the recordings at another time & place, feel free to do that. Attendance at precept, however, is required, & your preceptor will expect you, at any given precept, to have heard, seen, and meditated upon all lectures given up to the end of the week preceding the precept, as well as to have done the readings attendant upon those lectures. Your preceptor will consider your attendance at precept, your apparent knowledge of what's gone on in lecture, & your acquaintance with the required reading when (s)he provides the attendance/participation component of your grade.

Exams. There'll be a one-hour in-class midterm on Thursday 6 October, in which you'll be provided a number of extracts from readings required up to that date, & will be asked questions about them. There'll also be a two-hour final exam during examination week (day/time to be determined by the registrar's office), one part of which will treat material covered in the course after 6 October in the same manner as the midterm did for material covered up to that date; & the other part of which will ask you to write an argued response to one among a number of theological claims. Both exams are to be handwritten: no computers allowed in the room. If you need accommodation for medical reasons, please talk with your preceptor about this early in the semester.

Grade. 20% for each of the two papers; 15% for the midterm; 25% for the final; 20% for attendance at & performance in precept.

Preceptors

Jodi Belcher Jodi.belcher@duke.edu
Dustin Benac dustin.benac@duke.edu
Jen Benedict jlbenedict@gmail.com
Brendan Case Brendan.case@duke.edu <head preceptor>
Emily Dubie Emily.dubie@duke.edu
Mike Grigoni Michael.grigoni@duke.edu
Ryan Juskus Ryan.juskus@duke.edu
Phillip Porter Philip.porter@duke.edu

All questions about Sakai or Panopto should be directed to Brendan Case.

Schedule of topics and readings

- 08/30 Theology
 - required: Thomas, *Summa Theologiae* [ST] Part One, Question One, Articles One, Two, and Seven (1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.7)
 - recommended: the remainder – that is, all the other articles – of ST 1.1
- 09/01 Theologians
 - required: Lacoste, *From Theology to Theological Thinking*, ch. 1
 - recommended: none
- 09/06 the LORD, the gods, & the religions

- required: Barth, *Dogmatics* 1.2/§17, part three, ‘The True Religion’ (=pp.325–361), omitting text in small/italic print
- recommended: all the rest of *Dogmatics* 1.2/§17 (=pp.280–325), omitting text in small/italic print
- 09/08 the LORD & creatures
 - required: Tanner, *God & Creation*, pp. 81–119
 - recommended: none
- 09/13 the LORD & time
 - required: Griffiths, *Decreation*, §16 (=pp.95-115)
 - recommended: Griffiths, *Decreation*, §§13-15 (=pp.69-93)
- 09/15 the mode of the LORD’s existence
 - required: Augustine, *City*, xi.10
 - recommended: Augustine, *De trinitate*, xv.5–7
- 09/20 privation: the LORD & evil
 - required: Thomas, *Summa Theologiae* 1.49.1 (=the first article of the forty-ninth question of the first part)
 - recommended: Thomas, *Summa Theologiae* 1.49.2–3 (=the second and third articles of the forty-ninth question of the first part)
- 09/22 the Trinity the LORD is
 - required: Augustine, *De trinitate*, Book 5
 - recommended: Augustine, *De trinitate*, Books 6–7
- 09/27 creation & cosmos & world
 - required: Jenson, *Systematics*, ch. 15 (=vol.2, pp.3-16)
 - recommended: Jenson, *Systematics*, ch. 16 (=vol.2, pp.17-28)
- 09/29 fall & damage (& damnation)
 - required: Augustine, *City*, Book xi
 - recommended: Augustine, *City*, Book xii
- 10/04 the end of all things
 - required: Pannenberg, “Task of Christian Eschatology”
 - recommended: Griffiths, *Decreation*, §§8–12 (=pp.35–68)
- 10/06 in-class midterm
- 10/11 no class (fall break)
- 10/13 no class (fall break)
- 10/18 Jesus (1)
 - required: Barth, *Dogmatics* 2.2/§33, part one, “Jesus Christ: Electing & Elected” (=pp.94–144), omitting text in small/italic type
 - recommended: Barth, *Dogmatics* 2.2/§33, part two, “The Eternal Will of God in the Election of Jesus Christ” (=pp.145–194), omitting text in small/italic type
- 10/20 Jesus (2)
 - required: Thomas, *Summa Theologiae* 3.1.1–2 (=the first two articles of the first question of the third part)
 - recommended: Thomas, *Summa Theologiae* 3.1.3–6 (=the last four articles of the first question of the third part)
- 10/25 Mary
 - required: Marshall, “Look on the Faith of Your Church”
 - recommended: none

- 10/27 Spirit (& Church)
 - required: Augustine, *In epistulam Johannis ad Parthos tractatus*, sermon 7
 - recommended: Lossky, *Image and Likeness*, ch. 4
- 11/01 Church & Israel
 - required: Marshall, “Religion & Election,” pp. 104–125
 - recommended: Marshall, “Religion & Election,” pp. 61–104
- 11/03 Church & world
 - required: Barth, *Dogmatics* 1.2/§20, part two, “Authority Under the Word” (=pp.585–660), omitting text in small/italic type
 - recommended: Barth, *Dogmatics* 1.2/§20, part one, “Authority of the Word” (=pp.538–585), omitting text in small/italic type
- 11/08 worship, praise, sacraments
 - required: Augustine, *De baptismo*, Book One
 - recommended: Augustine, *De baptismo*, Book Two
- 11/10 grace & freedom & Christian life
 - required: Augustine, *De dono perseverantiae* 1.1–9.21
 - recommended: Augustine, *De dono perseverantiae* 9.22–24.67
- 11/15 virtue & vice & Christian life
 - required: Bonhoeffer, *Ethics*, pp. 76-102 (“Ethics as Formation”)
 - recommended: Bonhoeffer, *Ethics*, pp. 103-145 (“Heritage & Decay”; “Guilt, Justification, Renewal”)
- 11/17 Christian unity
 - required: Hunsinger, *Eucharist & Ecumenism*, pp. 1–18 (=Introduction)
 - recommended: Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II, *Ut Unum Sint*, all
- 11/22 no class (AAR)
- 11/24 no class (Thanksgiving)
- 11/29 quodlibet (1)
- 12/01 quodlibet (2)

Readings

- Augustine. *De civitate dei/City of God* || *De trinitate/Trinity* || *In epistulam Johannis ad parthos tractatus/Tractates on John’s Letter to the Parthians*. || *De baptismo/Baptism* || *De dono perseverantiae/Gift of Perseverance*. <All these works by Augustine are available online at: <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/index.html>>
- Barth, Karl. *Die kirchliche Dogmatik/Church Dogmatics*. <available online, in ‘The Digital Karl Barth Library’ via Duke Divinity School’s library>
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Ethics*. Vol. 6 of *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Works*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005. <Sakai, PDF, pp. 66-119>
- Griffiths, Paul J. *Decreation: The Last Things of All Creatures*. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2014. <Sakai, PDF, pp. 35-115>
- Hunsinger, George. *The Eucharist and Ecumenism: Let us Keep the Feast*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. <Sakai, PDF, pp. 1-18>
- Jenson, Robert W. *Systematic Theology, Volume 2: The Works of God*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. <Sakai, PDF, pp. 3-28>

- Lacoste, Jean-Yves. *From Theology to Theological Thinking*. Translated by Chris Hackett. Charlottesville & London: University of Virginia Press, 2014. <Sakai, PDF, pp. 1-29>
- Lossky, Vladimir. *In the Image and Likeness of God* (Crestwood, New York: SVS Press, 1966). <Sakai, PDF, ch. 4>
- Marshall, Bruce. “Look on the Faith of Your Church: Mary’s Assent and the Task of Theology.” *Nova et Vetera* 13/2 (2015), 419–439. <Sakai, PDF, all>
- Marshall, Bruce. “Religion and Election: Aquinas on Natural Law, Judaism, and Salvation in Christ.” *Nova et Vetera* 14/1 (2016), 61–125. <Sakai, PDF, all>
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. “The Task of Christian Eschatology.” In: Carl E. Braaten & Robert W. Jenson, ed., *The Last Things: Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Eschatology* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2002). <Sakai, PDF, pp. 1-13>
- Tanner, Kathryn. *God and Creation in Christian Theology: Tyranny or Empowerment?* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1988. <Sakai, PDF, pp. 81-119>
- Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologiae* [Summa of Theology]. <available online at: <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>>
- Wojtyla, Karol/John Paul II. *Ut Unum Sint/That They May Be One*. 1995. <available online at: http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25051995_ut-unum-sint.html>