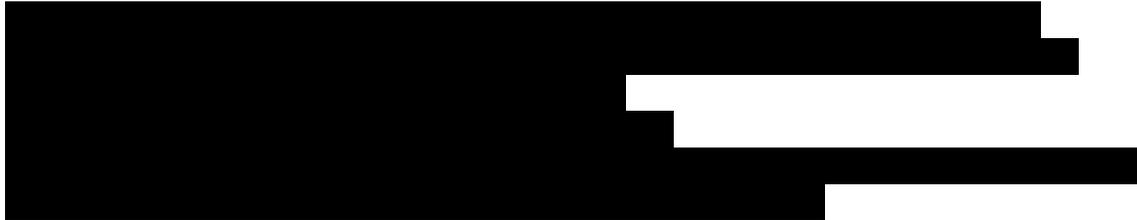


Systematic Theology Doctoral Seminar

Christian Theology and Philosophical Analysis



CATALOG DESCRIPTION

An investigation of current issues in Christian philosophical theology, especially recent developments in analytic philosophy focusing on theological topics. Attention is paid to current literature and debates, including the Trinity, Scripture, the problem of evil, and proposals for an “analytic theology.” Some knowledge of philosophy is presumed. Full Course

LEARNING GOALS

In this class the student will learn to:

1. Understand and appreciate the growth of recent analytic philosophical theology in the broad tradition of analytic philosophy.
2. Think carefully and articulate well the differences between philosophy and Christian theology and how they may work together.
3. Become familiar with many of the recent debates about philosophical issues surrounding key Christian doctrinal themes, including Scripture, Trinity and Incarnation.
4. Respect the intellectual rights of others, and treat them with respect.
5. Demonstrate the ability to construct a careful argued academic research paper in philosophical theology.

These goals will be measured by, inter alia, the following objectives:

1. Reflect critically and theologically upon required readings in class, including thoughtful oral participation in discussion.
2. Prepare summaries of the important aspects of our discussion.
3. Prepare one oral presentation to the entire seminar.
3. Write a major essay on a particular issue in contemporary analytic philosophical theology, from a Christian theological perspective.
4. Respond in writing, critically and theologically, to assigned readings.



CONTENT

This course will be taught in a seminar format, with limited enrollment. Participation, keeping up with the readings, and regular attendance are required. You will be assigned, on a rotating basis, one of three tasks each class period: Facilitator, Recorder, and Respondent. Come prepared to each class session. You will be graded on overall preparation and participation.

TEXT BOOKS AND READINGS

Required

Adams, Marilyn McCord, *Christ and Horrors* (OUP)
Beilby, James, ed., *For Faith and Clarity*. (Baker)
Crisp, Oliver, ed., *A Reader in Contemporary Philosophical Theology* (Continuum).
Crisp, Oliver and Michael Rea, eds, *Analytic Theology*. (OUP)
Davis, Stephen T., *God, Reason and Theistic Proofs* (Eerdmans).
McCall, Thomas, *Whose Trinity? Which Monotheism?* (Eerdmans)

Chapters on E-Reserves:

Schneider, John, "Seeing God where the Wild Things Are," from P. van Inwagen, ed., *Christain Faith and the Problem of Evil*.

Padgett, Alan G., "Eternity," from C. Meister and P. Copan, eds., *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion*.

Zagzebski, Linda, "Foreknowledge and Human Freedom," from P. Quinn and C. Taliaferro, eds., *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*.

Leftow, Brian, "Omnipotence," from T. Flint and M. Rea, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Theology*.

Recommended: (these books will be on reserve in the library)

Flint, Thomas P. and Michael Rea, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Theology*.

Rea, Michael, ed., *Oxford Readings in Philosophical Theology* (2 vols.).

Meister, Chad and Paul Copan, eds., *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion*.

Quinn, Philip and Charles Taliaferro, eds., *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*.

Padgett, Alan G., ed., *Reason and the Christian Religion*.

Taliaferro, Charles and Chad Meister, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Philosophical Theology*.

COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION

In a seminar, students are encouraged to participate by discussion with each other and with the instructor; dialog, questioning, and also responding to questions are the essence of theological inquiry. You will have several chances, also, at more formal roles within our seminar (Respondent, Recorder, and Facilitator). Attendance is mandatory (see below).

Here are the maximum possible points in the course, as outlined. In general, you can expect 90% to be the cut-off for an A-, 80% for a B-, etc.

Respondent (written)..... 75

Facilitator.....	25
Recorder (written).....	50
Oral Presentation.....	50
Term Paper	150
Participation/preparation.....	50
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Course Total.....	400

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking credit for work that is not your own, even when unintentional. This includes copying without quotation, excessive summarizing from sources (even if listed in a bibliography), as well as obvious things like turning in the paper of another with name on it. See Turabian, §7.9 for more info. If you plagiarize in this class, you may fail it. You must prove to me that you wrote the paper or essay. So please keep all notes and rough drafts of all essays and papers until after you receive your final grade for this class. I may ask to see them, or question you about your work in private.

ORAL PRESENTATION

You will be assigned an important article or chapter in contemporary Christian analytic philosophical theology. In your report, review the main argument of the paper, and then critically and creatively engage the author’s argument. You will speak before the entire seminar, and should use a computer to present your outline, or make a handout with copies for the seminar.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

In-Class Roles and Reports

1. Respondent: critique of assigned readings. On a rotating basis, you will be assigned the task of leading-off our discussion of the assigned readings for each day, by providing an initial critique (pro and con) in writing. Please make copies for everyone in the class. Please pay attention to: (a) the relevance of this reading for the overall theme of our course, (b) any theological or philosophical issues that are of interest to you, which you wish to discuss further.
2. Recorder: summary of key discussion. Recorder: summary of key discussion and a few salient ideas discussed. Please take notes of our seminar discussions, then type them up. Bring copies for everyone the next time we meet. You don’t have to summarize the entire class, just a few key points from the discussion of that day’s required reading.
3. Facilitator: keeping the conversation going. The facilitator will act as chair and prompter for keeping us on focus, on task, and keeping the dialog evenly spread among all participants. Make sure everyone has a chance to participate.

Term Paper

Your term paper will be a high-quality research paper on one current debate in analytic philosophical theology. You should write as a Christian theologian, and engage a key author and text (or texts if you wish to compare/contrast). Your topic will be assigned in conversation with the instructor. This will be about 15 pages (about 4000 words). Your paper should be related to

the themes of this seminar. Your paper should be of high quality of English prose in an academic format. I do prefer footnotes as a reader, in case you are interested, but endnotes are OK too.

General Remarks

In general, your papers should be written in good English style, and follow standard academic norms. You must use gender-inclusive language. Begin with an introduction, and end with a summary conclusion. Each portion and paragraph of your paper should flow together and support a main conclusion or thesis. Follow the Chicago-Humanities style, or chose one other popular academic style and stick to it.

ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP POLICIES

Attendance

Being there is a major part of any seminar. If you miss two classes (without redemption) your grade for attendance will be Marginal. You will fail your attendance in this class if you miss more than three days of class session. Please see me ASAP if you must miss more than two days, for whatever reason. All absences (even “excused” ones) count against your grade, unless they are redeemed.

Redemption of Missed Classes

You can redeem your attendance points for up to two days by turning in a typed summary (2 pages for each book) of the required reading for each day that is missed. You will be graded Pass/Fail on these summaries. Redemption will return your attendance grade to full points.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	General Topics	Readings
Sept. 9	Engaging Christian theology and analytic philosophy. Analytic theology?	Schneider; Crisp, 1-8; Bielby, 13-44,65-81; Crisp and Rea, 1-69, 155-186.
Sept. 16	Reason, Revelation, Scripture, and the Nature of God	Crisp and Rea, 87-145, 187-232; Beilby, 85-131
Sept. 23		Crisp, 9-62; Crisp and Rea, 251-312
Sept. 30		Crisp, 63-142; Padgett; Zagzebski; Leftow; Beilby, 135-177
Oct. 7		Crisp, 225-292, Beilby, 179-197
Oct. 14		Crisp, 293-370; Beilby, 219-242
Oct. 21		Crisp, 143-224, Beilby, 243-260
Oct. 28	Philosophy on the existence of God	Davis, 176-193, ix-96
Nov. 4		Davis, 97-174
Nov. 11	The Trinity	McCall, 1-156
Nov. 18		McCall, 157-255 <i>(Happy Thanksgiving)</i>
Dec. 2	The Problem of Evil	Adams, 1-204,
Dec. 9		Adams, 205-313