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DO 501 Basic Christian Doctrine

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Basic Christian Doctrine

Asbury Theological Seminary
DO501 TH 9:00-11:45
FALL 2003
Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez

Contact Information:

Office Hours: T 3:00-6:00 pm or by appointment

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(You can also reach me by phone, preferably during office hours, or by email.)

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Course Description:

This is an introductory course that bases the theological formation of students upon biblical data as well as upon the classical Christian tradition, contemporary theology, and Wesleyan theological distinctives with a view to helping students grasp the importance of theology for the practice of ministry.

Objectives:*

1. To understand and be able to use the basic vocabulary and concepts of systematic theology;
2. To become acquainted with the range of literature related to the study of systematic theology;
3. To understand the classical tradition of systematic theology;
4. To engage the student in contemporary forms of theology;
5. To highlight the doctrinal emphases of Asbury Theological Seminary;
6. To explore the practical implications of systematic theology for the Christian life

*(These objectives are taken from the core course description and are normative for Wilmore and Orlando campuses)

Required Texts:

Note: The required two texts books as well as other required readings are on **RESERVE** at the library.

1. González, Justo L. and Zaida Maldonado Pérez. *Introduction to Christian Theology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2002.
2. Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and C. F. Nordling, eds. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, ILL: InterVarsity, 1999. (Or one of your choosing)
3. Harper, Steve. *The Way to Heaven: The Gospel According to John Wesley*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003. ISBN: 0-310-25260-1
4. Lawson, John. *Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Wilmore, KY: Francis Asbury Publishing, 1980.

Highly Recommended

Core, Deborah. *The Seminary Student Writes*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2000.

Abbreviations

We will be reading chapters from the different books specified below and will refer to them using the following abbreviations:

CRT: *Christian Readings in Theology* by Hodgson and King

CTASA: *Christian Theology: A Case Study Approach* by Evans and Parker

ICT: *Introduction to Christian Theology* by González and Maldonado Pérez

See below for bibliographical information

Notebook of Definitions:

This notebook is for *your* benefit. I will be collecting it once or twice in the semester (random dates) to look at entries. Be smart and make the entries as you go!! You will come across (or have come across) many of these terms in your classes/ministry and it will ease your study if you have a good foundation of meanings now. Include in your notebook any concrete examples that will help you remember/understand the terms.

Course Schedule

Class 1/ September 4

- Introductions
- Review Syllabus
- What is theology: definition and tasks

Class 2/ September 11

- Doctrine, Tradition and Scripture
- Doctrine and Experience
- Doctrine and identity

Reading Assignment:

1. *An Introduction to Christian Theology (ICT)* pp. 9-31
2. *Introduction to Christian Doctrine (ICD)* pp. 183-203
3. Irenaeus: "From 'Against the False Gnosis'," in *A Treasury of Early Christianity*, ed. by A. Freemantle, pp. 335-338

For Reflection Paper:

4. "Authority and Perspective" and "We Call this Book Good," in *Santa Biblia: The Bible Through Hispanic Eyes* by J. L. González, pp. 11-21, 115-118.
5. "A Dynamic Approach to the Inspiration of Scripture," in *A Future for Truth*, by H. Knight, pp. 125-137

Class 3/ September 18

- Who is God?
- Doctrine of God/ The Trinity

Reading Assignment:

1. *ICT* pp. 33-54
2. *ICD* pp. 1-32

For Reflection Paper:

3. "Greek and Christian Theology: God as the Supreme Being," in *The Influence of Greek Ideas and Usages Upon the Christian Church*, pp. 238-263.
4. "The Naming of God," in *The Living God* pp. 17-52

Class 4/ September 25

- What is the World? Who are we?
- Doctrine of Creation and our Responsibility

Reading Assignment:

1. ICT pp. 55-76
2. ICD pp. 25-32

For Reflection Paper:

3. "Maker of Heaven and Earth," in *Christian Theology: A Case Study Approach (CTASA)*, pp. 77-103

Class 5/ October 2

- Who is Jesus Christ?
- Christology

Reading Assignment:

1. ICT pp. 77-95
2. ICD pp. 33-64
3. "The Person of Christ," pp. 248-275 in *The Christian Theology Reader*

For Reflection Paper:

4. "Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord," in *CTACSA*, pp. 105-132

Class 6/ October 9

- The work of God in Christ
- Soteriology

Reading Assignment:

1. ICT pp. 83-95
2. ICD pp. 65-95

For Reflection Paper:

3. ICD pp. 96-110

Note: readings 2-4 below are from *Readings in Christian Theology (RCT)* by, Hodgson And King: You will be asked to discuss these in class. Be prepared.

4. "Anselm: The Logic of Atonement," pp. 210-217
5. "Schleiermacher: The Work of Christ," pp. 217-221
6. "Bultmann: Faith in the Cross," pp. 221-225
7. "September 11 and the Theology of the Cross," by D. L. Migliore, in *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* Vol. XXIII No. 1, pp. 54-58

Class 7/ October 16

- Grace and Free Will

Reading Assignment:

1. **ICD** pp. 204-235
2. “Eternal Election, or God’s Predestination of Some to Salvation, and of Others to Destruction,” by John Calvin, in *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 2 , trans. by J. Allen, pp. 170-181
3. “The Election of God: The Problem of a Correct Doctrine of the Election of Grace,” by K. Barth, in *The Doctrine of God* (Vol. II, Part 2 of *Church Dogmatics*), pp. 3-14
4. “Free Grace,” sermon by John Wesley, in *John Wesley’s Sermons: An Anthology*, ed. by A. C. Outler and R. P. Heitzenrater, pp. 50-60

For Reflection Paper:

5. Harper, Steve. *The Way to Heaven: The Gospel According to John Wesley*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003. Pp. 1-151.

Class 8/ October 23

- **M I D T E R M**

Class 9/ October 30

- What is the church?
- Ecclesiology

Reading Assignment:

1. **ICT** pp. 97-118
2. **ICD** pp. 126-143

For Reflection Paper:

Readings below are from **RCT**

3. “Cyprian: The Unity of the Church,” pp. 237-242
4. “Gustafson: The Church as a Human Community,” pp. 250-253
5. “Paris: The Black Christian Tradition,” pp. 253-259
6. “Gutierrez: Sacrament of Liberation,” pp. 259-264

Class 10/ November 6

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Pneumatology

Reading Assignment:

1. **ICD** pp. 111-125

For Reflection Paper:

Readings below are from *The Holy Spirit* by A. I. C. Heron

2. "First Sketches: The Second and Third Centuries," pp. 63-73
3. "God's Love, God's Gift, the Soul of the Church," pp. 87-98
4. "Father, Son and Holy Spirit," pp. 157-178
5. "The Holy Spirit and the Church Today," in *The Promise of the Spirit* by W. Barclay, pp. 104-117

Class 11/ November 13

- How does the church live?
- The sacraments/Doctrine of Worship

Reading Assignment:

1. ICT pp. 119-137
2. ICD pp. 155-182

For Reflection Paper:

3. "The Sacraments," in *An Introduction to Wesleyan Theology* by W. M. Greathouse and H. R. Gunning, pp. 101-110.
4. "Proclamation, Sacraments, and Ministry," in *Faith Seeking Understanding* by D. L. Migliore, pp. 206-226

Class 12/ November 20

- The Christian Life/Ministry
- Diakonology

Reading Assignment:

1. ICD pp. 143-154

For Reflection Paper:

2. "Arguing with God: Resistance and Relinquishment in the Life of Faith," by D. Migliore, in *Kamper Oraties* 18, pp. 3-15
3. "The Christian Life: Vocation," in *Faith Seeking Understanding* by Migliore, pp. 182-184

Reading Week
November 24-28, 2003

Class 13/ December 4

- What is our hope?
- Eschatology

Reading Assignment:

1. **ICT** pp. 139-158
2. **ICD** pp. 236-270
3. “Last Things” pp. 610-623 in *The Christian Theology Reader*

Class 14/ December 11

- Film/Discussion

Notebook of Definitions:

- Define “systematic theology”
- Define “doctrine” (stress the difference between both)
- Define “inspiration”
- Define “allegorical”
- What is meant when we say that Scripture and tradition are “coinherent”? (Z: McGrath 246)
- What is meant by “adiaphora” and how does it relate to doctrine? (Z: McGrath 273)
- Atonement (know various forms)
- faith
- *ex opere operato* (re: sacraments)
- transubstantiation
- consubstantiation
- *homoousios*
- *homoiousios*
- hypostatic union
- adoptionism
- docetism
- monophysitism
- kenoticism
- apologetics
- Arianism
- Creed (Christian)
- Patripassionism
- Perichoresis
- modalism
- Deism
- Theodicy
- Eschatology
- Soteriology
- Christology
- Others may be added as we go

Bibliography:

- Barclay, William. "The Holy Spirit and the Church Today." In *The Promise of the Spirit*. London: Epworth Press, 1960.
- Barth, Karl. "The Election of God: The Problem of a Correct Doctrine of the Election of Grace." In *The Doctrine of God* vol. 2 Part 2 of *Church Dogmatics*)
- Calvin, John. "Eternal Election, or God's Predestination of Some to Salvation, and of Others to Destruction." In *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 2. Translated by John Allen. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, n.d.
- Charry, Ellen T, editor. *Inquiring After God: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.
- Evans, Robert A and Thomas D. Parker, eds. "Maker of Heaven and Earth," "Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord," and "The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of the Saints." In *Christian Theology: A Case Study Approach*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1976.
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- Greathouse, William M. and H. Ray Dunning. *An Introduction to Wesleyan Theology*. Kansas, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1982.
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- Heron, Alasdair L. C. "First Sketches: The Second and Third Centuries," "God's Love, God's Gift, the Soul of the Church," and "Father, Son and Holy Spirit." In *The Holy Spirit*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.
- Hodgson, Perer C. and Robert H. King. "Anselm: The Logic of Atonement," "Schleiermacher: The Work of Christ," "Bultmann: Faith in the Cross," "Cyprian: The Unity of the Church," "Schliermacher: The Fellowship of Believers," "Gustafson: The Church as a Human Community," "Paris: The Black Christian Tradition," and "Gutierrez: Sacrament of Liberation," In *Readings in Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
- Knight, Henry, H. "A Dynamic Approach to the Inspiration of Scripture." In *A Future for Truth: Evangelical Theology in a Postmodern World*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.
- McGrath, Alister E, editor. *The Christian Theology Reader*. MA: Blackwell Publishing, 1995. Pp. 246-275, 610-620.
- Migliore, Daniel. "September 11 and the Theology of the Cross." In *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 23, no. 1 (2002): 54-58.
- _____. "Arguing with God: Resistance and Relinquishment in the Life of Faith." In *Kamper Oraties* 18 (2001-2002): 3-15.
- _____. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1991.
- Oden, Thomas. *The Living God*. Peabody: MA: Prince Press, 1998. pp.17-52
- Outler, Albert C. and Richard P. Heitzenrater, eds. "Free Grace." In *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991.

Stone, Howard W. and James O. Duke. ““Vocation.” In *How to Think Theologically*.
Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESMENT

Basic Christian Doctrine
Asbury Theological Seminary
Zaida Maldonado Pérez, Professor

DO501
Spring 03

1. **Reflection Papers** (20%).

Each student is required to complete:

- **5** Reflection Papers out of the options indicated in the syllabus. **Note:** At least two of the reflections must be on material that will be covered *after* the midterm. These papers will focus on answering the following questions clearly and succinctly:
 - What is the author(s) saying?* (content)
 - What does it mean? And, How am I to respond?* (This is the “So what?” of the summary and involves a brief analysis and application.) More on this below.
- Each paper is limited to no more than **two double-spaced typed pages** with **one inch margins** and **12** font
- Each reflection paper is valued at 4 points each.
- Reflections will be due *before* the chosen topic is discussed in class. **No exceptions!**

2. **Examination** (30%). There will be **one midterm** exam covering the material prior to that date. The exam will include vocabulary terms and several essay questions. See the syllabus for the date of the exam.

3. **Final Paper**

Credo (20%)

Book Review (20%)

4. **Notebook of Definitions:** (10%) As mentioned above, this is your responsibility to keep up. I will be collecting these once or twice without prior notification. This is for your benefit and is part of the task of *taking responsibility for your own learning*. You should include other terms that you find in your readings or class discussions that will expand your understanding of theological terms. Try using your own words and including examples that will help you understand their use. **Weighting: 10 points**

The FINAL Paper is divided into two parts and is due on the last day of class.

• **Part 1:**

- a. A **one-page** credo. This must be of your own creation.
- b. A **three-page** paper that explains the credo in depth. This should include, for instance, your ordering of the statements (e.g. Why you begin and end where you do?); The choice of specific terms (e.g. how do you refer to “God?”); What is most critical? And, why?; How does this credo relate to your context?; What questions might remain for you?

Note: Part 1 of this paper can be done by jotting down your reflections on each Christian doctrine after your readings and class discussions. In other words, work on it *as you go*.

- **Part 2:**

a. A **four-page paper** (typed and double-spaced) on a particular area of specialization in Christian theology (e.g., Christology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, etc.). Students will research and read a book(s) on the doctrine of their choice. Note: The paper will be broken down as follows:

First two pages:

1. State the thesis (What is the author's stated purpose/problem s/he is trying to solve?)
 - place the thesis within the author's particular context (E.g. What are the questions/situations that give rise to the author's concerns?)
2. Describe how the author argues, discusses the topic (process, method).
 - Where does s/he begin? And, why? How is the argument constructed?
 - How is this important?

Second two-three pages:

3. Analysis
 - of thesis (E.g. what are the underlying assumptions? What questions are left out? Address this from your own context/experience/understanding of ministry and in conversation with other readings.)
4. Application
 - How does the material impact (E.g. illumine, challenge, critique, guide) some aspect of my ministry? What other questions does it raise for me? Be specific.

FORMAT FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS:

- All papers should be **double-spaced, typed, with one-inch margins and 12 font.**
- Papers are due on the day assigned and, in most cases, will be used for class discussion
- Quotations should be clearly marked and sources must be noted in end/footnotes
Note: quotations should be kept to a minimum
- No folders or binders please
- Final papers will be returned to your student box unless you provide a stamped envelope

Important: Assignments will be turned in at the beginning of class and are to be placed in the "Assignment Folder." Make sure your **name, date** and **assignment topic/title** and reflection paper # (e.g. #1, #2, etc. up to 5) are indicated (note: I have had papers turned in with no name). I will **only** accept papers at this time. Please do not send me assignments via email (unless you have made prior arrangement with me and the situation merits it.)

Participation:

Discussions are an important part of this course. They provide opportunities for further theological reflection and conversation at the communal level and across denominational lines. Students are expected to a) *be present at each class and*, b) *read the assigned material and come prepared to discuss it.* **Active involvement in class will be taken into account in determining final grades.**

Attendance:

More than one unexcused absence will affect the student's grade and can lead to failing the course. Excused absences refer to unavoidable emergencies that do not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment.

Grading:

Grading must reflect graduate level work. This implies competency in such areas as*:

- ◆ focus on the subject at hand
- ◆ discovery of data
- ◆ ability to question, analyze, integrate, to reconsider and synthesize
- ◆ capacity to integrate old and new data
- ◆ depth and maturity of knowledge
- ◆ skills to make growth in ministry possible
- ◆ originality and creativity

(*From FH)

All work is expected on time and as completed as indicated in the assignment. Extensions are not given except for the kind of medical and family emergencies that merit the Dean's approval. An extension implies lateness without penalty. **Note:** It is your responsibility to communicate with me if you need an extension *before* the due date of an assignment. Otherwise, I will have no recourse but to penalize you for your late work. Reflection papers will not be accepted after they have been discussed in class. A late Final Paper will have an automatic grade deduction and will not be accepted after the end of the semester (unless you have applied for an extension). A letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F."

- A (95-) Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives
- A- (90-94) Fine work
- B+ (87-89) Good, solid work: substantial achievement of course objectives
- B (83-86) Good work
- B- (80-82) Verging between good and acceptable.
- C+ (77-79) Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives
- C (73-76) Acceptable work; significant gaps
- C- (70-72) Serious gaps in achievement of course objectives
- D+ (67-69) Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives
- D (63-66) Barely acceptable
- F Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

Things that might potentially result in a reduction in total score:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Poor or non-engagement with material | Poor analysis of material |
| Presentation of a weak conclusion or argument | Misspellings |
| Lack of, or poor use of dialogue between authors | Poor syntax |
| Answering a different question | Lack of inclusive language |

Inclusive Language:

Students are urged to use inclusive language wherever possible both in their oral and written work/participation. This guideline is intended to help sensitize the Asbury Theological Seminary community and to provide help in moving beyond our present habits to more just expressions (FH).

Academic Integrity:

The standards of conduct that are articulated in the Asbury Theological Seminary's Student Handbook concerning academic matters are important to the integrity of our community and the high ethical standards we expect of those who are preparing for Christian ministry. Abuse of these policies will be handled as stipulated in the handbook.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the presenting of another's ideas or writings as one's own; this includes both written and oral discourse presentations. Response to plagiarism may include requiring an assignment to be redone, automatic failure of a course or, in some extreme cases, recommended dismissal from the Seminary (FH). Please make sure any borrowed material is properly documented.