

Theology in the Modern West II

TH2373

Spring 2013

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:20

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A. Course Objectives:

This course will introduce several of the major thinkers who influenced Christian thought in the West through the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics include changing understandings of the significance and movement of history, challenges posed to religious traditions by growing historical knowledge, shifting conceptions of the human person, and contrasting estimations of the role of religious persons in secular and political life. Connections between philosophy, theology, and social history are addressed.

Readings for this course are predominantly primary texts by brilliant thinkers. We will approach these texts both appreciatively and critically: learning from the insight of great minds and exploring their limitations. Particular attention will be paid to issues of race, class, and gender.

Student learning outcomes addressed by this course include:

SLO3: Students will demonstrate an understanding of multiple theological perspectives, historical and contemporary.

SLO8: Students will demonstrate the ability to think theologically, strategically, imaginatively, and contextually about ethical issues.

SLO16: Students will be able to reason, write, and speak clearly.

Objectives for this course include:

1. Students will trace major theological arguments and developments in the modern period regarding the role of history, the nature of Christian hope, and understandings of theological anthropology.
2. Students will compare and contrast the writings of pivotal thinkers on these themes, extrapolating how the author's works would interact.
3. Students will analyze the coherence and salient features of contrasting theological arguments, in order to construct their own theological claims.

B. Requirements:

1. Read assigned texts closely.
2. Attend lectures. Lectures will explain readings AND present material not found in readings.

3. Actively participate in discussion.
 4. Submit two papers, each 4-5 pages in length. The first paper is due March 4. The second paper is due April 29.
- Students with serious medical problems or major family emergencies may contact me BEFORE the paper is due to discuss extensions. Late papers (without extension granted) will be marked down one third of a grade (for example, A- to B+) every 24 hours for three days. Without an extension granted, papers turned in more than 72 hours after the due date will not be accepted.
5. Complete an open-book, take-home midterm exam, due on April 9.
 6. Complete an open-book, take-home final exam, due on May 16.

C. Grading:

Grades will be determined in the following way: paper #1 (15%); midterm (25%); paper #2 (25%); final (25%); participation in discussion section (10%).

D. Books: The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. I have requested that they be placed on reserve at the library.

G. W. F. Hegel, Reason in History, trans. Robert S. Hartman (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1953).

Søren Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, trans. Alastair Hannay (New York: Penguin, 1985).

Karl Barth, The Epistle to the Romans, trans. Edwyn C. Hoskyns (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933).

Paul Tillich, The Courage to Be (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1952).

Martin Luther King, Jr., Why We Can't Wait (New York: Signet Classics, 1963).

Karl Rahner, Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity, trans. William V. Dych (New York: Crossroad, 1978).

James H. Cone, Black Theology and Black Power (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1969).

Gustavo Gutiérrez, A Theology of Liberation, trans. and ed. Sister Caridad Inda and John Eagleson (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1973).

John Howard Yoder, The Original Revolution: Essays on Christian Pacifism (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1971).

In addition, there will be readings available on CAMS.

E. LPTS Classroom Policies:

Inclusive Language:

In accordance with Seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities.

Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of

images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. See for further assistance:
http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp. 3.

Academic Honesty:

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism: it will have consequences and may result in failure of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary.

Students unfamiliar with issues relating to citation practices and academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct 6.11; *Student Handbook*, p. 19.

Special Accommodations:

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy:

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

Kate Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify one of the instructors of their absence from class, either prior to the session, when possible, or within 24 hours of the class session. Multiple unexcused absences may count negatively in grading, and missing 4 or more class sessions is grounds for failure in the course.

In case of absence, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what was said in class, especially concerning modification of assignments, ordering of class sessions, etc.

F. Reading assignments and due dates:

(numbers in parenthesis indicate approximate number of pages in assigned readings)

Th. February 7, Introductory lecture

Tu. February 12, Hegel, Reason in History, I, II, and III (65)

Th. February 14, Hegel, Reason in History, IV and material on Feuerbach, on CAMS (35)

Tu. February 19, Douglass, on CAMS (32)

Th. February 21, Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, 41-95

Tu. February 26, Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, 96-148

Th. February 28, Mott and Truth, on CAMS (22)

Mon. March 4, ***First Paper Due by 5PM***

Tu. March 5, Lecture on Darwin, Marx, and Freud. No reading.

Th. March 7, Barth, "The Strange New World within the Bible," on CAMS, Epistle to the Romans, I.16-II.11 and IX.1-IX.29 (72)

Tu. March 12, Barth, Epistle to the Romans, IX.30-XI.36 (60)

Th. March 14, Niebuhr, on CAMS (47)

Tu. March 26, Tillich, Courage to Be, Parts 1-4 (110)

Tu. April 2, Tillich, Courage to Be, Parts 5-6 (77)

Th. April 4, Rahner, "Experience of the Holy Spirit," on CAMS

Tu. April 9, Rahner, "Ignatius of Loyola Speaks to a Modern Jesuit," on CAMS (27)

Midterm exams handed out

Th. April 11, King, Why We Can't Wait (75)

Mon. April 15

Midterm exams due by 5PM

Tu. April 16, King, Why We Can't Wait (75)

Th. April 18, Cone, Black Theology and Black Power, 1-90

Tu. April 23, Cone, Black Theology and Black Power, 91-152

Th. April 25, Yoder, The Original Revolution, "The Original Revolution," "If Christ is Truly Lord," "Christ the Hope of the World" (85)

Mon. April 29, ***Second Paper Due by 5PM***

Tu. April 30, Gutierrez, A Theology of Liberation, 1-33, 81-120
Th. May 2, Gutierrez, A Theology of Liberation, 142-174

Tu. May 7, Daly, Russell, on CAMS (85)
Th. May 9, Irigaray, Derrida, on CAMS (50)
Final exams handed out

Th. May 16, ***Final Exams Due by 2 PM***