Course Syllabus
KNT1101H – Reformed Theology in Dialogue
Knox College
Toronto School of Theology
Winter 2020

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Harris Athanasiadis
Telephone:	416-997-1564
E-mail:	harris.athanasiadis@utoronto.ca
Office Hours:	by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number:	KNT1101H
Course Format:	*Online*
Course Name:	Reformed Theology in Dialogue
Course Location:	
Class Times:	Online
Prerequisites:	none

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the field of Systematic Theology and discuss the principle sub-disciplines of Systematic Theology from a Reformed perspective in dialogue with traditional and contemporary perspectives in theology.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

The following texts should be ordered as soon as possible to ensure that you have them to complete weekly assignments in the course.

Migliore, Daniel, **Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. (Third Edition, 2014)

Wells, Harold, **The Christic Center: Life-Giving and Liberating.** New York: Orbis Books, 2004.

OTHER RESOURCES: PDF files posted on blackboard

Course Website(s)
- Quercus: https://q.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at https://q.utoronto.ca/ and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the

link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask Kaitlyn Lubniewski kaitlyn.lubniewski@utoronto.ca   for further help.]

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

BD Level
Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

Religious Heritage Outcomes: One is
- able to define Systematic Theology.
- able to identify and define the sub-disciplines of Systematic Theology.
- able to describe and analyse Reformed Theology in relation to the sub-disciplines of Systematic Theology.

Cultural Context Outcomes: One is
- able to identify and describe the mission of the church in relation to contemporary contexts.

Personal Spiritual Formation Outcomes
One is
- able to identify and describe the traditional Reformed understanding of *pietas*.

Capacity for Ministry Outcomes: One is
able to integrate (to make consistent interconnections) and communicate Reformed and Systematic Theology in relation to the practice of ministry and the mission of the church
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Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in [three] areas:

Basic Degree Students:

1. Examination:
There is a weekly examination question that must be posted in the instructor's drop box on Quercus. Weekly examination answers will be graded for a total of 40% of the course grade.

2. Weekly Online Post Course Participation:
There is a required weekly Online Post based on the course readings for the week. This course participation requires two responses per week. First post one comment or question based on the lecture and reading material of +/- 80-100 words by Thursday Night 6 PM and second post one response, +/- 40-80 words by Friday at 6 PM to at least one comment or question of a fellow student. These posts will be evaluated on relevance to course material and frequency for 10% of the course grade.

3. Essay:
Essays should be about 12-14 pages of double spaced 12pt text in length. They should be typed, properly footnoted or end-noted according to the Chicago Style, and should include a bibliography of material consulted. Essay: 50% of course grade.

Essays are due as per posted instructions on Quercus.

Essay Topic: Describe a Reformed perspective on saving faith with reference to Scripture, the views of Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, and John Calvin, and the subordinate standards of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and relate your description to Reformed piety. Then describe your own view of saving faith.

Please see the more detailed instructions for writing this paper as posted on Quercus.

Grading System - Basic Degree Students

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Late work (Graduate). The prima facie deadline for the completion of work in a course is the last day of the examination week for the trimester in which the course is taken. Students are expected to meet the course deadlines of the instructor offering the course and are advised to plan their research projects accordingly. Students who find themselves unable to meet deadlines for completing coursework can, under certain conditions, receive extensions for completing the work after the dates set by the college in which the course is offered.

The authority to grant an extension for the completion of work in a course beyond the original TST or college deadline (whichever is earlier) for that course rests with the student's college Graduate Director, not the instructor of the course. Nevertheless, the instructor's signature is required for course extension requests to be processed. Students will petition their college Graduate Director for extensions, using a standard form provided by TST on its website. See Section 7.11 of the Conjoint Graduate Degree Handbook.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your

spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Orientation Week: Review orientation instructions and welcome letter on blackboard and familiarize yourself with the course content and ensure that all text books are ordered.

Course Instructions for the next week will be released every Friday afternoon at 4 pm.

Week 1. Theme: What is Theology? Follow instructions as released on blackboard

Week 2. Theme: Reformed Theology and Theological Method. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 3. Theme: Revelation. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 4. Theme: Faith. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 5. Theme: The Creed. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 6. Theme: The Holy Trinity. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 7. Theme: Creation and Stewardship. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 8. Theme: Election and Predestination. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 9. Theme: Jesus Christ and Humankind. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

THE "SAVING FAITH" PAPER IS DUE BY FRIDAY 4 PM AT THE END OF WEEK 9.

Week 10. Theme: I believe in Jesus Christ. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 11. Theme: The Holy Spirit. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

Week 12. Theme: The Church. Follow instructions as released on Blackboard.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FURTHER READING

1. Some-Histories-of-Theology

Berkhof, H.   Two Hundred Years of Theology, Eerdmans,1989

Dillenberger,J.	Protestant Christianity Interpreted through its Development, Westminster Press, 1954
Dulles, A.	Models of Revelation. New York: Image Books. 1985.
Heron, A.	A Century of Protestant Theology, Westminster Press, 1980
Lohse, B.	A Short History of Christian Doctrine, Fortress Press, 1966
Macquarrie, J.	Twentieth Century Religious Thought, Harper and Row, 1963
Placher, W.	A History of Christian Theology, Westminster Press, 1983
Tillich, P.	A History of Christian Thought, Simon and Schuster, 1972

2. Some-Recent-Theologies

Barth, K.	Church Dogmatics, 13 Vols, T and T Clark, 1936 1969
Barth, Karl.	*The Epistle to the Romans*. Translated by Edwyn C. Hoskyns. London: Oxford University Press, 1933.
--------	*The Word of God and the Word of Man*. New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1957.
--------	*The Humanity of God*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.
-------	*Learning Jesus Christ through the Heidelberg Catechism*.
Berkouwer, G.C.	Studies in Dogmatics,13 Vols. Eerdmans, 1952
Braaten, C. and Jenson, R.	Christian Dogmatics, Fortress Press, 1984 .
Brunner, E.	Dogmatics, 3 Vols. Westminster Press, 1950-63
Calvin, John.	*Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1536 edition*. Edited by Ford Lewis Battles. London: Collins, 1975.
------	*Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 volumes.
De Gruchy, J.	Liberating Reformed Theology. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
Gilkey, L.	Message and Existence, Seabury Press, 1980
Guthrie, S.	Christian Doctrine, John Knox Press, 1968
Guthrie, S.	Always Being Reformed: Faith for a Fragmented World. 2nd ed. Westminster John Knox. 2008.
Hall, D. J.	Thinking the Faith, Augsburg, 1989
Hall, Douglas John.	The Cross in our Context
-------------------------	Lighten our Darkness
-------------------------	God and Human Suffering
-------------------------	Waiting for Gospel: An Appeal to the Dispirited Remnants of Protestant "Establishment."
-------------------------	What Christianity is Not.
Kitamori, Kazoh.	Theology of the Pain of God.
Leith, John H.	*Introduction to the Reformed Tradition*.
------------------	*John Calvin's Doctrine of the Christian Life*.
Lewis, Alan.	Between Cross and Resurrection: A Theology of Holy Saturday
Macquarrie, J.	Principles of Christian Theology, Scribner's 1966
Migliore, D.L.	Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology, Eerdmans, 3rd edition, 2014.
Migliore, Daniel.	The Power of God and the Gods of Power.
Moltmann, J.	Theology of Hope, SCM Press, 1967

Ottati, Douglas	Theology for Liberal Presbyterians and Other Endangered Species. Geneva Press, 2006
Sőlle, D.	Thinking About God, Trinity Press, 1990
Tillich, P.	Systematic Theology, 3 Vols. Univ. of Chicago 1951, 1957, 1963 1981, 1983
Wells, H.	The Christic Center: Life-Giving and Liberating. NY: Orbis Books 2004.

3. Classics

Luther, Martin.	*Luther's Works.*
Calvin, J.	Institutes of the Christian Religion, ed.and trans. J.T. McNeill, F.Battles, Westminster Press, 1960
Schleiermacher, F.	The Christian Faith, T and T Clark, 1928, Fortress Press, 1976
Barth, K.	Church Dogmatics, 13 Vols. T and T Clark, 1936-69

4. Creeds-and-Confessions

Bettenson, H. ed.	Documents of the Christian Church, Oxford Univ. Press, 1967

Book of Confessions UPCUSA 1967

Cochrane, A. ed.	Reformed Confessions of the 16th Century, Westminster Press, 1966
Leith, J. ed.	Creeds of the Churches, John Knox Press, 1973