

## KNT1101H. L6101 REFORMED THEOLOGY IN DIALOGUE ONLINE SYLLABUS

**Professor: Harris Athanasiadis 416-997-1564 or [harris.athanasiadis@utoronto.ca](mailto:harris.athanasiadis@utoronto.ca).** The teaching assistant for this course will be introduced at the time the course begins.

### COURSE 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

### 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.

**ONLINE INTERFACE:** Students interact with the course through an online interface of the University of Toronto with the name *blackboard*. Whenever this syllabus refers to blackboard it is referring to this interface which is accessed from <https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>. The student needs a valid University of Toronto ID and password to access their course.

### COURSE POLICIES

Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook (You can find the TST Basic Degree Handbook at <http://www.tst.edu/docs/200809/bdhandbook.pdf>) and the Knox Student Handbook (You can find the content of the Knox College Student Handbook under Academic Policies on the Knox College website ([http://www.utoronto.ca/knox/pages/Academic%20Programs/Policies/Academic\\_policies.htm](http://www.utoronto.ca/knox/pages/Academic%20Programs/Policies/Academic_policies.htm))). In particular note:

**Late Policy:** 4 points deducted per week late (2 points off by Monday, 2 more points by Thursday)

**Completion of Course work:** all course work (including any late work) must be completed by the end of term, the due date will be Monday of examination week. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Basic Degree Committee and the Faculty of Knox College.

**Style Guidelines for Papers:** The reference style used in all courses at Knox College is the Chicago style as summarized in *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian. You can find a good summary of this style at

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/chicago-turabianstyle.pdf>

**Email assignments:** Papers and assignments are received as per course instructions posted on blackboard

**Plagiarism Policy:** See TST Basic Degree Handbook. **Please familiarise yourself with this policy as there are very serious academic consequences for violating this policy.**

**Consultation:** Please do not hesitate to consult with me about any questions you may have.

**STUDENTS MUST HAVE A VALID UOFT EMAIL ADDRESS AND CHECK THEIR MAILBOX REGULARLY. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY CAUSE STUDENTS TO MISS IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION.**

**1. Examination:**

There is a weekly examination question that must be posted in the instructor's drop box on blackboard. 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 blackboard.

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 blackboard.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

**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.

Crux Bookstore has both in stock at good prices. They will be prepared to take orders and send the book to you. They can be contacted at:  
Phone 416-599-2749  
[www.cruxbooks.com](http://www.cruxbooks.com)

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

PDF files posted on blackboard

**COURSE CALENDAR:**

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

