

SYLLABUS - 2018
KNT 3271H DOCTRINES OF RECONCILIATION
Tuesdays 2-4 pm

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TA:

The aim of this course is threefold:

1. To focus on some of the primary texts that deal specifically with the Christian doctrine of atonement and reconciliation.
2. To examine the internal theological coherence and consistency of these "theories" and their value and importance for today.
3. To consider the nature of the doctrines of reconciliation as reformed and ecumenical theologians, and to explore their meaning and relevance in the contemporary world.

Course Textbooks:

Hall, Douglas J. *The Cross in Our Context: Jesus and the Suffering World*. Fortress: Minneapolis, 2003.

Heim, Mark S. *Saved From Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.

ANTICIPATED CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Religious Heritage Outcomes:

- able to identify and define the sub-disciplines of Systematic Theology.
- able to describe the theology of five systematic theologians two of whom are Reformed, one of whom represents the early Reformed traditions. At least one of the five should come from a non-Western context.
- able to identify, describe, and analyse the key reformation doctrines and their sources.
- able to identify and describe the mission of the church in relation to Reformed and Systematic Theology.

Cultural Context Outcomes:

- able to identify and describe the contemporary ecumenical context of Systematic and Reformed Theology.
- able to analyse, reflect critically, and re-formulate Reformed and Systematic Theology in the light of the contemporary Canadian, North American, Western, global, and ecumenical contexts.

Personal Spiritual Formation Outcomes:

- able to describe and analyse the relationship between Christian life, ministry, and Reformed Theology.
- able to show an ability and willingness to conduct life in community out of confessed Christian Faith linked with an ability and willingness to communicate that faith in relation to God's call to mission inclusive of personal faith, communal life, social justice, peace, stewardship of resources, and healing.

Capacity for Ministry Outcomes:

- 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
- able to teach the biblical text theologically in a congregational ministry context.
- able to communicate the traditions and the challenges of Reformed and reforming Theology to members of a congregation in an inspiring way.
- able to interact with sensitivity and care with diverse theological perspectives while encouraging unity in diversity.
- able to reflect on challenges made by one's context to the church and to develop theologically grounded ministry responses to such challenges.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

Grade scale and grade expectations are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook. The grading scheme for this course, as with all TST courses, is as follows:

A ⁺	90 - 100	Profound and Creative
A	85 - 89	Outstanding
A ⁻	80 - 84	Excellent: clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.
B ⁺	77 - 79	Very good
B	73 - 76	Good: good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues, good familiarity with the literature
B ⁻	70 - 72	Satisfactory: adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues and with the literature
FZ	0 - 69	Failure: failure to meet the above criteria

Basic Degree Students

1. Students must have a valid UofT email address and check their mailboxes regularly for in-course communication, failure to do so may cause the students to miss important information regarding the course.
2. Reading all required assignments before class.
3. Participation in class discussions and preparation of in-class exercises. Evaluative criteria: comments and questions show an understanding of the assigned readings and a readiness to apply readings to interpretive questions and insights.
4. Weekly report sheets, 20%. *See guidelines in Appendix 1 to this Syllabus.*
5. Book Review: Students will write a review of Heim, Mark S. *Saved from Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006. The book review is worth 30% of the course grade.

The book review should be 1500 words double spaced and typed. **Book review is due March 13, 2018. See rubric on page 4.**

6. Integrative paper (50%).

Any work that fails to meet the above criteria will receive a failing grade.

COURSE POLICIES

Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. You can find the content of the Knox College Student Handbook under Academic Policies on the Knox College website.¹

In particular note:

Late Policy:

4 percentage 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.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

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.

Email and Blackboard Access:

¹ The TST Basic Degree Handbook is available at <http://www.tst.edu/sites/default/files/BDHandbook%2015-16%20-%20FNL%20Oct%202015.pdf>. The Knox Student Academic Policy is available at <http://www.knox.utoronto.ca/life-at-knox/policies/>

Students must have a valid and properly functioning University of Toronto e-mail address and students must be able to access the course blackboard site to access resources. ***Students must check their University of Toronto mailbox regularly. Failure to do so may cause students to miss important course information.***

Online Interface:

Students will sometimes 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.

Expectations and Evaluation

Integrative paper:

Each student will write an integrative paper of 2500 words due **Tuesdat April 10, 2018**. In the paper the student will describe their understanding of a doctrine of reconciliation/redemption within the Christian tradition with which they are substantially in agreement. The student will make the argument for this understanding based on 1. In the course readings with frequent and clear references to sources encountered during the course, giving evidence of understanding the history of ideas within the broader Christian movement on the doctrine of reconciliation/redemption, 2. Additional research the student might have done. The paper has to contain a thesis, argument and conclusion, and will make use of proper reference technique. The paper will also have an attached bibliography.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Does the paper make a convincing case for the student's position?
2. Does the paper give evidence of a wider grasp of the different arguments made through history and in the 20th and 21st century?
3. Has the student arranged material in a systematic and convincing way giving evidence of making connections (integrating) different perspectives?
4. Does the student give evidence of a critical evaluation of positions discussed including the position the student advances her/himself?
5. Does the student make proper use of reference technique?
6. Is there a correctly constructed bibliography?

Weekly Readings and report sheets

Students will read through and reflect on the material listed as "Read for Next Week" in the syllabus. Not reading this material could seriously impede the student's progress in the course. During class group discussion students will be expected to be conversant with the reading material for discussion purposes. The weekly report sheet is to be based on information gathered from the designated readings.

Nine Weekly report sheets, 20% of course grade, are to be handed in as per schedule below. *See guidelines in Appendix 1 to this Syllabus.*

Major Book Review

KNT 3271H: Winter 2018

Doctrines of Reconciliation

Students will write a review of Heim, Mark S. *Saved From Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006. The book review will be 30% of the course grade. The book review should be 1500 words double spaced and typed. **The book review is due March 13, 2018.**

The book review will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Did the student follow the general format of a formal academic book review (please obtain a copy of the Toronto Journal of Theology and study the format of book reviews)
2. Does the student give evidence of grasping the author's core argument?
3. Does the student discuss all the important parts of the book?
4. Does the student critically interact with the author's ideas and make use of the course material and other readings to interact with it?
5. Does the student pose critical questions in relation to the author's position?

Course Schedule

Week 1

Introduction: Doctrines of Reconciliation and Theological Reflection.

Read for Next Week: Migliore on Christology (Electronic Collection)

Week 2

Introduction: Doctrines of Reconciliation and Theological Reflection.

Read for Next Week: Christus Victor Extract in Electronic Collection Chapters I and VIII (A copy of the whole text is also available for those who wish to do further reading)

For historical context do some online research on Gustaf Aulen.

Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 1 on Christus Victor due week 3.

Week 3

Christus Victor: The Aulen Argument

Theme 1: The Christus Victor metaphor

Read for Next Week: Cur Deus Homo by Anselm Chapters Book 1 Chapters XII, XIII & XV Book 2 Chapters VI – XI and XIV, XV, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII (Electronic Resources)

For historical context read "Bartlett on Anselm etc." (Electronic Collection)

Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 2 on Anselm of Canterbury due week 4

Week 4

Anselm of Canterbury

Theme 2: The View of Anselm of Canterbury

Read for Next Week: The Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans by Pierre Abelard: an extract (Electronic Collection)
Sin, Grace and Redemption in Abelard (By Williams)
(Electronic Collection)

For historical context do some online research on Peter Abelard and Heloise.

Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 3 on Abelard and Heloise due week 5

Week 5

Theme 3: Abelard's Metaphor.
 Read for Next Week: Extract from Calvin's Institutes (Electronic Resources)
 Living Faith 3.4-3.6.2 (PCC) & Song of Faith (UCC)
For historical context do some online research on John Calvin's biography/context.
Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 4 on Calvin due week 6

Week 6

The Reformation

Theme 4: John Calvin's Reformation Perspective on Reconciliation (or Luther)
 Read for Next Week: Dolores Williams (Womanist Perspective) (Electronic Collection)
 Brown and Bohn – For God so Loved the World?
 (Electronic Collection)
 Grey – Unraveling and Reveaving of Atonement: Placating of a Deity? (Electronic
 Collection)
For those with additional interest you could also read: Rita Nakashima Brock
(Electronic Collection).
Read Walter Wink – Added on blackboard – electronic collection
For historical context do some online research on any of the above authors.
Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 5 on Feminist/Womanist perspectives due week 8

Week 7

Reading Week

Read for Next Week: Hall, Part 1 + 2

Week 8

Feminist and Womanist Perspectives on Reconciliation

Theme 5: Feminist and Womanist Perspectives on Reconciliation
 Read for Next Week: Douglas Hall's perspective on Reconciliation
 Read for Next Class: Hall, Part 3 + 4
For historical context do some online research on Douglas John Hall.
Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 6 on Douglas Hall due week 9

Week 9

The Theology of the Cross in Our Context

Theme 6: Douglas Hall – Cross in Context
 Read for next week:
 Jay Johnson extract (electronic collection)(Queer perspective)
 James Cone: Reconciliation (Electronic Collection)(Black perspective)
 Jon Sobrino Extract from Christology at the Crossroads (Latin American
 perspective)(Electronic Collection)
For historical background do some online research on Jon Sobrino
Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 7 on Queer perspective due week 10

Week 10

Book Review Due

Theme 7: A Queer Liberation Perspective
 Read for Next Week:
 The Nonviolent Atonement – J. Denny Weaver (Electronic Resources)

The Abyss, Anthony Bartless (Electronic Resources)

For historical context do some online research on Weaver.

Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 8 on non-violent perspectives due week 11

Week 11

Non-violent Metaphors of Atonement

Theme 8: A Non-violent Metaphors of Reconciliation (Weaver/Heim/Bartlett)

Read for Next Week: Extract from Chun Hoi Heo (Electronic Collection)

For historical context do online research on Heo (ask Korean friends to help with Korean websites)

Prepare Weekly Preparation Sheet 9 on a Korean Immigrant perspective due week 12

Week 12

Theme 9: Chun Hoi Heo Immigrant Perspective

Read for next week: N.T. Wright – Surprised by Hope Extract (Electronic Collection)

Week 13

Entering the Story Space – Examining alternative story lines.

Theme 10: Entering Creative Story Space...

Course Evaluation

Week 14

*Examination Week – **Integrative Paper due on April 10, 2018.** Students must be available and check their UofT email during examination week*

Electronic Resources Provided

These resources are only available during the course. All downloaded files must be erased at the end of the course.

Abelard – Short extract from his Commentary on Romans

Anselm – CurDeus Homo

Athanasius – On the Incarnation

Aulen – Christus Victor

Bartlett – Extract from Cross Purposes

Boesak, A.A. Reconciliation and Liberation

Brown, J.C. & Bohn, C.R. –For God so loved the world?

Brock, R.N – Journeys by Heart

Calvin - The Institutes of the Christian Religion (Extract)

Cone, J.H. Theological Reflections on Reconciliation

Girard – Interview with Rene Girard

Grey, M. – Unravelling and Reweaving of Atonement: Placating of the Deity?

Gunton - The Atonement and the Triune God

Gutierrez – Extract from A theology of liberation

Heim, M. 2 Chapter Extracts from “Saved from Sacrifice”

Heo, Chun Hoi. Multicultural Christology

Irenaus - Against Heresies (extract)

Migliore, D. – Christology

Sobrino, Jon – Christology at the Crossroads (extract)

Sölle – Cross and Resurrection (Extract from “Thinking about God”)

Song, C.S. – Jesus the Crucified People

KNT 3271H: Winter 2018

Doctrines of Reconciliation

Weaver – paper re: Non-violent atonement
 Williams (Dolores) – Sisters in the Wilderness
 Williams – Sin, Grace and Redemption in Abelard
 Wink, W.- Domination

Selected Bibliography

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- Athanasius St. *On the Incarnation*, ed. R.W Thomson, Oxford Univ. Press, 1971
- Anselm, St. *Cur Deus Homo*, Open Court Publishing, 1962
- Augustine. "On the Trinity," Book 4, in Philip Schaff, ed., *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 3, *St. Augustine: On the Holy Trinity, Doctrinal Treatises, Moral Treatises*. Edinburgh and Grand Rapids: T& T Clark and Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1993.
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- Brock, Rita Nakashima and Rebecca Parker. *Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2001.
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- Bushnell, Horace. *The Vicarious Sacrifice: Grounded in Principles of Universal Obligation*. London: R. D. Dickinson, 1880.
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The Atonement and the Modern Mind, Hodder & Stoughton, 1903
The Christian Doctrine of Reconciliation, Hodder & Stoughton, 1917

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Jesus Christ and his Cross. Westminster Press, 1953
- Douglas, Kelly Brown. *The Black Christ*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1994.
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- Forsyth, P.T. *The Cruciality of the Cross*, Eaton & Mains, 1909
The Work of Christ, Independent Press, 1938
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Appendix A:

Weekly Preparation Sheet:

1. Name the Theological Perspective on Reconciliation/Redemption with a brief description.

2. Identify the main proponent(s), and his/her/their historical context and how it might have impacted on their perspective.

3. How does this position understand the work of Christ in redemption? (Christology)

4. How does this perspective define sin (harmatology)?

5. Who and/or what is redeemed in this perspective?

6. What is the end of all things according to this perspective? (Eschatology)

7. What question would you like to discuss in class?

Grading Scheme:

1. Information is accurate and clearly written and all 7 Slots are filled in. (80%-83%)
2. Information is not completely accurate but fair and all 7 slots filled in. (75%-78%)
3. Information is accurate but not all 7 slots are filled. (72%-76%)
4. Information is filled in all 7 slots but quite inaccurate but sufficiently close to pass. (70-72%)
5. The Information is wrong and/or not complete (69% or less)
6. The information is accurate, clearly written, all 7 slots are filled and a very profound question is posed. (85%+)