

**Theology Survey I: InterVarsity Staff
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

Summer 2019

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Required Texts

Beth Felker Jones, *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014. (available as an e-book from the Gordon-Conwell library)

Ian McFarland, *From Nothing: A Theology of Creation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014.

John Swinton, *Becoming Friends of Time: Disability, Timefulness, and Gentle Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016. (available as an e-book from the Gordon-Conwell library).

Course Description

This course is a study of theological method, revelation, inspiration, and canon of Scripture; existence and attributes of God; Trinity; creation and providence; human nature; original and actual sin.

Assignments

The assignments in bold will be discussed during the session they are assigned. The rest of the material should be completed, as well as possible, before the beginning of the week-long intensive.

All students will need to access the Canvas site in order to gain access to the assignments and the class forums. Before the start of class, students will need to post an introduction and response to the readings for Monday and Tuesday in the Canvas forums. These will be made available by May 1.

The main assignment will be a presentation on a doctrine covered in this course. The specific requirements of this assignment will be discussed in class.

Monday: God and Not-God as the Basis of Theology

Theology and Method
Context and Theology

- Beth Felker Jones, Intro- Ch. 1
- **Miroslav Volf, “Theology for a Way of Life”***
- James Cone, *God of the Oppressed*, Ch. 2 “Speaking the Truth”*

Knowing and Speaking of God

- Janet Martin Soskice, “Calling God ‘Father’ in *The Kindness of God: Metaphor, Gender, and Religious Language*, pp. 66-83. *
- Ian McFarland, *From Nothing*, Ch. 2*

Tuesday: Doctrine of Revelation and Scripture

- Felker Jones, Ch. 2
- **John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Books 1-6. Found here:** <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes.iii.i.html>
- Recommended: Jeremy Begbie, 'Who is this God? – Biblical Inspiration Revisited', in *Tyndale Bulletin* 43.2 (1992) 259-282. Found here: <https://www.uniontheology.org/resources/doctrine/scripture/the-trinity-and-the-inspiration-of-the-bible>

Interpreting Scripture for the Task of Theology

- David Steinmetz, “The Superiority of Pre-Critical Exegesis”*
- Powery and Sadler, Ch. 1, “The Genesis of Liberation” and Ch. 4, “The Origins of Whiteness and the Black Biblical Imagination” *The Genesis of Liberation*, pp. 83-111. (Available as an E-book through the GCTS library).

Wednesday

The Divine Names, God as Trinity

- Sonderegger, “The Perfect Oneness of God”, 3-23.*
- Beth Felker Jones, Chapter 3, “The God We Worship: Doctrine of the Trinity,” *Practicing Christian Doctrine*, pp. 55-76.
- David S. Yeago, “The New Testament and the Nicene Dogma,” *Pro Ecclesia* 3/2 (1994): 152-164.
- **Karen Kilby, “Projection and Perichoresis,” *New Blackfriars* 81 (2000): 432-445.**

God as Creator

- Beth Felker Jones, Chapter 4, “A Delightful World: Doctrines of Creation and Providence,” *Practicing Christian Doctrine*.
- **Ian McFarland, *From Nothing*, Introduction and Ch. 1 and 3**
- Kathryn Tanner, “Is God in Charge?” in William Placher, *Essentials of Christian Theology*.

Thursday

God as Creator, continued

- Frederick L. Ware, Chapter 8, “Suffering,” *African American Theology: An Introduction*, pp. 131-139. Available as an e-book through the GCTS library.
- **Barbara Omolade, “Faith Confronts Evil”, *The Christian Faith and the Problem of Evil*, ed. Peter vanInwagen. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.**

Theological Anthropology

- **Justo L. Gonzales, “On Being Human,” *Manana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective*, pp. 125-138.**
- Beth Felker Jones, Ch. 5, “Reflecting God’s Image,” *Practicing Christian Doctrine*, pp. 97-116.
- **John Swinton, Introduction and Ch. 3 and Ch. 4 in *Becoming Friends of Time: Disability, Timefulness, and Gentle Discipleship*, pp. 57-83.**
- M. Shawn Copeland, “Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being” in *Enfleshing Freedom*, pp. 23-53.

Friday

Doctrine of Sin

- **Ian A. McFarland, “Original Sin,” *T&T Clark Companion to the Doctrine of Sin*, edited by Keith L. Johnson and David Lauber, pp. 303-318.**
- Stephen Ray, “Structural Sin,” *T&T Clark Companion to the Doctrine of Sin*, edited by Keith L. Johnson and David Lauber, pp. 417-432.
- **Jacquelyn Grant, “The Sin of Servanthood” in *A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*, edited by Emile M. Townes, pp. 199-218.**