

## **TH607 Systematic Theology III**

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## **TH607 Systematic Theology III**

### **Syllabus**

**Summer 2019**

### **Course description**

TH607 is the capstone of the systematic theology classes at Gordon-Conwell. As a result, I am very intentional about making it an integrative experience. The following doctrines are explicitly covered: Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts, salvation, church and sacraments, eschatology and final states. A very important objective of this class is to find the coherence between these doctrines and the rest of systematic theology, but also their significance for Christian life.

The doctrine of the person and work of the Holy Spirit grounds the rest of the discussion of soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. A specifically Trinitarian Pneumatology is determinative for one's understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. Moving into the doctrine of the church, a robustly Trinitarian theology will be shown to mediate between highly individualistic and highly institutionalized ecclesiologies.

\* **[Summer 2019 specific:]** The class meets for lectures between May 27 and June 1st, from 9:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM to 2:30 PM. However, the student will be required to

- (a) Read the required textbooks prior to the class;
- (b) Watch a number of narrated presentations on topics not covered during class;
- (c) Write a final doctrinal statement until August 15<sup>th</sup> (see below).

### **Comment on the structure of the teaching week (May 27th-June 1st)**

- I will employ a variety of teaching methods in order to make the best use of this intensive learning experience. Since I will not be able to cover all TH607 material in class, you will be expected to complete watching some of the lectures online through Canvas.

### **Learning outcomes**

- To understand the systematic coherence of pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology.
- To understand the differences between major Christian confessions on the respective topics.
- To understand what is at stake in various soteriologies, including their practical implications for the life of the church.
- To gain a better understanding of the distinctive role played by the Holy Spirit in salvation and the life of the church.
- To gain a sense for the importance and reality of the church and its implications for the life of the congregation.
- To understand various ecclesiological assumptions made by the variety of worship styles and liturgical traditions.
- To gain an appreciation for the importance of catechetical formation for the life of the church.
- To understand the implications of each of these topics for the following areas: evangelism, worship, missions, discipleship etc.

## Required Reading

### Books

Athanasius the Great and Didymus the Blind, *Works on the Holy Spirit*, ISBN-13: 978-0881413793

Joseph Ratzinger, *Called to Communion*, ISBN-13: 978-0898705782

Jean Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ISBN-13: 978-1598561685 (Book IV)

Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, ISBN-13: 978-0913836316

## Course outline

- May 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Pneumatology: the person and work of the Holy Spirit; the relation between the missions of the Son and the Spirit; the relation between the ascension and Pentecost. The Spirit as the mode of the risen Lord's presence in the world.
- May 29<sup>th</sup>
  - The being of the Church; the marks of the Church; Ecumenical ecclesiology.
- May 30
  - The mission of the Church; relationship between Church and kingdom of God; the role of the Church in society; Church and state;
- May 31
  - Sacraments: Baptism and Eucharist; nature of the sacraments; sacramental theology;
- June 1
  - Church governance; theology of ordination; theology of church discipline.

## Evaluation and Course Requirements

1. **Residency activities**
  - a. **Class participation:** your participation in class discussion and activities will be graded (10%). You are required to read the required textbooks prior to the 'residency.' You will be asked to draw upon your reading of

these two books in class discussion. There will also be additional reading to be completed during the 'residency'. Your proficiency in carrying out these additional assignments will also weigh towards your participation grade.

2. **Pre and Post-residency activities.**

- a. **Pre-residency reading.** You are required to read the following prior to the class: Book IV of Calvin's *Institutes*, the chapters 8-12 from Lossky, Ratzinger's *Called to Communion*, Part II; finally, Athanasius/Didymus - in totality.
- b. **Pre-residency viewing:** Watch the first 4 videos on the Canvas website (accessed through <http://gordonconwell.instructure.com>)
- c. **Post-residency viewing:** Watch the last 3 videos on the Canvas website (accessed through <http://gordonconwell.instructure.com>)
- d. **Final statement of faith (90%).** You are to write a 18-20 page paper, 1.5 spaced, presenting your theological position. This paper does not require research. Instead it is meant as an opportunity for the student to reflect on the *coherence of her theological position as a whole*. The following topics must be addressed (underlined topics should receive special attention): Doctrine of Scripture, divine attributes, doctrine of the Trinity, the works of the Trinity, creation, providence, anthropology, doctrine of original sin, Christology, atonement, person and work of the Holy Spirit, the relationship between the Spirit and Christ, justification, regeneration, predestination, sanctification, the nature and marks of the church, church governance, sacramentology, eschatology. The paper must intentionally explore the logical links between your take on various theological loci. More explanation of expectations and other instructions to be provided in class. **Due August 15<sup>th</sup>.**