

**D4000 Survey of Systematic Theology**  
**Professor: Robin Ryan, CP**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Thursdays 9:00-11:45 AM**

Office Hours: In the office most days; please make an appointment

Office Location: Room 410

Class online: <http://d21.ctu.edu>

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course consists of an overview of the major topics that are treated in systematic theology. Students explore fundamental dimensions of the Judeo-Christian tradition, including: faith and revelation, the mystery of the Triune God, Jesus Christ, creation, Church, ministry, sin and grace, Mary and the saints, and eschatology. The course is designed to offer students a basic introduction to the major historical developments and contemporary issues related to these themes, each of which is treated in greater detail in other courses.

The procedure of the course consists of a blend of input from the professor, student presentations, and focused discussion of the readings for the class. Students are expected to be actively engaged in the conversation.

**REQUIRED TEXTS** – The current required and recommended book list is available on the D2L home page. Please login to D2L and near the top of the home page click the Course Book List tab.

Francis Schüssler-Fiorenza and John P. Galvin, eds., *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8006-6291-2.

Edward P. Hahnenberg, *Theology for Ministry: An Introduction for Lay Ministers*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8146-3521-6.

### **BOOKS ON RESERVE IN THE CTU PAUL BECHTOLD LIBRARY**

F. Fiorenza and J. Galvin, *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives*.

E. Hahnenberg, *Theology for Ministry: An Introduction for Lay Ministers*.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT:

### Learning Outcomes:

**Student success in this course is manifest in the ability to:**

1. Engage in constructive theological reflection on the major themes of the Judeo-Christian tradition [MDiv 2; MA 2; MAPS 1; Professional MAs 1]
2. Interpret the major themes of the Judeo-Christian tradition in a faithful, historically critical, and culturally sensitive manner [MDiv 2; MA 2; MAPS 2; Professional MAs 1]
3. Effectively communicate the meaning of the central beliefs of the Judeo-Christian tradition in oral and written form [MDiv 2; MA 2; MAPS 1; Professional MAs 1]

## EXPECTATIONS

**Copyright Policy** – See Student Handbook.

**Statement on Academic Integrity** – See Student Handbook.

**Bias-Free Language** – See Student Handbook.

**Netiquette and Nethics** – See Student Handbook.

**Students are expected to be present for all classes during the semester. Absence from class is permitted only for a serious reason.**

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

**Library Hours:** <http://www.ctu.lib.il.us/> For information, contact: Kris Veldheer, Library Director, 773-371-5460; [kveldheer@ctu.edu](mailto:kveldheer@ctu.edu)

**English for Theological Education:** contact Christina Zaker: [czaker@ctu.edu](mailto:czaker@ctu.edu)

**Writing Resource Center:** contact Kathleen Martin, [kmartin@ctu.edu](mailto:kmartin@ctu.edu); room 370B.

**Writing Handbook:** located in the Helpful Links section of D2L at <https://d2l.ctu.edu>.

**Technology Help:** D2L and Educational Technology, Rick Mauney, [rmauney@ctu.edu](mailto:rmauney@ctu.edu)  
Information Technology help desk, [support@ctu.edu](mailto:support@ctu.edu)

**Student Services:** contact Carmen Salas, Room 347; 773-371-5402; or  
[studentservices@ctu.edu](mailto:studentservices@ctu.edu)

**Academic Calendar:** located in the Helpful Links section of the D2L home page

## COURSE CALENDAR

September 5 - Introduction to the Course

Survey of Approaches to the Doing of Theology through the Ages

September 12 - Faith and Revelation

Avery Dulles, *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives*, 79-108.

Edward Hahnenberg, *Theology for Ministry: An Introduction for Lay Ministers*, ix-22.

September 19 - A Christian Approach to God

David Tracy, STRCP, 109-121 (Recommended: 121-127)

Hahnenberg, 23-44.

September 26 - The Trinity

Anthony Godzieba, STRCP, 131-199.

October 3 - Creation

Anne M. Clifford, STRCP, 201-251.

October 10 – Christology

John Galvin, STRCP, 255-278; 287-294; 303-312.

Hahnenberg, 45-66.

October 17 -- No Class – Reading Week

October 24 -- The Church

Michael Fahey, STRCP, 315-347.

Hahnenberg, 86-106.

October 31 – Ministry in the Church

Michael Fahey, STRCP, 347-368.  
Hahnenberg, 107-127.

November 7 – Sin and Grace

Roger Haight, STRCP, 375-430.  
Hahnenberg, 67-85.

M.A. Students: Research Paper Proposal Due

November 14 -- Sacraments

Guest Presenter: Anne McGowan; Reading: TBA

November 21 – Communion of the Saints and Mary

Elizabeth Johnson, STRCP, 431-460.

November 28 – No Class -- Thanksgiving

December 5 – Eschatology

Jeanine Hill Fletcher, STRCP, 621-651.  
Recommended: Thomas O’Meara, *Life Beyond Death: A Traveler’s Guide* (St. Louis: Catholic Health Association, 2019)

### **AAAS-DoSER SCIENCE FOR SEMINARIES GRANT**

CTU has been awarded a grant from the American Academy for the Advancement of Science for the integration of science into theology courses. This is one of the courses that is included in that grant project. Students are strongly encouraged to participate by taking the Pre- and Post-course surveys that can be found in the website for this grant on D2L. The links for these surveys can be found in the “Teaching Your Course” module of the “Content” section of the course site. The link to the Pre-course survey is <https://d2l.ctu.edu/d2l/le/content/9367/viewContent/92286/View>  
The link to the Post-course survey is <https://d2l.ctu.edu/d2l/le/content/9367/viewContent/92287/View>

## ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments for this course are in 4 parts:

1. Each week (beginning with the class of September 12) the student will post on the D2L course Discussion Forum 1-2 carefully written questions drawn from the readings. These can be questions for understanding/clarification or questions for discussion. These questions should be posted by Noon of the Wednesday before the class for which the readings are assigned. This requirement will count for 22 points of the final grade (2 points for each week).

2. The student will choose four (4) of the weeks of the course (September 12-December 5) to write a 500-700 word reflection on the readings for that week. In this paper, the student should identify two or three of the most important ideas/insights in the readings and discuss the contemporary relevance of those ideas. The reflection is due at the time of the class for which the readings are assigned. This assignment will count for 20 points of the final grade (5 points for each reflection paper).

3. The student will select one (1) week to give a 7-10 minute oral presentation *based on* (not a reading of) the reflection paper that he or she has written on the readings for that class. This requirement will count for 20 points of the final grade.

4a. Students in the MDiv, MAPS, and Specialized MA degree programs will write a 10-12 page (double-spaced; 12 point type) presentation on one of the themes (or a significant sub-theme) covered in the course. The envisioned audience for the presentation is a parish adult education group. The student should identify the parish (or type of parish) in which he or she would be making this presentation. This assignment will count for 38 points of the final grade. This paper is due on **Friday, December 13** (5 PM).

4b. Students taking the course for MA credit will write a 15-20 page (double-spaced; 12 point type) research paper on a specific topic, author or issue related to the course. Students must submit a proposed topic, along with an initial bibliography of 3-4 sources, for approval by **November 7**. This assignment will count for 38 points of the final grade. This paper is due on **Friday, December 13** (5 PM).

### Assessment of Student Performance

Student performance will be assessed in the following areas:

- The questions that students submit each week will be assessed according to the criteria of: (1) their relevance to the assigned readings; (2) timeliness of the posting on the D2L discussion forum.
- The four reflection papers will be assessed according to the criteria of: (1) evidence of a grasp of key ideas in the readings; (2) evidence of the ability to relate these ideas to contemporary concerns; (3) proper writing style and clarity of expression.

- The oral class presentation will be assessed on the criteria of: (1) evidence of a grasp of key ideas in the readings and their contemporary relevance; (2) evidence of the ability to communicate insights orally in an effective manner.
- The final presentation written by MDiv, MAPS and Specialized MA students will be assessed according to the criteria of: (1) evidence of a basic understanding of the theme as expounded in the tradition and in contemporary theology; (2) evidence of the ability to communicate the content and significance of this theme to a contemporary parish audience; (3) proper writing style and clarity of expression.
- The research paper composed by MA students will be assessed according to the criteria of: (1) proper use of sources that are relevant to the topic; (2) evidence of the ability to understand and analyze theological concepts and arguments; (3) evidence of the ability to interpret sources in a historically critical and culturally and ecumenically sensitive manner; (4) proper academic writing style and clarity of expression.

**Science for Seminaries Grant Contest** – Students who in their final papers focus on the relationship between science and faith, or science and theology, are eligible to enter into a contest sponsored under the Science for Seminaries grant. Students who write the presentation to a parish adult faith formation group can enter their presentation under the “Pastoral Project” category. Students who write a research paper can enter their paper under the “Research Article” category. Prizes will be awarded at a March 20 public event. Students who wish to write papers for this contest should consult with the professor by November 7.

**Grading Scale** – See Student Handbook (accessible on the D2L home page). The numeric grading scale is given at the end of this syllabus.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The professor will provide further bibliographical references for the themes covered in the course in class and on the D2L course website.

**NUMERIC GRADING SCALE**

97-100 A+

93-96 A

90-92 A –

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B –

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C –

60-69 D

Below 60 F

**This Syllabus is subject to revision.**