This course is an invitation for students to deepen in their understanding of God the Trinity whom Christians witness through their lives. It offers a critical and constructive reflection on the divine Trinitarian communion—a plenitude of self-giving love—in the light of salvation, liberation, and mission. D4100 is informed by the perspectives of the practice of ministry, theological method, the contextual and intercultural nature of theology, and the history of doctrine.

OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the major issues surrounding the discussion of the nature of the Christian God in Systematic Theology (MDiv 2.1, 2.6; MAPS 2.1; MA 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 2.1, 2.3)

2. To be able to appropriate the traditional Christian understanding of God on a personal level (MDiv 1.2, 1.3; MAPS 1.2, 1.3; MA 1.2, 1.3)

3. To engage in theological reflection that takes into account the varying hues of cultures and religious perspectives (MDiv 2.1; MAPS 2.1; MA 1.8, 2.1)

4. To engage various theological methods in understanding one’s faith in the Christian God (MA 1.4, 2.2, 2.3)

5. To acquire skills in theological reflection and in the communication of the Christian doctrine of God in ways that are effective and relevant (MDiv 1.6, 2.4, 2.6; MAPS 1.1, 3.3; MA 1.1)

METHOD & REQUIREMENTS

In view of the diversity of learning styles represented in the classroom, the course follows an imaginative multimodal approach that includes lectures, breakout groups, online discussion boards, book review, critical film screenings, and final oral exams. Students have the opportunity to engage audiovisual and digital modes of learning in addition to the traditional linguistic/text-based approaches.

The course requirements are as follows:

- **Involved participation in class discussions**

  This is expected of both credit and audit students. Please inform the professor by email should an absence be unavoidable.

- **Involved participation in two (2) online discussion boards**
Based on classroom film screenings. Specific guidelines to be announced.

- **Short Reaction Paper**

Based on a public lecture (Feb. 10, Monday, 4:00-5:00 PM) that will take the place of the class. Specific guidelines to be announced.

- **Final Paper**

A two-part paper consisting a book review based on selected chapters of Elizabeth Johnson's book *She Who Is* (2005), and an integrative section that interweaves Trinitarian Theology and Ministry context.

  Paper length: 12 pages / 3,000 words (MA-Academic: 16 pages / 4,000 words)
  Double-spaced/Times New Roman or equivalent/font size 12
  Due date: April 6, 2020

Specific guidelines to be announced.

Please be informed of CTU’s policies regarding academic writing and plagiarism. Refer to “Statement on Academic Integrity” below.

**EVALUATION**

- 50% Final Paper
- 30% Online Discussions, Reaction Paper
- 20% Overall Class Participation

Participants are expected to attend all sessions and participate in discussions. Kindly note that as a policy, I do not allow recording of my lectures, neither do I loan out DVDs to students.

Grades are given as follows:

- A = outstanding contribution
- B = good contribution
- C = acceptable contribution
- D = failure to complete 1/3 of requirements
- F = failure to complete
- I = incomplete

**TEXTBOOKS**

Available on Amazon.com

**Required**


Recommended


* Note: recommended bibliography/references can be found on a reserve shelf at the front desk of the Bechtold Library under the heading **DC4100 Trinity & Mission: The God of Jesus Christ**

**COURSE CALENDAR**

I. Ground Rules for the Journey

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Viewing**

"Astronomy, Religion, and the Art of Storytelling"

Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ

Director of the Vatican Observatory

President of the Vatican Observatory Foundation

*One thing astronomy and religion have in common is that they are both interested in the big questions; and they depend on the art of storytelling to present their strange and wonderful ideas in ways that people can understand, appreciate, and evaluate. We'll examine why stories are fundamental to our understanding of religion; when being a good storyteller is essential in doing science; and how way we tell these stories influences how we think about the big ideas.*

[https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/9M4fgGA5rJMdTt4GSiQP/full](https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/9M4fgGA5rJMdTt4GSiQP/full)

II. Starting Point: God & the Ecumene of Suffering (Theodicy Question)

**Required Reading**

Johnson, *Quest for the Living God*, ch. 3.


III. God & the Ecumene of Suffering

Title to be Announced
Film Screening in class; Discussion Board online.

IV. The God of the Reign

Required Reading

Johnson, Quest for the Living God, ch. 4


Recommended Reading


Johnson, Quest for the Living God, chs. 5-6.


V. God the Holy Spirit

Required Reading


**Recommended Reading**


**VI. God Creator Spirit: Jesus at the Heart of the Cosmos**

**Guest Lecturer: Sr. Mary Frohlich, RSCJ**

**Required Reading**

Mary Frohlich, "A Christological Spirituality of Conversion to the Earth" (St. Bernard’s School of Theology Convocation, Albany, NY, September 5, 2018)


**Recommended Viewing**


**NO CLASS**

CTU Reading Week

**VII. God the Trinity 1: Trinitarian Doctrine**

**Required Reading**

Johnson, *Quest for the Living God*, ch. 10.


**Recommended Reading**

William C. Placher. "God is Triune- So What?" (Miller Lecture, Valparaiso University, 2003)

**VIII. God the Trinity 2: Liberating Trinity**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**


**IX. Trinity & Mission: Contextual Models**

**Required Reading**


**X. Trinity & Inculturation: African Perspectives**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**

XI.  Trinitarian Perichoresis: Exploring Cosmic Perspectives

**Required Reading**


**Required Viewing**


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EszGlvRdgTE&list=PL2FYnX282kUw74FMCTepJMcgXdCAECYbgP&index=3&t=0s

**Recommended Reading**


John A. Coleman, "Why is the Vatican is Interested in the Search for Life in the Universe?" in *America* (February 25, 2013).

XII.  Trinity & Mission: Film Viewing

*Title TBA*

*Note: all readings outside of the prescribed textbooks are uploaded as pdf on the D2L course site or as links to online sources.*

[Professor contact info:]

Antonio D. Sison, C.PP.S., Ph.D. ("Br. Ton")
Room 519, Catholic Theological Union
asison@ctu.edu (please email for an appointment)

[Syllabus is subject to revision]
CTU MISSION STATEMENT – see Student Handbook page 12 [located in the Helpful Links section of D2L at https://d2l.ctu.edu].

COPYRIGHT POLICY – see Student Handbook page 97.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – see Student Handbook
Academic integrity demands that a student acknowledge all sources employed in the preparation of written assignments, whether in the use of exact quotations, or in substantial reproduction of ideas. Failure to do so (plagiarism) will result in a failing grade for the course and may also result in dismissal.

Grading Scale – See Student Handbook Section 4 at page 33

EXPECTATIONS
Bias-Free Language – see Student Handbook Section 4 at page 29
Netiquette and Nethics – See Student Handbook Section 4 beginning at page 35
[Individual Faculty members may add expectations: e.g., attendance, no food, use of cell phones, etc.]

CAMPUS RESOURCES
Library Hours: http://www.ctu.lib.il.us/ For information, contact: Kris Veldheer, Library Director, 773-371-5460; kveldheer@ctu.edu  English for Theological Education: contact Christina Zaker: czaker@ctu.edu

Writing & Resource Center: There are a number of writing resources available to all CTU students. The Writing and Resource Center is located in room 338 for drop in help with writing and presentation skills. There are also resources available through DePaul University’s Writing Center. Please familiarize yourself with the various resources they offer by checking out their website at: http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/.

Student Services: contact Student Service, Room 347; 773-371-5402; or studentservices@ctu.edu

Academic Calendar: http://www.ctu.edu/academics/academic-calendar