TH501 Syllabus
Theology Survey I
Dr. Adonis Vidu
Associate Professor of Theology
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Class content
Theology Survey I is intended as a more introductory presentation of systematic theology. The over-arching theme of this semester is going to be the doctrine of God. After dealing with some introductory and methodological issues (theological prolegomena), we are going to spend several weeks discussing the awesome being of God, his attributes, and his Trinitarian nature. The class will then conclude with a discussion of theological anthropology.

Course textbooks

Class outline

1. Introduction to theology (12 Sept)
   a. McGrath 1-119
   b. Heine, ch. 1
2. The sources of theology (19 Sept)
   a. McGrath 120-152
   b. Heine, ch. 2
   c. Elwell: tradition, evangelicalism, experience, pietism, Schleiermacher, reason, faith.
3. The knowledge of God (26 sept)
   a. McGrath 152-194
   b. Elwell: Thomas Aquinas; analogy; via negativa; revelation, general; revelation, special.
4. The doctrine of God (3 Oct.)

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1 This is still not the final version of the syllabus. Changes and additions are still possible in the final version, to be given to you the first day of class.
5. God the creator and provider (10 Oct)
   a. McGrath 212-227
   b. Heine, ch. 10
   c. Sanders, ch. 10
   d. Elwell: creation, continuous; creation, doctrine of; providence of God; evolution; Adam; prayer; evil, problem of; panentheism; pantheism;

Reading Week 1
- use reading week to review for Midterm

Midterm exam: Oct 24

6. The doctrine of the Trinity 1 (Oct 31)
   a. Heine, chs. 3-7
   b. McGrath 234-249
   c. Elwell: monarchianism; Cappadocian Fathers; Origen; Augustine of Hippo; metaphysics; subordinationism; Arius; Arianism; Nicea, Council of; substance; homoousios; filioque;

7. The doctrine of the Trinity 2 (Nov 7)
   a. Sanders 7-193
   b. McGrath 249-265
   c. Elwell: Rahner, Karl; impassibility of God; Moltmann, Jurgen;

Reading Week 2

8. The attributes of God (Nov 21)
   a. Elwell: God, attributes of; God, names of; foreknowledge; scientia media; process theology;

Thanksgiving Holiday Nov 28

9. Human nature, sin, and grace (Dec 5)
   a. McGrath, ch. 14
   b. Elwell: mankind, doctrine of; image of God; sin; Pelagius; pelagianism; guilt;

Final Exam Dec 12

Course requirements
- I am adopting a minimalist examination strategy for this class. There will be no ‘busy-work’ in this class! Your final grade will be the result of a
combination of midterm and final exam. Both exams are weighted at 50% of your final grade.

- Based on your attendance I will reserve the right to lower your grade by one letter grade (eg. A to B). One adequately motivated absence is permissible. Any other absence beyond that might entail a lower grade. Repeated non-attendance\(^2\) will incur a failing grade.

**Examination**
- Both the mid-term and the final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.
- The exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, with a time limit of 3 hours.
- You will have to bring your laptop to class and take the exam in-class, during our normal class time.\(^3\)

**Exam preparation**
I am aware that multiple-choice exams can cause some amount of anxiety, so I will attempt to be as transparent as possible about my aims and how you should prepare for them.
- The best possible preparation for these exams is your dutiful completion of the reading assignments for each class, your active engagement in the class, as well as plenty of conversation with others studying for the exams.
- The most important texts to study for the exams are: McGrath, the entries in Elwell, and my class notes.
- Sample multiple-choice questions will be given to the class in preparation for the exam.
- Use the reading week wisely: get together with classmates, or friends, and talk about the class issues that seem more challenging.
- Make use of the office hours. Sign up at: theologyofficehours.wordpress.com

\(^2\) I include under ‘non-attendance’ un-motivated early leaves.
\(^3\) A written copy of the exam will be provided should you be unable to bring a computer to the exam.