TH 605 - SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II
Fall Term 2014 – Tuesday Afternoons 2-5 pm
Dr. Richard Lints – email address: Rlints@gcts.edu
Byington Fellow:

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a continuation of TH 504. Here, attention shall be given to the way God relates to the world (the doctrines of creation and providence), the nature of the human person and his/her fallen condition (the doctrines of personhood and sin), and finally, attention shall be given to the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is the aim of the course to see these loci of theology in their relationship to the context of one's faith and practice as well as to the historical context out of which these convictions arise.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete the assigned reading from the required texts listed below. In addition the student shall sit a mid-term and a final take home examination. The mid term exam shall be posted after class on October 7 and due on Friday October 17. The final exam shall be posted after class on Dec 2 and due on Tuesday December 9. A sample copy of an exam is included for your perusal. (Please remember to put your box number on the front page of all your written work.) Note: There will be no class on Tuesday November 18.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

Henri Blocher IN THE BEGINNING (IVP) (ISBN – 0877843252)
Cornelius Plantinga, NOT THE WAY IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE (Eerdmans)
(ISBN – 0802842186)
A SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY – of your own choosing – see list below

Recommended Text: Mike Wilkerson, REDEMPTION: FREED BY JESUS FROM THE IDOLS WE WORSHIP AND THE WOUNDS WE CARRY. (Crossway, 2011)

IV. EVALUATION

The examinations shall each constitute 50 percent of the final grade. The required reading shall nudge a person over the edge (one way or the other) if their grade is borderline. Completion of the required reading "nudges" one's grade upward if it is borderline. Failure to complete the required reading "nudges" one's grade downward if it is borderline. The required reading is either "completed" or "not completed". No credit is given in the final grade evaluation for "almost completed".

V. WARNING ON PLAGIARISM

Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found on the Indiana University website listed below. This document has the official recognition of the Gordon-Conwell faculty and provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare your papers/exams. In order
to save paper, we’ve provided you with the website address:
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html. Please consider this carefully.

VI. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.

VII. INTERNET USAGE
Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.

VII. COURSE OUTCOMES - There are six goals to which the course strives for:
1. Biblical Competency - To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world.
2. Academic Excellence – To encourage academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.
3. Ministry Skills - To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the Church, to become skilled in ministry.
4. Spiritual Maturity - To work towards the maturing of students so that their experiential knowledge of God in Christ is evidenced in their character, outlook, conduct, relationships and involvement in society
5. Cultural Engagement - To prepare students to be an effective evangelical presence in Church and society
6. Global Evangelistic Influence - To develop in students a vision for God's redemptive work throughout the world and to formulate the strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism and discipleship
TH 605 - Course Outline of Topics          Dr. Richard Lints

WEEK ONE - INTRODUCTION AND CREATION
   a. The Theological Project
   b. The Importance of Living Theologically
   c. God and Creation
   d. Providence and Prayer

WEEK TWO - CREATION - (Continued)
   a. Creation Narratives - Genesis 1-3
   b. The Theology of Creation

WEEK THREE - THE IMAGO DEI
   a. Adam and Eve
   b. In His Image
   c. Personhood

WEEK FOUR - IDOLATRY AND ADDICTION
   a. The Worship Vacuum
   b. Addictions of the Heart
   c. Wounds of the Soul
   d. Redemption and Addiction

WEEK FIVE – SIN, IDOLATRY AND THE FALL
   a. The Fall
   b. Freedom and Falleness
   c. Interpreting Sin today

WEEK SIX - THE PERSON OF CHRIST
   a. Old Testament Foreshadowing of Christ
   b. New Testament Understanding of Christ

WEEK SEVEN - THE PERSON OF CHRIST (Continued)
   a. The Names of Christ
   b. The Lordship of Christ

WEEK EIGHT - THE UNITY OF THE TWO NATURES OF CHRIST
   a. Patristic Development of the ‘Two Natures’ Doctrine
   b. Christological Heresies Past and Present

WEEK NINE - THE WORK OF CHRIST
   a. The Cross and the Atonement
   b. The Sacrificial System
   c. Expiation and Propitiation

WEEK TEN - THE ATONEMENT (Continued)
   a. Historical Development of the Atonement
   b. Divergent Views of the Atonement
   c. Living into Redemption
TH 605 - SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II
EXAM (SAMPLE)
Dr. Richard Lints

Instructions - This is a take home exam. You will have three hours from the time you open up the exam until you complete it. Answer three (3) out the following 6 (six) essay questions. Please attempt to be clear and concise. Bibles are permitted in the exam but not your class notes nor the other readings. You are not permitted to have your class notes accessible for this exam. You may have no other “windows” open on your computer during the time which you take the exam. You should refer to the Biblical material where appropriate and also material from the required reading. You will have three hours to complete the exam, which means that you should spend approximately one hour on each question. If English is not your first language, you may take one additional hour to complete the exam. The exam questions are then to be typed (double spaced) as is, and turned in. Each of the essays will count as 1/3 of the final exam mark. Put your box number clearly in view on your exam. You may email your exam to me at deansoffice@gcts.edu, mail it to me or put it in campus mail.

Due date: 

1. Creation - How is the first tablet in Genesis 1-2 to be interpreted? In your answer offer some explanation of how the Christian is to regard the different genres present in the Biblical text. How might you respond to a friend who suggests that evolutionary theory provides us with all we need to know about the origins of the human person. She further suggests that the Bible is an outdated book with a mythical beginning.

2. Providence - What are the Divine decrees? In what sense has God got a plan for the world? Has this destroyed human responsibility? How would you make sense of this concept in terms of the way God guides His people today.

3. The Image of God - Examine two different attempts to explain the imago dei” in humankind. Are there particular weaknesses to be noted in either of the positions? How is our dignity related to the fact that we have been created in God's image?

4. Original Sin - What does it mean for Adam to be our "federal head". In what sense is this analogous to the manner in which Christ is our "representative head" as believers. Can we be held guilty for Adam's sin? If so, why? If not, why not?

5. Christology - Is Jesus fully human? How might you defend against the heresy of Docetism? Was Jesus truly tempted as we are even if it was not possible that he sin? Explain the nature of Jesus temptation and it importance for our salvation.

6. The Chalcedonian Definition - What does it mean to say that Jesus had "two natures and one person"? How do the natures relate to the person? In what sense did Jesus give up his divinity (as in Phil 2) in the incarnation?
Bibliography – Systematic Theologies

Prof. Richard Lints

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Berkhof, H.  *Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Study of the Faith*  (ER)
Berkower, G.C.  *Systematic Theology*  (many vols.)  Eerdmans
*Bloesch, D.  *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*, 2 vols  (Harper and
Brunner, E.,  *Dogmatics*  (LR)
Buswell, James Oliver,  *Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*  (R)
*Calvin, J.,  *Institutes of the Christian Religion*  (ER)
Caster, Charles ed.,  *A Contemporary Wesleyan Theology*.  (W)
Cauthen, K.  *Systematic Theology: A Modern Protestant Approach*.  (LP)
Chafer, L.S.  *Systematic Theology*, 8 vols  (D)
Dabney, R. L.,  *Systematic Theology*  (ER)
deMoulin, P.,  *The Anatomy of Arminianism*  (W)
*Erickson, M.J.  *Christian Theology*  (Baker, 1986).EB
Evans, James H.  *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology*.
*Grenz, Stan,  *Theology for the Community of God*  (EB)
Grider, Kenneth,  *A Wesleyan-Holiness Theology*  (W)
*Grudem, Wayne,  *Systematic Theology*  (Zondervan)
Hall, Christopher A.  *Learning Theology with the Church Fathers*  (IVP, 2002).
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*Hodge, A.A.  *Evangelical Theology*  (Banner of Truth, 1976).  (ER)
Hodge, C.  *Outlines of Theology*  (Banner of Truth, 1983).  (ER)
*Hodge, C.  *Systematic Theology*, 1 vol, abridged  (Eerdmans, 1988).  (ER)
Hodge, C.  *Systematic Theology*, 3 vols  (Eerdmans, 1986).  (ER)
Jinkins, Michael.  *Invitation to Theology*  (IVP, 2001).  (R)

Kuyper, A  Principles of Sacred Theology (ER)
L. Berkof, Systematic Theology (RE)
Langford, T.  A Wesleyan Theology: A Sourcebook (W)
*Leith, John H., Basic Christian Doctrine (R)
Lewis, G. and B. Demarest, Integrative Theology, 2 vols.
Lewis, G. and B. Demarest, Integrative Theology, 2 vols.(EB)
*McGrath, Alister, Christian Theology: An Introduction
Migliore, Daniel, Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology (R)
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Murray, J.  Collected Writings, 4 vols (Banner of Truth, 1976). (ER)
*Oden, T.  Systematic Theology (The Living God, The Word of Life), 3 vols, (EW)
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Rahner, K.  Foundations of Christian Faith. (RC)
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Theissen, H.C.  *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology (D)
Thielicke, H.  The Evangelical Faith, 3 vols (Eerdmans, 1982). (E)
Wiley, H.O., Christian Theology (EW)
*Williams, J. Rodman, Renewal Theology (CH)
*Zahl, Paul, A Short Systematic Theology (EA)

Key -
BE – Broadly evangelical
CH - Charismatic
ER - Evangelical Reformed
EW - Evangelical Wesleyan
LP - Liberal Protestant
LA - Liberal Anglican
D - Dispensational
F - Feminist
EB - Evangelical Baptist
RC - Roman Catholic
EE - Ecumenical Evangelical
L - Lutheran
W - Wesleyan
LR - Liberal Reformed