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THE 5131 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Course Description:
In providing a comprehensive and systematic overview of Christian beliefs such as God, revelation, providence, creation, human fall, Christ, salvation, Trinity, church, and the last things, this course explores the feasibility of theological universality to address some of the unresolved gaps that still exist among various traditions in Christianity. 3 credits.

Objectives: Upon the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Know the meaning of theology and of systematic theology.
2. Grasp key elements in Christian beliefs.
3. Realize the diversity and even conflict of theological approaches even among various Christians (e.g., Evangelical vs. Catholic).
4. Understand that any theological approach is finite, but that it could paradoxically become universal through its own recognition of its finitude.
5. Learn the feasibility of this theological universality to help address the problem of theological conflicts.
6. Appreciate the position and role of theology in one's actual life and society.

Schedule:

1. What Is Theology?	Erickson 13-37	Gratsch 17-29
2. Revelation	Erickson 39-81	Gratsch 3-15
3. Biblical Hermeneutics	Gadamer 300-7	WDCT 249-53
4. The Nature of God	Erickson 83-105	Gratsch 31-43
5. The Work of God	Erickson 117-46	Gratsch 73-76
6. The Image of God	Erickson 161-84	
7. The Human Fall	Erickson 147-60, 185-211	Gratsch 76-88, 253-64
8. The Suffering of God	Fiddes 1-76	WDCT 135-37
9. The Person of Christ	Erickson 213-40	Gratsch 89-95, 99-107, 111-20
10. The Work of Christ	Erickson 241-65	Gratsch 95-99
11. The Doctrine of Salvation	Erickson 287-336	Gratsch 121-30
12. The Trinity	Erickson 106-15, 267-85	Gratsch 45-72
13. The Church	Erickson 337-68	Gratsch 131-96
14. History and Eschatology	Erickson 383-414	Gratsch 197-206
15. Life after Death	Erickson 371-82	Gratsch 197-206

Requirements:

1. Assigned readings for each session. (There will occasionally be a brief quiz in order to know your basic comprehension.)
2. Occasional tests from lecture contents.

3. Final paper (15 pages typed, double-spaced), discussing any theological issue that divides the Christian community and offering your solution to that division based on your personal, creative theological thinking and/or from the perspective of your own faith tradition. Due by the end of the term.

Evaluation: The student will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. Quizzes (17.5 %)
2. Tests (17.5 %)
3. Final paper (40 %)
4. Class involvement (25 %)

Main Textbooks:

Erickson, Millard J. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. 2nd ed., edited by L. Arnold Hustad. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2001. ISBN 0801022509. $23.09.

Gratsch, Edward, ed. *Principles of Catholic Theology: A Synthesis of Dogma and Morals*. New York: Alba House, 1981. ISBN 0818904070. $6.00 (used).

Required Readings:

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. "The Principle of History of Effect." In his *Truth and Method*. Second, revised edition, pp. 300-7. Translation revised by Joel Weinscheimer and Donald G. Marshall. New York: Crossroad, 1991. ISBN 0824504313. ISBN 082647697X (2004 edition). $17.96. A copy of the section in question available.

Fiddes, Paul S. "Introduction," "Why Believe in a Suffering God?" and "The God Who Suffers Change." In his *The Creative suffering of God*, pp. 1-76. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988. ISBN 0198263473. $45.00. A copy of the section in question available.

Richardson, Alan, and Bowden, John, eds. *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Philadelphia, Westminster Press, 1983. (Abbreviated as WDCT). ISBN 0664227481. $44.95. Available in the UTS library.

Recommended Readings:

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*, II/1. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1957.

Berkhof, Hendrikus. *Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Study of the Faith*. Translated by Sierd Woudstra. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1979.

Hodgson, Peter C., and King, Robert H. *Christian Theology: An Introduction to Its Traditions and Tasks*. 2nd ed., revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.

Kim, Young Oon. *An Introduction to Theology*. New York: Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, 1983.

Macquarrie, John. *Principles of Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977.

Ott, Ludwig. *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*. Edited in English by James Canon Bastible. Rockford, Il.: Tan Books and Publishers, 1974.

Shimmyo, Theodore. "Dipolar Theism in Process Thought and Unificationism." In *Unification Theology: In Comparative Perspectives*, pp. 35-48. Edited by Anthony J. Guerra. Barrytown, N.Y.: Unification Theological Seminary, 1988.

_____. "Unification Christology: A Fulfillment of Niceno-Chalcedonian Orthodoxy." In *Explorations in Unificationism*, pp. 17-36. Edited by Theodore T. Shimmyo and David A. Carlson. New York: HSA-UWC, 1997.

_____. "The Unification Doctrine of the Trinity." *Journal of Unification Studies* 2 (1998): 1-17.

Tillich, Paul. *Systematic Theology*. Three volumes in one. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967.

Wilson, Andrew. "The Sexual Interpretation of the Human Fall." In *Unification Theology in Comparative Perspectives*, pp. 51-70. Edited by Anthony J. Guerra. Barrytown, N.Y.: Unification Theological Seminary, 1988.