

IPS 531-002
Christian Doctrine and Its History
Grace, Christ, and the Spirit
Fall, 2008 – Lewis Towers, Rm. 912

Instructor: Heidi Russell, Ph.D., Lewis Towers #, 630B

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Class Meets: Tuesdays, 1:00-3:30pm, August 25 – December 5

Required Texts:

- **Hans Kung**, *Great Christian Thinkers* (Continuum, 1996—ISBN 0-8264-0848-6)
- **Robert Ludwig**, *Instructor's Essays* (available thru IPS Office: sozuk@luc.edu)
- **Fergus Kerr**, *Twentieth Century Catholic Theologians* (Blackwell Publishing, 2007)—ISBN 978-1-4051-2084-5
- **Mark F. Fischer**, *The Foundations of Karl Rahner* (Crossroad, 2006—ISBN 0-824-24-2342-3)

Course Description: Today many Christians have little or no understanding of how the New Testament experience became translated into Christian doctrine; many have little or no insight into how Christian theology today understands the dynamics of sin and grace, the notion of salvation, the role of Jesus Christ as understood by Christian faith. This course is an overview of fundamental Christian theology—from the New Testament, to Augustine, to Aquinas, to Karl Rahner—focused on the core doctrines of grace, Christ, and Trinity. In this course, students will pursue an understanding of the Catholic core: how God has been wedded to humanity and creation in Jesus Christ, and how we are called to participate in this divine-human communion in and through incarnation and grace. We will explore the experiential foundations of Christian doctrine and see the evolution of interpretation from early centuries to the present. Much of the course will explore contemporary, pastoral understandings of Christian doctrine: How might we understand and explain the Catholic core in our ministries on the ground today? We will move between experience and doctrine and back to experience, helping students gain insight into both as they come to understand the dynamic process that leads from experience to doctrine—and, in theology, back again to experience and to ministry. What theologians refer to as “soteriology”—theology of salvation—is the heart of this course, which will involve significant reading and writing assignments as well as in-class discussions. This is a basic theology course for anyone involved in Christian ministry.

The course is divided into three sections: (1) the historical evolution of Christian doctrine and its theological interpretations through the Council of Trent; (2) the development of doctrine in the post-Tridentine theology of the twentieth century and in Vatican II and its aftermath; (3) an in-depth study of Karl Rahner's fundamental theology—with applications to present-day pastoral ministry.

- The primary text for Part One is Hans Kung's book, *Great Christian Thinkers*. At the end of this section of the course, there will be a mid-term exam (see below).
- Part Two of the course considers the developments brought about by Vatican II theologians and the Council itself. Readings include essays by Giuseppe Alberigo ("From the Council of Trent to Tridentinism), Joseph Komonchak ("The Council of Trent at the Second Vatican Council") and John O'Malley ("Trent and Vatican II: Two Styles of Church")—found in electronic reserves, from Bulman and Parrella, *From Trent to Vatican II* (Oxford University Press, 2006). Students will read essays from Fergus Kerr's *Twentieth-Century Theologians*, and each student present an exposé and critique of one of these theologians in class.
- Part Three of the course focuses on the thought of Karl Rahner. Students will read Mark F. Fischer's presentation of Rahner's fundamental theology, *The Foundations of Karl Rahner*, as well as Dr. Ludwigs's essays on Rahner.

Instructor's Expectations/Course Requirements/Grading Standards:

- **CLASS ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION:** It is very important that students connect with the course on a regular basis by attending class weekly at the Water Tower Campus. Not participating in the course on a regular basis will create problems for students wanting to complete the course successfully. If you need to absent yourself due serious illness or other very important reasons, you need to call the instructor's voice-mail (312/915-7476) prior to the class you miss and provide her with an explanation. Unexcused absences and lack of participation in class discussions can seriously affect your final grade. Each week students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in depth, bringing notes and questions for their own use in the class discussions. All students are expected to be actively involved in class discussions. Student participation is worth **30 points** each toward final grade.
- **MIDTERM EXAM:** Following Part One of the course, students will write essay responses to several questions. This take home exam, with several extended essays, will be worth **20 points** of the final grade.
- **EXPOSE AND CRITIQUE OF THEOLOGIAN:** Each student will develop a 15 minute classroom presentation summarizing and critiquing one aspect of the thought of one of the theologians featured in Kerr's book, followed by a 5-10 minute classroom discussion led by the presenter. In addition to the material in Kerr's book, the student is expected to utilize at least one primary source by the theologian that is pre-approved by the instructor (this source does not need to be a full length book – it can be an article or a chapter in a book). The context for understanding these theologians is the paradigm shift from Trent to Vatican II—so understanding this shift is key to the presentation and critique of these thinkers. The assignment is worth **20 points** of the final grade.
- **FINAL EXAM/PAPER:** At the conclusion of the course, there will be a final take home exam/paper that includes essay responses to several questions regarding Karl Rahner's thought. This final paper is worth **30 points** of the final grade.

How to Write Essays for EXAMS: There will be several questions posed. Students must respond to these questions with thoughtful essays. Sometimes students can choose between and among questions to answer. Students are expected to write thoughtful, focused, and well-organized essays in response to each question.

The process includes:

- 1) Read the question carefully—then review readings and class notes with this question in mind.
- 2) Reflect and think (take a walk)—find your own voice: what is the main thing you want to say in response to this question?
- 3) Create a brief outline to develop your focused response.
- 4) Write your paper, utilizing the outline.
- 5) Review and edit. Check for writing errors.
- 6) Move to the next question and repeat this process.

Use Times New Roman 12 point type face. When referring to the required texts, simply do so parenthetically (author, page numbers)—no lengthy quotes from the texts. If you are utilizing additional resources, be sure to clearly cite the sources in endnotes. No bibliography is needed.

Grading Grid:

94-100 = A	92-93 = A-	90-91 = B+	87-89 = B	85-86 = B-
83-84 = C+	81-82 = C	80 = C-	Below 80 = F	

Plagiarism, Cheating, Academic Dishonesty: Students are hereby advised of the strong sanctions against plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" in the course and possible expulsion from IPS. *If you have any questions about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials, you should consult the instructor.* Proper citation procedures are provided in all standard writing manuals. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see the instructor.

Calendar/Reading Assignments:

8/26 Biblical Foundations

9/2 Pauline Christology

Ludwig, "Pauline Theology"
Kung, Ch. 1

9/9 Theology of the Patriarchs and Councils

Ludwig, "Experience and Doctrine"
Kung, Ch. 2

9/16 Augustine and Grace

Ludwig, "From Augustine to Thomas Aquinas"
Kung, Ch. 3

9/23 Aquinas and Luther
Kung, Ch. 4 & 5

9/30 Reformation and Trent
Ludwig, "Grace in the History of Theology"

Midterm Exam Due

10/7 NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

10/14 Tridentine and Scholastic Theology
Kerr, Ch. 1
Essays by Alberigo and Komonchak on Electronic Reserves

**Primary Source for Presentation
must have been approved by this point!**

10/21 Vatican II
Ludwig, "Vatican II"
Essay by O'Malley on Electronic Reserves

10/28 **Presentations** on Kerr, Ch. 2-7

11/4 **Presentations** on Kerr, Ch. 8-11

11/11 Rahner – Philosophy and Foundations
Ludwig, "Rahner's Philosophical Foundations"
Fischer, vii-xxvii; 1-36

11/18 Rahner- Grace
Ludwig, "God for Us"
Fischer, 37-59

11/25 Rahner – Christology and Trinity
Ludwig, "Rahner's Theology of Christ and Trinity"
Fischer, 60-116

12/2 Contemporary Issues in Theology

Final Exam Due