

Doctrine of the Trinity **Dr. Gary W. Deddo**

Course Description

This course explores in depth the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity, with its biblical foundations in God's revelation, the nature of theology, the foundational historic creeds and controversies, key elements and current obstacles to a fully Christian faith in the Triune God. This course examines vital implications of the doctrine of the Trinity for ethics, worship, the church and proclamation of the Gospel of the Grace of God through Jesus Christ in the Spirit.

Required Texts

Johnson, Darrell. *Experiencing the Trinity*, Vancouver, British Columbia: Regent College Publishing, 2002. ISBN 1-57383-216-2
Toon, Peter. *Our Triune God: A Biblical Portrayal of the Trinity*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996. ISBN 1-56476-553-9
Torrance, Thomas F. *The Christian Doctrine of God*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996. ISBN 0-567-09741-2

Additional reading will be required of texts held "on reserve."

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- 1) gain understanding of the topics noted in the description a) in the light of Scripture, b) in the light of its expressions in the relevant ecumenical creeds, and c) in contemporary contexts. (Through readings and lectures accounted for in reading notebook)

- 2) have gained familiarity with the challenge of theological method and the important interplay of cultural-historical context. (Through readings and lectures accounted for in reading notebook)

- 3) be prepared to critically engage a variety of theological formulations of the theological topics under consideration with appreciation for ecumenical and contextual/intercultural perspectives. (Through written assignments and final exam)

4) be able to critically evaluate competing theological formulations and bring to articulation a faithful presentation of key theological themes that will inform their own ministry, preaching, teaching and personal lives as members of the Body of Christ in its local and global expressions. (Through written assignments and final exam)

Course Assignments

Reading: All required reading from complete texts, partial texts and articles “on reserve.” This will amount to approximately 850 pages.

Reading Notebook: A notebook in which students outline all required reading and make judicious comments or offer significant reflections on important and meaningful points found in the readings.

Postings: Post one comment or one question per week on the previous week’s reading or lecture for further discussion with other members of the class.

Written Reflection Papers: three short papers of two pages length on different topics related to ministry selected from a posted list.

Final Exam: A final exam of three hours length, involving short identification questions and two essays on major themes of the doctrine of the Trinity.

Course Topics:

Week 1: What is Theology?: the Who Question

Week 2: Biblical Foundations for Revelation OT

Week 3: Biblical Foundations NT

Week 4: Overview of the Doctrine of the Trinity, Councils and Heresies:

Week 5: The Unity of God in Relationship

Week 6: The Divine Persons in Triune Relations

Week 7: Unity in Trinity, Trinity in Unity

Week 8: Trinity, Creation, Atonement and Our Salvation

Week 9: Ethics: Gender, Neighbors, Language and the Trinity

Week 10: Worship, the Church and the Trinity