

Preliminary Syllabus (subject to adjustments)

THEO 7350: Doctrinal Topic – Person and Sacrament

North Park Theological Seminary
Core for MDiv and MATS; Elective for MACF and MACM
Spring, 2010
Section 1 – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:45-11:15 a.m.
Section 2 – Thursdays, 1:30-4:45 p.m.
D. Brent Laytham, Instructor

I. Instructor Information:

D. Brent Laytham, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics
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Office Hours TBA

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home: 773-478-3485 (before 9 p.m.)

II. Course Description:

Generic Catalog description: An in depth study of a selected doctrine or theological theme in its historical and systemic context. This course may be repeated with different doctrines.
(Prerequisite THEO6330 or THEO5330)

Particular course description: This course focuses on human persons and Christian sacraments in their inter-relation. It moves from theological anthropology to sacramental theology and back, intending to illumine the sacramental dimensions of being human and the human dimensions of the sacraments.

III. Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to deepen student's faith. Specifically, Doctrinal Topic seeks to deepen understanding of the form and function of Christian doctrine in the church's tradition of faithful witness to the gospel. Students will learn to map theological relations, to synthesize their theological studies, and to place theology in relation to ecclesial life, Christian ministry and cultural engagement. The concrete objective of this year's course is to deepen student's understanding of both theological anthropology and sacraments.

The general objectives of 7350 are that students will develop and show proficiency in

- theological interpretation of the church's Scripture, tradition, and practice, thereby developing knowledge of the Christian tradition and knowing one's own place within it, and ability to live and work under Scripture's authority by knowing the Bible and engaging responsibly in the interpretation and application of its teaching.
- theological reflection on the significance of doctrine in relation to church and culture
- theological expression of doctrine (both written and oral)

The specific objectives of this doctrinal topic in “Person and Sacrament” are that students will

- understand the biblical basis, historical development and systematic significance of theological anthropology
- understand the biblical basis, historical development and systematic significance of Christian sacraments
- understand the systematic inter-relation of person and sacrament
- become familiar with some of the current theological discussions and disputes in theological anthropology and sacramental theology
- understand the significance of anthropology and sacraments for ecclesial life and Christian ministry

IV. Course Texts

Copeland, Shawn, *Enfleshing Freedom* (Augsburg Fortress). 978-0800662745

McFarland, Ian, *The Divine Image* (Augsburg Fortress). 978-0800637620

Cooke, Bernard, *Sacraments and Sacramentality* (Twenty-Third Publications). 978-0896225886

Mitchell, Nathan, *Meeting Mystery: Liturgy, Worship and Sacraments* (Orbis). 978-1570756740

Other essays or readings as assigned. Total assigned reading for the course will not exceed 1200 pages.

V. Requirements

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| (Preparation: do the reading and thinking you are assigned. | No grade) |
| Participation: listen, think, discuss. | 15% of grade |
| Presentation: explore a book, article, or issue with the class | 25% of grade |
| Paper or Project: explore one topic or doctrinal connection in greater depth | 45% of grade |
| Exit Essay: how will this course impact your ministry? | 15% of grade |

Alternative (Must be approved in the first two weeks of class): If you prefer to write a longer **research paper in lieu** the other assignments , you can negotiate that with the instructor by February 12.

VI. Grading and Attendance Policies

Grading in this course will follow the standards of the *Student Academic Handbook*, which sets A as the mark for exceptional or excellent work, B as the mark for meritorious or above average work, C as the mark for “work that is without marked merit or marked defect” in fulfilling the assignment, D as the mark for deficient work that nonetheless partially fulfills the assignment, and F as the mark for no work or for work that does not even partially fulfill the assignment

Absences. Excessive absences will lower your course grade. Students who miss more than 25% of the course should not expect to pass. Make every effort to notify me ahead of time about any absence. Being habitually late is both discourteous and poor training for ministry. Students who are consistently tardy will receive a grade penalty.

VII. Other Policies and procedures

Inclusive Language

The *Student Academic Handbook* guides us to write in ways that “use gender inclusive language when referring to people. Such courtesy and sensitivity to audience should be presumed.” Students who continue to use non-inclusive language for humankind will be assigned a 3 page theological essay justifying their practice. Failure to complete this additional assignment will lead to a letter grade penalty on all papers that use non-inclusive language.

Collaboration

I encourage collaboration in the following ways:

- Study together for tests. Discuss class readings together. Discuss class content and lectures together.
- Discuss your writing with others. You may allow another person to read your written work and suggest ways of improving it. They may make suggestions regarding your paper’s form (the academic style and layout on the page), mechanics (grammar, spelling and punctuation) and especially its argument. In every case, you must discuss the paper with your reader; written comments alone are not acceptable.
- In no case may another person edit, correct, write or rewrite your paper in whole or in part. Such action will be considered cheating (see academic dishonesty policy above).

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, doing work for others, others doing your work, plagiarism or other misuse of source material, copying, and lying to the instructor. Such dishonorable behavior will produce failure on a given assignment or failure of the entire course. Academic dishonesty also includes destroying, defacing or stealing library materials. This includes marking in a library book with pen, pencil or by folding down pages. Such moral failure may be cause for failure of the entire course.
- Please consult the Student Handbook for materials on Academic Dishonesty. Please note that submitting the same work or paper in two classes requires the permission of both instructors.

Academic Encouragement

- It is my intent to encourage you in your studies. Therefore, if you are having difficulty understanding or completing a particular assignment, please talk with me about it. In my class, it is better to ask for permission than for forgiveness. That is to say, negotiate changes or exceptions to the syllabus in advance. Notify me of absences or other exceptional circumstances in advance.

Accommodations. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Academic Services. Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. If needed, appointments can be relocated. For further information please review the following website:

www.northpark.edu/Home/index.cfm?northpark=ada.ada_main

Certain accommodations can also be made for students whose first language is not English.