

THEO 7350: Doctrinal Topic – God and 2 Corinthians

North Park Theological Seminary
Core for MDiv and MATS; Elective for MACF and MACM
Spring, 2012
Preliminary Syllabus
D. Brent Laytham, Instructor

Instructor Information:

D. Brent Laytham, Professor of Theology and Ethics
Office: Nyvall 32
office: 773-244-6221

blaytham@northpark.edu
home: 773-478-3485 (before 9 p.m.)

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 the doctrine of God (including trinity, Christology and the Holy Spirit) and 2 Corinthians. The biblical text will be read theologically, and the historical and systematic development of the doctrine of God will be read scripturally (through the lens of 2 Corinthians).

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 the doctrine of God, of theological interpretation of Scripture, and of the revelation of God in 2 Corinthians.

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 are that students will

- understand the meaning and fruitfulness of reading Scripture theologically
- understand the biblical basis of the doctrine of the Trinity, of Chalcedonian christology, and of pneumatology.
- understand the systematic inter-relation of Scripture and tradition

- become familiar with the significance of the doctrine of God for pastoral ministry, and for matters of authority in the church.
- understand the significance of the doctrine of God for the church's worship (especially its prayer and sacramental life), witness, and service.

Course Texts

Frances M. Young and David F. Ford, *Meaning and Truth in Second Corinthians* (Wipf & Stock, 1987). ISBN 978-1-55635-813-5

Von Balthasar, *The Glory of the Lord* vol. VII: *Theology: The New Covenant* (Ignatius Press, 1989)

St. Basil the Great on the Holy Spirit (St. Vladimirs) 978-0913836743

Robert W. Jenson, *Systematic Theology* vol. 1 *The Triune God* (Oxford, 1997).

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

Requirements

(Preparation: do the reading and thinking you are assigned.	Not graded)
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