

the semester; the final exam essays will be selected from among those essay questions on the list.

- D. Discussions: Students will be divided into small groups for the discussion class. Copies of the readings assigned for discussion MUST be brought to class for discussion assignments. One student will be chosen to be recorder in each discussion group: this student will take notes on the day's discussion and write up a summary of the group's thoughts. The recorder should post this summary on the appropriate Discussion Board Forum on Blackboard by the following Monday, so that all students may read it. Different students will act as recorder for each discussion. **Important: Students are responsible for the material generated in discussion groups, as well as that presented in lecture classes.**

Policies:

- A. **Class attendance is expected.** If at all possible, students are asked to please notify me ahead of time by email or by calling my office and leaving a message if they expect to be absent from a class. Students are responsible for making up work (class notes, hand-outs, etc.) if a class is missed. More than two unexcused absences may cause serious problems in the mastery of course material, and in class participation.
- B. Essays and papers are due on the day assigned; late work will receive grading penalties. All assignments are to be typed using standard margins and an 11 point font. **Essays and papers must be handed in both in hard copy and by email as an attached electronic file.**
- C. Class material, a course calendar, a discussion board, and announcements will all be available on Blackboard. Further details will be given in class.

Grading/Evaluation:

50% = Essays (on one discussion/analysis of primary sources; 25% each)
25% = Quiz average (best 4 out of 5)
25% = Final Exam
100% = Final Grade

Class participation will also have an influence on the final grade, especially in the case of borderline grades.

Required Texts:

- Alister McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (3d edition)
- Alister McGrath, *The Christian Theology Reader* (2d edition)

Both of these texts are available for purchase in the Bookstore.

- Other reserve or internet materials, as announced.

Additional readings will be assigned, primarily short stories illustrating various theological topics, available on ERes. Other materials may include web sites, handouts, or other texts on ERes. Videos may also be used. Most course materials will also be available on Blackboard, and reminders or other announcements will be posted there as well.

The Bible: Best Versions On-Line

www.usccb.org/nab/bible/ (New American Bible)

<http://etext.virginia.edu/rsv.browse.html> (Revised Standard Version)

<http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm> (New Revised Standard Version)

<http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?version=NIV> (New International Version)

The Bible: Also Available in Reference, Dinand Library (Main Reading Room, First Floor)

The Holy Bible (New Revised Standard Version, 1989): Ref. BS 191.5 .A1 1989 N48

The Holy Bible (New International Version, 1984): Ref. BS 195 .N37 1984

Note: Materials on the internet are helpful, but these MUST be used with caution. ALWAYS check the source of a document (usually noted at the end of a document with a copyright). Remember that search engines will list all materials that refer to the search term(s), and some of these may be the sheer opinion of private individuals or groups (as opposed to encyclopedia articles, for example). NEVER reply or send comments to a person unknown to you, and be very wary of entering into chat room conversations.

Note: “Readings” are assigned from the textbook and book of readings for each topic covered in the syllabus. Students may read these readings before, during, or after the material is covered in class, depending on how they best integrate lecture material with readings. Selections from the *Introduction* provide summaries and explanations of various schools of thought or individual theologians on these topics. Do this reading according to how you find that you learn best: either read the chapter before the lecture (so that it can be explained more fully) or read the chapter after the lecture (using the lecture notes as a guide). Selections from the *Reader* are designed to provide specific examples or writings from the periods and authors covered under each individual topic, and correspond to the material discussed in the *Introduction*. Most of these are VERY short (one paragraph or so); try to **skim them** to gather what the main point of the author is. Occasionally a reading is designated as a “Reference Reading”; this refers to either a reading that

one should refer back to as needed during the course, or a reading already covered earlier that should be reviewed for its connections to a new topic. “Discussion Readings” may be chosen from some of the selections from the *Reader*, as well as from a list of short stories available on ERes, assigned for each of the in-class small group discussions. Class meetings are 75 minutes long. Every class meeting will have a short break some 40 minutes into the class. Many class meetings will have two different “parts,” one before the break and one after. These are noted on the course outline.

Course Outline

Week of:

- 1) 9/01 Thursday: Part 1: Introduction to course
 Overview: Historical Periods
 Reference Reading: *Introduction*, Part I: Landmarks
 Part 2: Begin: Preliminaries
 Reading: *Introduction*, Ch. 5; *Reader*, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 2.13, 5.22, 5.33

- 2) 9/06 Tuesday: Part 1: Finish: Preliminaries
 Part 2: Begin: Sources
 Reading: *Introduction*, Ch. 6; *Reader*: on scripture: 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, (2.11-2.14), 2.15, 2.18, 2.19, (2.22), 2.32, 2.38-2.40; on tradition: 2.2, 2.5, 2.7, 2.10, 2.30, 2.31, 2.42, 2.45

 Thursday: Continue: Sources
 Reading: *Reader*: on reason: 1.10, 1.11 (1.13), 1.15-1.17, 1.19, (2.16), 2.27, 2.33, 2.44; on experience: 1.14, 2.17, 2.25- 2.29, 2.35-2.37, 2.43

- 3) 9/13 Tuesday: Part 1: Discussion
 Discussion Readings: Story: I. Asimov, “Nightfall” (compare with *Reader*, 2.17, 2.25, 2.27, 2.28)
 Part 2: Begin: Knowledge of God
 Reading: *Introduction*, Ch. 7; *Reader*, 3.1, 3.19, 3.21, 3.22- 3.24, 3.26, 3.27, 3.29, 3.30, 3.34, 3.37, 3.38

- 4) 9/20 Tuesday: Part 1: **Quiz 1**
 Part 2: Continue: Knowledge of God

Thursday: Part 1a: Finish: Knowledge of God (if needed) and
Part 1b: Discussion
Discussion Readings: Story: H. Schenck, “The Theology of Water” (other readings TBA)
Part 2: Begin: Philosophy and Theology
Reading: *Introduction*, Ch. 8; *Reader*: on philosophy and theology, 1.1-1.4; on proofs for the existence of God, 1.7-1.9, 1.15, 1.16, 1.18, 1.20, 1.24; on theological language about God 1.10, 1.13, 1.23, 1.26, 1.27, 1.29, 3.36

5) 9/27 Tuesday: Part 1: Finish: Philosophy and Theology
 Part 2: Begin: Doctrine of God
Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 9; *Reader*: on God as creator: 3.2, 3.4- 3.6, 3.13, 3.26, 3.31; on the suffering of God, 3.7, 3.8, 3.19, 3.21-3.22, 3.27, 3.30, 3.34, 3.35; other issues: 3.24, 3.29

Thursday: Part 1: Finish: Doctrine of God
 Part 2: Discussion:
Discussion Readings: Story: Harlan Ellison, “Paingod,” (other readings TBA)

6) 10/04 Tuesday: Begin: Doctrine of the Trinity
Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 10; *Reader*, 3.1, 3.3, 3.9, 3.10-12, 3.14- 3.18, 3.20, 3.23, 3.25, 3.28, 3.32, 3.33

Thursday: Part 1: **Quiz 2**
 Part 2: Finish: Doctrine of the Trinity
 Reading: Boston Globe, “Paulist Baptisms...”

7) 10/11 Tuesday: **Columbus Day Break: No Class**

Thursday: Start: Doctrine of the Person of Christ
Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 11; *Reader*, 4.1- 4.18, (4.21), 4.31, 4.33, 4.45

- 8) 10/18 Tuesday: Finish: Doctrine of the Person of Christ
 Part 2: Discussion
 Discussion Reading: Story: Nancy Kress, “Savior” (other readings TBA)
- Thursday: Start: Doctrine of Salvation in Christ
 Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 13; *Reader*, 5.1- 5.5, 5.7- 5.15, 5.17, (5.18, 5.22),
 5.24- 5.28, (5.31)
- 9) 10/25 Tuesday: Part 1: Finish: Doctrine of Salvation in Christ
 Part 2: Discussion
 Discussion Readings: Stories: W. Miller, “Crucifixus etiam”; R. Price,
 “Watching Her Die”
- Thursday: Part 1: **Quiz 3**
 Part 2: Start: Doctrines of Human Nature, Sin, and Grace
 Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 14; *Reader*: on original sin: 6.1-6.6, 6.9, 6.10,
 6.13, 6.22, 6.23, 6.42, 6.48, 6.49; on grace/justification: 6.8, 6.14-6.21, 6.24,
 6.26- 6.30, 6.35, 6.36, 6.40, 6.43; on predestination: 6.11, 6.12, 6.33, 6.45, 6.46
- 10) 11/01 Tuesday: Part 1: Finish: Human Nature, Sin, and Grace
 Part 2: Discussion
 Discussion Readings: TBA
- (Note: All Saints’ Day, for Catholics and some other Christian
 denominations;
 <http://catholicism.about.com/od/calendar/a/cathcal05.htm>)
- Thursday Begin: Doctrine of the Church
 Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 15; *Reader*, 7.1-7.7, 7.9-7.13, 7.16-7.18, (7.20,
 7.21), 7.22, 7.24, 7.25, 7.27, 7.28.
- 11) 11/08 Tuesday: Part 1: Finish: Doctrine of the Church
 Part 2: Discussion
 Discussion Readings: Stories: A. Boucher, “The Quest for Saint Aquin”; D.
 Knight, “The Country of the Kind”

Thursday: Begin: Doctrine of the Sacraments
Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 16; *Reader*: on sacraments: 8.1, 8.7, 8.13 - 8.15, 8.17, (8.21), 8.24, (8.25), 8.26; on baptism: 8.2 - 8.4, 8.6, 8.8, 8.20; on the eucharist: 8.9, (8.10, 8.11, 8.12), 8.16, 8.18, 8.23, 8.28, (8.30), 8.31 (8.32)

12) 11/15 Tuesday: Part 1: **Quiz 4**
Finish: Doctrine of the Sacraments (if needed)
Part 2: Discussion
Discussion Readings: Stories: J. L'Hereux, "The Expert on God"; J. Duntemann, "Our Lady of the Endless Sky"; Brent Buckner, "Flesh and Blood"

Thursday: Part 1: Finish Doctrine of the Sacraments (if needed)
Part 2: Begin Christianity and the World Religions
Readings: *Introduction*, Ch. 17; *Reader*, 9.1 - 9.11

13) 11/22 Tuesday: Part 1: Finish Christianity and the World Religions
Part 2: Discussion
Discussion Reading: Stories: R. Bowker, "Contamination"; D. Farley, "Thanksgiving Day at the Temple" (compare with *Reader*, 9.8, 9.9, 9.11)

Thursday: **Thanksgiving Day: No Class**

14) 11/29 Tuesday: Begin: Last Things: The Christian Hope
Reading: *Introduction*, Ch. 18; *Reader*, 10.1, 10.2, (10.3, 10.4), 10.5, 10.6 (10.7, 10.9), 10.10

Thursday: Part 1: Continue: Last Things: The Christian Hope
Part 2: Discussion
Discussion Readings: A. Lawson, "The Thousand Words" (compare with *Reader*, 10.17, 10.18, and 10.23); McGregor, "Drying Out in Purgatory" (compare with 10.11, 10.13); T. Chiang, "Hell is the Absence of God" (compare with 10.12, 10.16, 10.21, 10.23)

15) 12/06 Tuesday: Part 1: **Quiz 5**
 Part 2: TBA
 (Note: Last Class Day)

W: Study Period Begins

Exam Period Begins Saturday, 12/10

Take-Home Final Exam for Topics in Historical Theology:
Due BY Saturday, 12/17, at 2:30 p.m. Exams MAY be turned in
earlier; please notify me ahead of time!

*NOTE: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of
extenuating circumstances.*