

**REVISED SYLLABUS**  
**ST210A ISSUES IN TRINITARIANISM**  
**Dr. J. Scott Horrell, FALL 2018**

The course ST210 Issues in Trinitarianism is designed to expand primary understanding of Nicæan doctrine and to evaluate selected recent expressions and controversies within Trinitarianism. Not since the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed has discussion of the Holy Trinity been so prolific, creative, and sometimes heterodox. The classes function both as a review of Trinitarian foundations (including the professor's) and as a seminar regarding recent issues and development of Trinitarianism.

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

DTS Catalogue: "A study of modern approaches to the Godhead, both biblical and extrabiblical, and their consequent implications for worship, theology, and praxis today. Prerequisites: ST101 Introduction to Theology and ST102 Trinitarianism. 3 hours."

**II. OBJECTIVES**

The Course ST210 is designed:

- A. To foster developed understanding of the doctrine of the Trinity from a biblical-historical perspective. Students will...
  1. strengthen *biblical* and *historical* bases for Trinitarian confession; and
  2. clarify theological method for thinking through the doctrine of the Godhead;
  3. become familiar with contemporary issues in Trinitarianism and nonTrinitarianism.
  
- B. To promote creative, critical engagement with a diversity of Trinitarian issues especially in contemporary thought. Students will...
  1. interact with the professor's own chapters on Trinitarianism, developing a practical, popular-level presentation of the basic material;
  2. critique various recent readings in mainstream theology that present historical and modern positions;
  3. evaluate positive and negative aspects of innovative and contextualized Trinitarian theologies;
  4. refute capably, fairly, and accurately non-Trinitarian sectarian beliefs; and
  5. discern the implications of Trinitarianism in worship, praxis, and the wider realm of theological studies.
  
- C. To cultivate theological and academic skills. Students will...
  1. sharpen ability to reason coherently and apply theology consistently;

2. develop popular writing skills through composing a chapter intended as a lay-level primer (book) on the Trinity;
3. develop academic writing skills by researching and composing a monograph with a view to presenting and publishing; and
4. advance in teaching skills through class presentation and discussion.

### III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

#### A. Required Books

- Horrell, J. Scott. Selected Class Notes and Articles 2018. Online, DTS Canvas.
- Emery, Gilles and Matthew Levering, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. (Amazon Prime, \$42.50)
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Rediscovering the Triune God: The Trinity in Contemporary Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004. (Amazon Prime, \$29)
- Sanders, Fred. *The Triune God*. New Studies in Dogmatics. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. (Amazon Prime, \$16.97)

#### B. Suggested Books

- Anatolios, Khaled, ed. *The Holy Trinity in the Life of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker / Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, 2014.
- Anatolios, Khaled. *Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- Ayres, Lewis. *Nicaea and It's Legacy: An Approach to Fourth-Century Trinitarian Theology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Bates, Matthew W. *The Birth of the Trinity: Jesus, God, and Spirit in the New Testament and Early Christian Interpretations of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Bird, Michael F. *Jesus the Eternal Son: Answering Adoptionistic Christology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017.
- Bird, Michael F., Craig A. Evans, Simon J. Gathercole, et al. *How God Became Jesus: The Real Origins of Belief in Jesus' Divine Nature—A Response to Bart Ehrman*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
- Boff, Leonardo. *Trinity and Society*. Trans. Paul Burns, Port. ed. 1986; Tunbridge Wells, Kent: Burns & Oates/Maryknoll NY: Orbis, 1988.
- Bray, Gerald. *God Has Spoken: A History of Christian Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Davis, Stephen, Daniel Kendall, and Gerald O'Collins, eds. *The Trinity: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Trinity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Feinberg, John. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.
- Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God: A Theology of Lordship*. Phillipsburg NJ: P & R, 2002.
- Giles, Kevin. *The Eternal Generation of the Son: Maintaining Orthodoxy in Trinitarian Theology*. Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *The Names God and the Question of Being: A Trinitarian Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005.

- Grenz, Stanley J. *The Social God and the Relational Self: A Trinitarian Theology of the Imago Dei*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Gunton, Colin E. *The One, the Three and the Many: God, Creation and the Culture of Modernity. The 1992 Bampton Lectures [Oxford]*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Hill, Wesley. *Paul and the Trinity: Persons, Relations, and the Pauline Letters*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015.
- Holmes, Stephen R. *The Quest for the Trinity: The Doctrine of God in Scripture, History and Modernity*. Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Horrell, J. Scott, with Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Svingel, "God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," in *Exploring Christian Theology*. Ed. N. Holsteen and M. Svingel. Vol. 1, Part 2. Bloomington MN: Bethany, 2014. Pp. 127–268.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Johnson, Keith E. *Rethinking the Trinity and Religious Pluralism: An Augustinian Assessment*. Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.
- Jowers, Dennis W. and H. Wayne House, eds. *The New Evangelical Subordinationism? Perspectives on the Equality of God the Father and God the Son*. Eugene OR: Pickwick, 2012.
- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *The Trinity: Global Perspectives*. Louisville: WJK, 2007.
- Kidner, Derek, Brian S. Harris, and Jason S. Sexton, eds. *Revisioning, Renewing, Rediscovering the Triune Center: Essays in Honor of Stanley J. Grenz*. Eugene OR: Cascade, 2014.
- Letham, Robert, *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship*. Phillipsburg NJ: P & R, 2004.
- Lossky, Vladimir. *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*. Reprint. Crestwood NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1976.
- McCormack, Bruce L., ed. *Engaging the Doctrine of God: Contemporary Protestant Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Baker/Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 2007.
- Moltmann, Jürgen. *History and the Triune God: Contributions to Trinitarian Theology*. Trans. John Bowden (Grm. 1991). New York: Crossroad, 1992.
- Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Trinity and the Kingdom*. Trans. Margaret Kohl. London: SCM Press, 1981.
- O'Collins, Gerald. *The Tripersonal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.
- Oden, Thomas C., ed. *Ancient Christian Doctrine*. 5 vols. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Ouellet, Marc Cardinal. *Divine Likeness: Toward a Trinitarian Anthropology of the Family*. Trans. Philip Milligan and Linda M. Cicone. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*. Vol. 1. Trans. Geoffrey Bromiley (Grm. 1988). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991. Chs. 5-6, 259-448.
- Phan, Peter C., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Trinity*. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Pinnock, Clark H. *Most Moved Mover: A Theology of God's Openness*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Placher, William C. *The Triune God: An Essay in Postliberal Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2007.

- Rahner, Karl. *The Trinity*. Trans. Joseph Donceel (Grm. 1967). Intro. Catherine Mowry LaCugna. New English ed. New York: Crossroad/Herder, 1997.
- Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*. Wheaton IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything*. Wheaton IL: Crossway, 2010.
- Sanders, Fred and Klaus Issler, eds. *Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective: An Introductory Christology*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2007.
- Sanders, Fred and Scott R. Swain, eds. *Retrieving Eternal Generation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017.
- Swain, Scott R. *Trinity, Revelation, and Reading: A Theological Introduction to the Bible and Its Interpretation*. London: T & T Clark, 2011.
- Torrance, T. F. *The Trinitarian Faith*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1988;
- Treier, Daniel J. and David Lauber, eds. *Trinitarian Theology for the Church: Scripture, Community, Worship*. Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press/Nottingham, UK: Apollos, 2009.
- Volf, Miroslav. *After Our Likeness: The Church in the Image of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Volf, Miroslav. *Allah: A Christian Response*. New York: HarperOne, 2011.
- Volf, Miroslav, ed. *Do We Worship the Same God? Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.
- Ware, Bruce A. *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles, and Relevance*. Wheaton IL: Crossway, 2005.
- Ware, Bruce A. and John Starke, eds. *One God in Three Persons: Unity of Essence, Distinction of Persons, Implications for Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.
- Zizioulas, John D. *Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church*. Crestwood NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1985.

#### IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

##### A. *Class Readings and Discussion on Assigned Readings*

Mandatory readings for all students are listed on the Schedule (below) for class discussions. The professor will assign specific readings for class discussion to be led by students. Readings will be from the professor's Class Notes and the required course textbooks: Grenz's *Rediscovering the Triune God*, *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*, and Sanders's *The Triune God*—and/or additional material. Excepting the chapter assignments below (B), the student will prepare and post on Canvas a one to two-page outline (handout) of the reading or theme to help orient class discussion. Depending on the number of students in the class, tentatively students will lead in two discussion sessions of 20-30 minutes each. The Readings Report forms value 20% of the final grade and the discussion sessions another 20%.

##### B. *Lay-Level Trinity Book Project*

Graduate education ought to prepare students to write on various levels. A primary purpose of this course will be to develop a lay-level accessible book that simply and dynamically sets for the doctrine of the Trinity. The professor's Trinity chapters stand at 35-50 pages each. You will distill a single selected chapter into an accessible

chapter of 10-12 pages (2500 words)—one that people will enjoy reading! Dr. Sandra Glahn will present guidelines for the class. We envision a book of 120 pages with about 8 chapters. You will present (read) your chapter to the class for suggestions and critique (20%), and submit a final draft no later than Nov. 7 (10%). We conclude this exercise in the first half of the course. Your chapter values 30% of your grade.

### C. *Individual Project: Monograph*

Each student will also submit an academic monograph on a selected topic within Trinitarian studies. Subjects may be assigned by the professor in conversation with students. The basic structure of the monograph should (1) articulate a basic question and thesis, (2) discuss and interact with the various views related to the thesis, (3) evaluate the issue in light of biblical-historical Trinitarian evidence, and (4) draw conclusions. The monograph should be about 10-12 pages long, double-spaced (2500-3,000 words), plus footnotes and bibliography. The monograph should follow Turabian format. The monograph envisions possible presentation at a theological conference such as the SW Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (March 2019). The paper is due at the end of the semester and values 30% of the grade.

### D. *Extra Credit Reviews of Articles or Books: Up to Three Points*

You may write a two to three-page critical review on any work from the Suggested Books or other works approved by the professor. Up to 3 points extra credit may be earned. The review should be double-spaced and patterned after the *Bibliotheca Sacra* or the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* reviews. The format includes the complete bibliographic information: full title and subtitle; the author's name, editor and/or translator if appropriate; edition (if not 1st), place, publisher, and date of publication; and total number of pages. In the first paragraph, include brief background information about the author and clearly state the book's purpose. No more than half the review should summarize what is in the work—this, in a balanced and non-pejorative manner. The concluding half should critically evaluate and interact with author's argument, noting both selected positive and negative aspects, and what is the value of the book for readers. Various examples will be posted.

## V. GRADING

### A. *Letter-Number Grade Scale*

|                  |                 |                 |                 |               |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>A+ 99-100</b> | <b>B+ 91-93</b> | <b>C+ 83-85</b> | <b>D+ 75-77</b> | <b>F 0-69</b> |
| <b>A 96-98</b>   | <b>B 88-90</b>  | <b>C 80-82</b>  | <b>D 72-74</b>  |               |
| <b>A- 94-95</b>  | <b>B- 86-87</b> | <b>C- 78-79</b> | <b>D- 70-71</b> |               |

### B. *Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading (Three-Credits)*

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Required Reading (2 Reading Reports)            | 20%        |
| Student Led Discussion Sessions                 | 20%        |
| Popular Trinity Chapter and Presentation        | 30%        |
| Academic Monograph                              | <u>30%</u> |
|   | 100%       |
| Extra Credit:                                   |            |
| Optional Reading with Critical Review: up to... | 3          |

### C. *Class Participation*

Classes and visits to religious sites are intended to be dynamic with the interaction of class members. The student is responsible to participate in class and group discussions for her or his own learning and enrichment.

### D. *Terms of Assignments*

1. *Homework Related to Previous or Parallel Course Work.* Work that has been done (or is being done) for other classes may not be used to earn credit in this class.
2. *Plagiarism.* Take note that copying or borrowing either wording (with quotation marks) or unique ideas from other sources without documentation is *plagiarism* (internet, articles, books, or other students). This or any other form of deception is strictly prohibited and can be grounds for expulsion from the Seminary. All student work is automatically checked by Vericite on Canvas (and you can check your own). Again: all sources should be fully documented.
3. *Late Homework.* All assignments are to be submitted online as marked in the course schedule (below). Good excuses will be honored (sent to the professor). Without a valid excuse, late homework will lose ten points per weekly class.

### E. *Absences*

Penalties for non-attendance will be assigned according to the *DTS Student Handbook*. Four 75-minute (or two 3-hour) absences are allowed before the student's grade will be reduced. Students may be asked to record their presence, tardiness, and absences. For each absence beyond the four permitted, the student's total numerical grade will be reduced by two points.

## VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

### A. *Anti-Discrimination Standards*

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

### B. *Electronic Device Usage in Class*

“Students should refrain from using cell phones, laptop computers, or other devices in a manner that distracts others in the class. Playing games, browsing the internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging, etc., are considered unacceptable when class is in session. Unless permitted by the professor, students should turn off all electronic devices during tests and quizzes.” (*Student Handbook*)

## VII. COURSE LECTURES, ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE, ST210 Fall 2018

The professor will assign the readings of the semester, depending in part on the students’ backgrounds in Trinitarian studies. After introductory classes on backgrounds to contemporary theology, we will turn to biblical foundations, early church development, and practical applications of the doctrine of the Trinity from the professor’s notes. Students will present their popular level chapters. In the second part of the course, students will lead in discussions regarding assigned readings in theologians and issues. Course texts will be the professor’s text (forthcoming), Grenz’s *Rediscovering the Triune God*, *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*, and Sanders’ *The Triune God*. The *tentative* class schedule is as follows:

### 8.29 INTRODUCTION to Course

#### **Backgrounds to Contemporary Trinitarianism**

In Class, Horrell, “An Overview: Modern to Postmodern Theology,” 1–12.

### 9.5 **Backgrounds to Contemporary Trinitarianism**

Dr. Glahn, orientation on writing for a popular audience

In Class, Horrell, “An Overview: Modern to Postmodern Theology,” 12–30.

### 9.12 **Backgrounds to Contemporary Trinitarianism:**

#### **Jesus, Trinity, and World Religions; SubTrinitarian Churches**

Reading: Horrell, *The Center of Everything*, Ch. 11 “Christ and Trinity in World Religions,” 32pp; Ch. 10, “Trinity and SubTrinitarian Churches,” 38pp.

- 9.19 Biblical Foundations: Trinity, Definitions, Method, Mystery**  
**Presentation of Chapter 1**, Discussion, **Michael Loudermilk**  
 Reading: Horrell, *The Center of Everything*, "Preface," 5pp; Ch. 1 "Revelation and Mystery: Approaching the Doctrine of the Trinity," 41pp;  
 Reading Discussion, **Andrew Dass**  
 Gilles Emery and Matthew Levering, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity* (OUP, 2011), Emery and Levering "Introduction," 1–11; Christopher Seitz, Ch.2 "The Trinity in the OT," 28–39.
- 9.26 Biblical Foundations: Trinity, OT and God the Father**  
**Presentations of Chapters 2-3**, Discussion, **Warren Truesdale, Bitu Das**  
 Reading: *The Center of Everything*: Ch 2 "Veiled Glory: Trinitarian Evidences in the OT," 43pp; Ch 3 "The Father Who Draws Near: NT Teaching of God as Father," 51pp.
- 10.3 Biblical Foundations: Jesus and Chalcedon's Orthodoxy**  
**Presentation of Chapter 4**, Discussion, **Ryan Bear**  
 Reading: *The Center of Everything*, Ch 4 "God Made Flesh: The Deity of Jesus Christ in the NT," 49pp.  
 Reading Discussion: **JSH**  
 "One Person, Two Natures," 10pp.; Christological Orthodoxy.
- 10.10 Biblical Foundations: Holy Spirit**  
**Presentation of Chapter 5**, Discussion, **Isaac Geyman**  
 Reading: *The Center of Everything*, Ch 5 "The Other Comforter: The Divine Person of the Holy Spirit," 49pp;  
 Reading Discussion: **Chris Herrin**  
 Fred Sanders, *The Triune God* (Zondervan, 2016), Ch 6 "Trinitarian Exegesis," 155–89.
- 10.17 Biblical Foundations: Trinitarians Relations in the NT**  
**Presentation of Chapter 6**, Discussion, **Dani Ross**  
**Student Outline and Discussion of Readings**  
 Reading: Horrell, *The Center of Everything*, Ch 6 "The NT God as Three and One: Intra-Trinitarian Relationships," 48pp.  
 Reading Discussion, **Warren Truesdale**  
 Sanders, *The Triune God*, Ch 7 "New Covenant Attestation," 191–208.
- 10.24 Trinitarian Development in the Early Church**  
**Presentation of Chapter 7**, Discussion. **Andrew Dass**  
 Reading: Horrell, *The Center of Everything*, Ch 7 "The Pathway to Nicaea: Trinitarianism to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381)," 48pp.



Readings Discussion, **Bitu Das**

Khaled Anatolios, Ch 1 "The Canonization of Scripture in the Context of Trinitarian Doctrine," in *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*, 15–27; Stephen Hildebrand, Ch 7 "Trinity in the Ante-Nicene Fathers," *OHT*, 95–107.

### 10.31 Forming a Trinitarian Worldview

**Presentation of Chapter 12**, Discussion. **Chris Herrin**

Horrell, *The Center of Everything*, Ch 12 "Toward a Trinitarian Worldview," 39pp.

**Trinitarian Developments in the Post-Nicene Church to the Reformation**

Readings Discussion, **Dani Ross**

Lewis Ayres, Ch 9 "Augustine on the Trinity," *OHT*, 123–137; Andrew Louth, Ch 10 "Late Patristic Developments" *OHT*, 138–49;

Readings Discussion, **Ryan Bear**

Scott Swain, Ch 16 "The Trinity in the Reformers," 227–36; François Boespflug, Ch 34 "The Trinity in Christian Visual Arts," 472–86.

### 11.7 Issues in Modern Trinitarianism

**Due: Final Copy of Chapter on Trinity Primer**

Readings Discussion, **Warren Truesdale**

Stanley Grenz, *Rediscovering the Triune God* (Fortress, 2004), "Introduction," Ch 1, "The Eclipse of Trinitarian Theology," 1–32;

Readings Discussion, **Isaac Geyman**

Grenz, Ch 2, "Restoring the Trinitarian Center," 33–71.

### 11.12-16 READING WEEK

### 11.19-23 THANKSGIVING BREAK

### 11.28 Trinity: Issues in Modern Theology

Readings Discussion, **Andrew Dass**

Grenz, Ch 3, "Trinity as the Fullness of History," 72–116;

Readings Discussion, **Chris Herrin**

Grenz, Ch 4, "The Triumph of Relationality," 117–62; and "Epilogue: The Trinitarian Story in Retrospect," 216–23.

### 12.5 Issues in Contemporary Trinitarian Theology

**Due: ALL Graduates' Work**

Readings Discussion, **Dani Ross**

Sanders, *The Triune God*, "Introduction," 19–24; and Ch 2, "Revelation of the Triune God," 37–68;

Readings Discussion, **Ryan Bear**  
 Sanders, Ch 3 "Communicative Missions," 69–92;  
 Readings Discussion, **Bitu Das**  
 Sanders Ch 4 "Incarnation and Pentecost," 93–120.

**12.12 Issues in Contemporary Trinitarianism: Toward a Vibrant Trinitarian Faith**

Readings Discussion, **Michael Loudermilk**  
 Sanders, Ch 5, "God Who Sends God," 121–53;  
 Readings Discussion, **Isaac Geyman**  
 Sanders, Ch 9, "Theses on the Revelation of the Trinity," 239–43.

**12.19 \*MONOGRAPH (Wed. 11:59PM, midnight)**

**\*Due: Reading Report Two**  
**\*ALL EXTRA CREDIT**

**ST210 COURSE SCHEDULE Fall 2018**

- 8.29 Course Introduction**  
**Overview: Modern to Postmodern Theology**
- 9.19 Biblical Foundations**  
**Begin Student Chapters, Presentations and Discussions**
- 10.18 Student Chapters and Discussions (continued)**  
**Begin Student Outlines and Discussions of Readings**
- 10.24 Trinitarian Development in the Church**  
**Outlines and Discussions of Readings (continued)**  
**Due: First Reading Report**
- 11.7 Issues in Modern Trinitarianism**  
**Outlines and Discussions of Readings (continued)**  
**Due, Final Copy of Trinity Chapter**
- 11.12-16 Fall Reading Week**
- 11.19-23 Thanksgiving Break**

**12.5 Issues in Contemporary Trinitarianism**  
**Outlines and Discussions of Readings (continued)**  
**Due: All Graduates' Work**

**12.12 Issues in Contemporary Trinitarianism**  
**Discussions, Conclusions: Toward a Vibrant Trinitarian Faith**

**12.17 Mon DUE: Monograph**  
**Due: Second Reading Report**  
**All Extra Credit, 11:59PM**