

IPS 531-001
Christian Doctrine and Its History
Grace, Christ, and the Spirit
Spring, 2008

Special Note: This course is available at the WTC, and in the Joliet Diocese Cohort Program.

Instructor: Robert Ludwig, Ph.D., Lewis Towers #630,

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Class Meeting Dates:

- WTC
- Joliet Cohort meets Saturdays, 9-3: Jan 12, 26, Feb 9 & 16; March 15; April 5)

Required Texts:

- **Hans Kung**, *Great Christian Thinkers* (Continuum, 1996—ISBN 0-8264-0848-6)
- **Robert Ludwig**, *Instructor's Essays* (available thru IPS Office: sozuk@luc.edu)
- **Thomas F. O'Meara**, *God In the World* (Liturgical Press, 2007—0-8146-5222-0)
- **Mark F. Fischer**, *The Foundations of Karl Rahner* (Crossroad, 2006—ISBN 0-824-24-2342-3)

Course Description: Today many Christians have little or no understanding of how the New Testament experience became translated into Christian doctrine; many have little or no insight into how Christian theology today understands the dynamics of sin and grace, the notion of salvation, the role of Jesus Christ as understood by Christian faith. This course is an overview of fundamental Christian theology—from the New Testament, to Augustine, to Aquinas, to Karl Rahner—focused on the core doctrines of grace, Christ, and Trinity. Students will pursue an understanding of the experiential foundations of core Christian doctrine and see the evolution of interpretation from early centuries to the present. Much of the course will explore contemporary, pastoral understandings of Christian doctrine. We will move between experience and doctrine and back to experience, helping students gain insight into both as they come to understand the dynamic process that leads from experience to doctrine—and, in theology, back again to experience and to ministry. What theologians refer to as “soteriology”—theology of salvation—is the heart of this course, which will involve significant reading and writing assignments as well as in-class discussions. This is a basic theology course for anyone involved in Christian ministry.

Instructor's Expectations/Course Requirements/Grading Standards:

- **CLASS ATTENDANCE:** It is very important that students connect with the course on a regular basis by attending class weekly at the Water Tower Campus or on six Saturdays with the Joliet Cohort in the SW suburbs. Not participating in the course on a regular basis will create problems for students wanting to complete the course successfully. If you need to absent yourself due serious illness or other very important reasons, you need to call the instructor's voice-mail (312/915-7467) prior to the class you miss and provide him with an explanation. Attending class and participating actively in the discussions contribute **20 points** of your final grade. Unexcused absences and lack of participation in class discussions can seriously affect your final grade.
- **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Each week students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in depth. There will not be any short papers required, but students should bring notes and questions for their own use in the class discussions. Class discussions will be carried on in both small groups and the larger groups. Active engagement in class discussions is worth **20 points** each toward final grade. All students are expected to be actively involved in class discussions.
- **MIDTERM EXAM:** Students will write essay responses to questions. This will be a take-home exam or paper with several extended essays. Questions will be provided to students well in advance of the exam's due date. These essays will be worth **25 points** of the final grade. [Due February 9th (Joliet) and 15th (WTC)]
- **FINAL EXAM/PAPER:** At the conclusion of the course, there will be a final exam/paper that includes essay responses to several questions. This final paper is worth **35 points** of the final grade. [Due April 25^h]

How To Write Essays for EXAMS: There will be several questions posed. Students must respond to these questions with thoughtful essays. Sometimes students can choose between and among questions to answer. Students are expected to write thoughtful, focused, and well-organized essays in response to each question.

The process includes:

- 1) Read the question carefully—then review readings and class notes with this question in mind.
- 2) Reflect and think (take a walk)—find your own voice: what is the main thing you want to say in response to this question?
- 3) Create a brief outline to develop your focused response.
- 4) Write your paper, utilizing the outline.
- 5) Review and edit. Check for writing errors.
- 6) Move to the next question and repeat this process.

Each essay should have its own title, imaginatively and succinctly stating the essay's focus. Use Arial 11 point type face. When referring to the required texts, simply do so parenthetically (author, page numbers)—no lengthy quotes from the texts. If you are utilizing additional resources, be sure to clearly cite the sources in endnotes. No bibliography is needed. Papers will be sent electronically as Word attachments: rludwig@luc.edu

Grading Grid: Above 92 points – A 89 – 92 -- B+ 85 – 88 -- B 81 – 84 -- C+ 76 – 80 -- C Under 75 – F
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Plagiarism, Cheating, Academic Dishonesty: Students are hereby advised of the strong sanctions against plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" in the course and possible expulsion from IPS. ***If you have any questions about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials, you should consult the instructor.*** Proper citation procedures are provided in all standard writing manuals. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see the instructor.

Reading/Assignment Schedule: Readings should be completed prior to the weekly class. Please come to class having read the materials and ready to discuss them.

Course Schedules Two Sections—One at LUC Water Tower Campus, the Other in Joliet Diocese

WTC (Fridays, 9:00-11:30 AM):

1/18/08 - O'Meara, chapters 1-3

1/25/08 – Ludwig Essay on Pauline Theology
– Kung, chapters 1-2

2/01/08 – Kung, chapters 3-4
- Ludwig Essay on Augustine to Aquinas

2/08/08 – Kung, chapter 5
- Ludwig Essay on the Reformation and Trent

2/15/08 – Exam #1 Due

2/22/08 – No Class (Rahner Reading)

2/29/08 – Fischer, Preface and chapters I through III
– O'Meara, chapter 4
- Ludwig Essay on Rahner's Philosophical Foundations

3/07/08 – No Class (Spring Break)

3/14/08 – Fischer, Chapters IV-V
– O'Meara, chapter 4

3/21/08 – No Class (Good Friday)

3/28/08 - O'Meara, chapter 5
- Ludwig Essay "God For Us: Rahner on Grace"

4/04/08 – Fischer, Chapter VI
- Ludwig Essay on Rahner's Christology/Trinity

4/11/08 – Fischer, Chapters VII-IX & Epilogue

4/18/08 – Ludwig, Essay on Contemporary Christologies

4/25/08 – Final Exam Due

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Joliet Cohort (Saturdays, 9AM-3PM):

January 12—Introduction and Earliest Fundamental Theologies

- O'Meara, chapters 1-3
- Kung, chapters 1-2
- Ludwig Essay on Pauline Theology

January 26—Grace in the History of Christian Theology

- Kung, chapters 3-4, Ludwig Essay on Augustine to Aquinas
- Kung, chapter 5, Ludwig Essay on the Reformation and Trent

February 9 – Exam #1 Due

February 16—Rahner's Understanding of the Human Person

- Fischer, Preface and chapters I through III
- O'Meara, chapter 4
- Ludwig Essay on Rahner's Philosophical Foundations

March 15—Rahner's Theology of Grace

- Fischer, Chapters IV-V
- O'Meara, chapters 5
- Ludwig Essay "God For Us: Rahner on Grace"

April 5—Rahner's Christology and Understanding of Trinity

- Fischer, Chapter VI-IX and Epilogue
- Ludwig Essay on Rahner's Christology/Trinity