

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

***Summer, 2007***

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

**Contact:** Phone: 312/915-7467 E-Mail: [rludwig@luc.edu](mailto:rludwig@luc.edu)

**Class Meeting Dates:** Monday—Thursday, June 18-21 and 25-28, 5:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

**Pre-Class Readings:** See below

**On-Line Discussions:** Begin June 1<sup>st</sup> (contact [sozuk@luc.edu](mailto:sozuk@luc.edu) for details)

**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](mailto:sozuk@luc.edu))
- **Thomas F. O'Meara**, *God In the World* (Liturgical Press, 2007—0-8146-5222-0)
- **Karl Rahner**, *The Content of Faith* (Crossroad, 1992—ISBN 0-8245-1221-9)

**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.

**Pre-Class Reading and On-Line Discussions:** The class actually begins June 18<sup>th</sup>, but students are expected to have done most if not all of the course reading prior to the beginning of the course. With the intensive class format, there simply is not time to read all the required materials during the two weeks that the class meets. We will begin a discussion board on the course readings June 1<sup>st</sup>. Any

time after you've registered for the course, you can contact Susan Ozuk in the IPS offices to find out how to access the course on-line.

**Instructor's Expectations/Course Requirements/Grading Standards:**

- **CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Especially because of the intensive class format, it is very important that students be present for every class meeting, that they be here on time so that we can start class promptly and stay for the entire class period. If you need to absent yourself due illness or other 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. The student is responsible for getting class notes, handouts, and announcements from fellow-students or the instructor following any missed class. Attending class and participating actively in the discussions contribute **20 points** to your final grade. Unexcused absences and lack of participation in class discussions can seriously affect your final grade.
- **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to come to class having completed the reading assignment for that class and ready to engage in critical discussion about the author's key ideas. Each student will bring to class a **3-page reaction paper** focused on the authors' key ideas. Class discussions will be carried on in both small groups and the larger group. These short papers are worth 5 points each toward final grade (**40 points** total). Students can begin developing these papers prior to the start of class as well. Every student is expected to be actively involved in class discussions.
- **ORAL EXAM:** There will be a final oral exam worth **40 points**. Students will meet with the instructor on Friday, June 29, and respond to several questions, which will be handed out at least a week prior to the exam.

**How to Prepare for the Exam:** There will be several questions to prepare for the exam. Students are expected to present a thoughtful, focused, and well-organized 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) Move to the next question and repeat this process.

**Grading Grid:** Above 92 points – A  
89 – 92 -- B+  
85 – 88 -- B  
81 – 84 -- C+  
76 – 80 -- C  
Under 75 -- F

**Plagiarism, Cheating, Academic Dishonesty:** Students are hereby advised of the strong sanctions against plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism could 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.

**Course Schedule:**

**June 18** – Chapters 1-3 in O'Meara (Short Paper #1 Due)

**June 19** – Chapters 1-2 in Kung (Ludwig Essay on Pauline Theology)  
(Short Paper #2 Due)

**June 20** – Chapters 3-4 in Kung (Ludwig Essay on Augustine to Aquinas)  
(Short Paper #3 Due)

**June 21** – Chapter 5 in Kung (Ludwig Essay on Reformation and Trent)  
(Short Paper #4 Due)

**June 25** – Rahner, "The Mystery of Existence," pp. 73-202  
– O'Meara, chapter 4, and Ludwig Essay on Rahner's Philosophical  
Foundations (Short Paper #5 Due)

**June 26** – Rahner, "On the Living God," pp. 205-270  
– O'Meara, chapter 5 & Ludwig Essay on Rahner's Theology of Grace  
(Short Paper #6 Due)

**June 27** – Rahner, "Jesus Christ," pp. 273-351  
– Ludwig Essay on Rahner Christology/Trinity (Short Paper #7 Due)

**June 28** – Rahner, "The Holy Spirit," pp. 355-385 (Ludwig Essay on  
Contemporary Christologies) (Short Paper #8 Due)

**June 29** – Oral Exams with the course instructor: 111 E. Pearson, Suite 630