

TH 6303 Traditions in Christian Theology and Ethics

Spring 2010
Austin Graduate School of Theology
Tuesdays - 7:00 to 10:00 pm
Room 202

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I. Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to major theological and ethical traditions which have emerged in the history of Christianity. Attention will be given to the social, historical, and intellectual environments in which these traditions emerged and developed. The course supports the following goals of the MATS program:

- 1) The student will articulate the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith with reference to major emphases of the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Reformation, Evangelical and Anabaptist theological traditions.
- 2) The student will conduct research on topics in biblical and theological studies with the use of bibliographic indices and databases (ATLA Religion Index, etc.).
- 3) The student will display the ability to pursue further graduate education in theology and related disciplines.

II. Course Objectives

- 1) The student will achieve an understanding of how the Christian theological/ethical traditions in light of historical, social, and intellectual developments.
- 2) The student will recognize how various Christian moral traditions have developed in the history of the Christian movement through a research project.
- 3) The student will be encouraged to view their own theological/ethical traditions in light of historical, social, and intellectual developments.

III. Requirements

Students are expected to:

- 1) attend class regularly;
- 2) read assigned materials;
- 3) demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of the material on three quizzes;
- 4) write a paper dealing critically with a key figure, issue, or movement in history of Christian theological and ethical traditions.

IV. Grading

Grading will be based upon attendance, participation in class discussions, and the student's performance upon three quizzes and one research paper.

V. Resources for Research and Learning

- † ATLA database
- † Beach, Waldo and H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christian Ethics: Sources of the Living Tradition*
- † Forell, George Wolfgang, *History of Christian Ethics*
- † White, R. E. O., *Christian Ethics*
- † Wogaman, J. Philip, Douglas M. Strong, editors. *Readings in Christian Ethics: A Historical Sourcebook*.

JAN 2010

Theological Traditions tentative schedule

- Jan 26 Introduction
the Didache
1 Clement
- Feb. 2 Justin, First Apology
Tertullian, Apology
Clement of Alexandria
- 9 Origen, Against Celsus
Lactantius, The Divine Institutes
- 16 Ambrose / Augustine
- 23 Monasticism/Mysticism
- Mar 2 Thomas Aquinas
- 9 Nominalism
- 16 Spring Break
- 23 Calvin
- 30 Radical Reformers: Anabaptists
- April 6 Pietism
- 13 Enlightenment Theologies
- 20 Protestant Liberalism: Schleiermacher
- 27 Existentialism
- May 3 American Social Gospel
- 11 Final Exam