

Course: TH 6304a Contemporary Protestant Theology

Time: 1-4 PM Wednesday

Instructor: Michael Weed

AGST 476-2772 ext 205 Home 837-5441

AGST fax 476-3919 email weed@austingrad.edu

Course Goal

Students will learn to recognize major issues for conceptualizing and communicating the Christian faith posed by intellectual currents pervading Western culture since the 18th century.

Course Objectives

1. Students will acquire appreciation of different modes of theological systematization.
2. Students will gain an understanding of ways in which Enlightenment philosophy has shaped contemporary Christian thought.
3. Students will evaluate the ecclesiological implications of various theological options represented by such thinkers as Schleiermacher, Kierkegaard, Tillich, and Barth.

Course Description

This course will examine Protestant theology as developed in response to the Enlightenment and the rise of modernity. The course will begin with a survey of the intellectual world of the Enlightenment and, in particular, Immanuel Kant. Schleiermacher and Kierkegaard will then be examined as precursors of alternative theological reactions to modernity. Subsequent attention will be given to 19th and 20th century developments (e.g., Ritschl, Harnack, Rauschenbusch, Barth, Bultmann, Tillich, Bonhoeffer). As time permits, attention will be given to the development of Process, Liberation, and Post-modern theologies.

Text

Stanley J. Grenz and Roger E. Olson, *20th-Century Theology: God & the World in a Transitional Age*

Course Requirements

Each student will be expected to read assigned materials, attend class, and participate in class discussion. Further requirements are:

Three tests

Paper to be chosen in consultation with instructor, due May 5.

Grading

Grading will be based on students' fulfillment of the above requirements, including attendance and participation. Note: more than one absence, multiple tardies, or late papers may penalize grade.

Select Bibliography

Barth, Karl. *Protestant Thought : From Rousseau to Ritschl*

Berkhof, *Two -Hundred Years of Theology*

Cobb, John B. *Living Options in Protestant Theology: A Survey of Methods*

Ford, David F. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian theology in the twentieth century*, 2 Vols

Heron, Alasdair. *A Century of Protestant Theology*

Jenkins, *Guide to the Debate About God*

Mackintosh, Hugh Ross. *Types of Modern Theology*

Macquarrie, John. *Twentieth Century Religious Thought*

Marty, Martin, *A Handbook of Modern Theologians*

McGrath, Alister, *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Modern Theology*

Nicholls, William. *The Pelican Guide to Modern Theology, Vol. 1: Systematic and Philosophical Theology*

Peerman, Dean G. and Martin E. Marty. *A Handbook of Christian Theologians*

Welch, Claude. *Protestant Thought in the Nineteenth Century*, 2 Vols

Zahrnt, Heinz. *The Question of God: Protestant Theology in the 20th Century*