## DRAFT (final version will be distributed in class)

Emmanuel College

Winter 2016

## EMT 1101: Introduction to (Systematic-Constructive) Theology 1

Thursday, 2:00-5:00 pm

--Instructor: Thomas E. Reynolds tom.reynolds@utoronto.ca / (416) 585-4544 --Graduate Student Assistant: Lindsay Ann Cox

Theological understanding is not a theory or invention, something wafted into existence by the theologian's magic wand. It names a dimension of the life of faith itself, the understanding required of faith as it exists in various life contexts....

Edward Farley, from *Theologia* 

From the cowardice that dares not face new truth From the laziness that is contented with half truth From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Good Lord, deliver [us].

Prayer from Kenya, quoted in James M. Gustafson, *An Examined Faith: The Grace of Self-Doubt* 

### **Course Description**

This course introduces not only the systematic but also the constructive and contextual character of Christian theology. Participants will (1) become further acquainted with the sources, methods, tasks, and traditions of Christian theology; (2) become familiar with important theological themes, especially as they respond to intellectual and social challenges presented by historical contexts; (3) be encouraged to do theology, thinking creatively about faith in a contemporary context. Basic Christian themes considered will include God and creation, evil and providence, the human condition, Jesus Christ and salvation, the Church, and eschatology. Theological perspectives addressed will include formative and alternative theological traditions. Educational methods used include lectures, discussions, journaling, tutorials, a midterm take–home exam, a critical article review, and a final research paper or exam.

### **Required Course Texts**

Most of the required readings for the course are taken from the following books, available at Crux Books, Wycliffe College:

- Patrick S. Cheng, Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology. New York: Seabury Books, 2011.
- Justo González, Essential Theological Terms. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005.
- Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, third edition. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2014.
- Sallie McFague, *Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril.* Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.

Other required and recommended reading will be available on reserve in the Emmanuel College library or distributed online via the Portal.

### Intended Learning Outcomes: Students shall be able to...

- 1. Display knowledge of the character of theology as a critical reflection upon the life of faith, including its method, function and purpose as a discipline.
- 2. Identify the dynamics and implications of faith as it is related to the concerns of human existence in the unique context and challenges of today's world.
- 3. Assess the significance of major theological/doctrinal themes in the Christian witness.
- 4. Consider Christian theology in terms of specific issues arising out of diverse cultural contexts, the experiences of oppressed and marginalized people, and the need for global mutuality and peace.
- 5. Recognize and respect the dynamic diversity of theological viewpoints expressed within Christian traditions.
- 6. Exhibit the capacity to participate as a citizen in a theological community:

  -displaying empathetic and critical thinking in reading, speaking, and writing...
  -demonstrating initiative in research and critical appraisal of sources used...
  -communicating responsibly, carefully, and clearly...
  -framing and developing theological arguments supported with evidence...
  -showing an awareness of oneself as an interpreter...
  -exhibiting tolerance for ambiguity while remaining genuinely committed...

# **Class-Time Format**

The basic arrangement of time in class will be lecture-discussion. The purpose of the lectures will be to introduce, help clarify and expand the context and substance of the readings. Smaller group discussions are designed to provide an interactive and open environment to explore relevant materials. The overall strategy behind this course is to generate critical reflection, so questions, comments, and reflections are welcome at all times.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

1. Class Participation	10%
2. Reading Reflection Journals	
3. Tutorial Leadership	15%
4. Midterm Exam	25%
5. Research Paper/Final Exam	30%

1. *Regular attendance and informed participation* in class sessions is an important part of the learning experience. Because discussion is a key part of the class and nurtures an engagement with course materials, your questions and comments are valued and will be a factor in the overall grade. To this end, it is expected that you will have done the readings and be prepared to contribute. More than three absences may result in loss of course credit. Formats and guidelines for class participation will be discussed on the first day of class.

2. *Reading Reflection Journal*. Careful and critical reading is fundamental. To help facilitate this process, students are asked to engage the readings with written reflections that ask questions and comment on the material in a more personal way, drawing out concrete applications and ministry implications. The reflections are an opportunity to evaluate theological claims in the readings, examining some of the major themes vis-à-vis the student's own theological judgments. The objective is to engage the reading critically, with a view toward appraising its contextual relevance, intellectual credibility, and Christian appropriateness.

- The journals should be typed in single space format and be about a page in length. Hard copies of the assignment will be collected on the day of class each week.
- A minimum of five (5) reading reflections are required throughout the course of the semester. You may submit over five (in which case the five highest marks will be chosen for averaging) but this is not required.

• In addition, students may post electronic versions of the journal entry online on Blackboard. This is optional, and will factor as a contribution to the participation grade.

3. *Tutorial leadership.* At each session, one student, by pre-arrangement with the instructor or graduate student assistant, will initiate discussion by referring to key points in the week's reading assignment, then raising two or three questions in an attempt to generate conversation over the most important issues/themes in reading. The student should address the class for approximately 5-10 minutes.

4. *9-10 page take home Midterm Exam*. The questions will be distributed in class on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and should be turned in no later than class on March 10<sup>th</sup>. While it is appropriate to consult with others about the questions, answers should be written individually. Full documentation is expected when drawing from sources (footnotes or endnotes).

5. Final *10-12 page Research Paper* OR *In-class Written Exam*. Students will be given a choice between (1) choosing a doctrine or topic related to the course, investigating it further through the process of research, and analyzing and appraising its significance for historic or contemporary faith, OR (2) writing a 2-hour in class exam during finals week, covering material from the whole course but mainly concentrating on materials from weeks 8-12. Papers will be due April 14; the written exam date is TBD.

All paper assignments should be clearly organized, substantive in analysis, well documented, critical in scope, thoughtful in assessing materials and making evaluative claims, and prudent in applications. Excellent papers will not simply 'state' but will 'show' and substantiate their case. Based upon an informed consideration of what is at stake, they will provide reasons for claims and back these reasons up with solid evidence.

Papers should observe Emmanuel College academic regulations and policies, and note the "Other Qualities Expected of Students" in "The T.S.T. Grading Scale Used at Emmanuel College" for criteria for evaluation of assignments (found in *Handbook of Information for Basic Degree Students*). More information about writing papers can be found at the web site "Writing at the University of Toronto" at www.utoronto.ca/writing/.

# **Specific Policies**

-Grading: Grades will follow the TST grading scheme. See TST web site or BD Handbook.

*-Email assignments*: Emailed assignments will **not** be accepted except in rare cases with the prior permission of the instructor

### -Accessibility and disability policy:

Students with diverse learning styles are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Office as soon as possible. It takes time to put disability related accommodations in place. The sooner you meet with a Disability Counselor at Accessibility Services, the quicker s/he can assist you to achieving your learning goals in this course. See the UT web site: http://www.sa.utoronto.ca/details.php?wscid=4.

## --COURSE SCHEDULE--

Week One / January 14: Introduction to the Course No readings.

Week Two / January 21: <u>Thinking about Faith: What is Theology?</u>

- Required Reading:
  - Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, ch. 1
  - Patrick Cheng, *Radical Love*, Introduction and pp. 1-11
  - o Sallie McFague, *Life Abundant*, chs. 1-2
  - Justo González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Contextual Theologies; Correlation, Method of; Doctrine; Faith; Feminist Theology; Fideism; Historicism; Liberalism; Liberation, Theologies of; Metaphor; Modernity; Neo-orthodoxy; Orthodoxy; Postmodernity; Praxis; Theology
- Recommended Reading:
  - Jones and Lakeland, Introduction, "Theology as Faith in Search of Understanding," *Constructive Theology*, pp. 1-18
  - Bonganjalo Goba, "What is Faith? A Black South African Perspective," in Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite and Mary Potter Engel, eds., *Lift Every Voice: Constructing Christian Theologies from the Underside*, pp. 24-29
  - Paul Tillich, *Dynamics of Faith*, pp. 1-34

Week Three / January 28: Sources of Theology: What Can We Know about God and How Can We Know It?

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, ch. 2
  - Chris Budden, "Introduction," in *Following Christ in Invaded Space: Doing Theology on Aboriginal Land* (Princeton: Pickwick, 2009)
  - McFague, *Life Abundant*, ch. 3
  - Cheng, *Radical Love*, pp. 11-40
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Analogy; Anthropomorphism; Aseity; Attributes of God; Cosmological Argument; Deus absconditus; God; Heresy; Immanence; Impassibility; Justice; Love; Natural Theology; Omnipotence; Omnipresence; Omniscience; Ontological Argument; Positive Theology; Reason and Faith; Revelation; Symbol; Transcendence
- Recommended Reading:
  - o Steve Charleston, "The Old Testament of Native America," in *Lift Every Voice*, pp. 69-81
  - Jorge Rieger, "Context is What Hurts," in *The Reemergence of Liberation Theologies*, ed. Thia Cooper (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013)
  - o Migliore, Appendix A, "Natural Theology: A Dialogue," Faith Seeking Understanding, 354-369

Week Four / February 4: <u>The Bible and Theology</u>

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, ch. 3
  - Kwok Pui-Lan, "Discovering the Bible in the Non-Biblical World," in *Lift Every Voice*, pp. 276-288
  - Rachel Mikva, "What Progressive Protestants Can Learn from Jewish Engagement with Scripture," *Theological Education* 50/1 (2015): 95-106
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Biblicism; Fundamentalism; Hermeneutics; Inerrancy; Inspiration; Scripture; Word of God
- Recommended Reading:
  - Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, "The Bible, the Global Context, and the Discipleship of Equals," in *Reconstructing Christian Theology*, pp. 79-98
  - Robert Allen Warrior, "Canaanites, Cowboys, and Indians: Deliverance, Conquest, and Liberation Theology Today," in *Native and Christian: Indigenous Voices on Religious Identity in the United States and Canada*, pp. 93-104

Week Five / February 11: Creator and Creation

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, ch. 5
  - McFague, *Life Abundant*, ch. 6
  - Cheng, *Radical Love*, ch. 3
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Causality; Contingency; Cosmogony; Cosmology; Creation; Creationism; Deism; Demythologization; Determinism; Dualism; Evolution; *Ex nihilo*; Matter; Monism; Myth; Panentheism; Pantheism; Theism
- Recommended Reading:
  - Clara Sue Kidwell, Homer Noley, and George E. Tinker, "Creation," in *A Native American Theology*, pp. 32–51
  - Dawn DeVries, "Creation, Handicappism, and the Community of Differing Abilities," in *Reconstructing Christian Theology*, pp. 124-140.
  - Thomas E. Reynolds, Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality, pp. 136-159

February 15-19: Reading Week

### Week Six / February 25: Providence, the Tragic, and Evil

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, ch. 6
  - James Livingston, "Theodicy: Encountering Evil," from *Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion* (on reserve and distributed online).
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Freedom of the Will; Manichaeism; Predeterminism; Process Theology; Providence; Satan; Theodicy
- Recommended Reading:
  - Thomas E. Reynolds, *Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality*, pp. 159-170
  - o Wendy Farley, "The Rupture of Creation," Ch. 2, in *Tragic Vision and Divine Compassion*

### Week Seven / March 3: <u>Humanity in Theological Perspective</u>

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, ch. 7
  - McFague, *Life Abundant*, chs. 4-5
  - Cheng, *Radical Love*, pp. 70-78
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Alienation; Anthropology; Depravity, Total; Fall; Grace; Image of God; Original Righteousness; Original Sin; Repentance; Sin; Soul
- Recommended Reading:
  - o Jones and Lakeland, Chapter 2, "Human Being," *Constructive Theology*, pp. 77-97
  - o Thomas E. Reynolds, Vulnerable Communion, pp. 175-197

Week Eight / March 10: <u>The Work and Identity of Jesus Christ (1)</u>

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, ch. 8, and Appendix B, "The Resurrection: A Dialogue," pp. 370-383
  - Cheng, *Radical Love*, pp. 78-97
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Atonement; Atonement, Limited; Christology; Election; Expiation; Incarnation; Justification; Predestination; Propitiation; Reconciliation; Redemption; Resurrection; Sanctification; Satisfaction; Soteriology; Theopoiesis; Works
- Recommended Reading:
  - o Thomas E. Reynolds, Vulnerable Communion, pp. 197-211
  - John T. Pawlikowski, Chapter 10, "Christology, Anti-Semitism, and Christian-Jewish Bonding," in *Reconstructing Christian Theology*, pp. 245-68.

# Week Nine / March 17: The Work and Identity of Jesus Christ (2)

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, ch. 9
  - o McFague, *Life Abundant*, ch. 7
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Adoptionism; Alexandrine Theology; Anhypostatic Union (Anhypostasis); Antiochene Theology; Apollinarianism; Arianism; Docetism; *Homoiousion*; *Homoousion*; Hypostasis; Hypostatic Union; Kenosis; Logos; Preexistence of Christ
- Recommended Reading:
  - Jones and Lakeland, Chapter 4, "Jesus Christ," *Constructive Theology*, pp. 183-99.
  - Clara Sue Kidwell, Homer Noley, and George E. Tinker, Ch. 4, "Christology," in *A Native American Theology*, pp. 62-84.
  - Mercy Ambe Oduyoye, "Jesus Christ," in *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*, ed. Susan Frank Parsons, pp. 151-167

Week Ten / March 24: The Spirit and the Trinity

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, chs. 4 and 10
  - o McFague, Life Abundant, ch. 8
  - Cheng, *Radical Love*, pp. 100-105
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Circumincession; Economic Trinity; Filiation; *Filioque*; Monarchianism; Patripassianism (or Patripassionism); Person; Procession; *Prosōpon*; Sabellianism; Spirit, Holy; Subordinationism; Substance; Trinity
- Recommended Reading:
  - o Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, "On the Trinity," in *Lift Every Voice*, pp. 155-126
  - o Jones and Lakeland, Ch. 6, "Spirit," *Constructive Theology*, pp. 239-264
  - Roman Catholic/United Church Dialogue of Canada, "In Whose Name: The Baptismal Formula in Contemporary Culture" (online)

### Week Eleven / March 31: The Church and its Ministries

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, chs. 11-12
  - Cheng, *Radical Love*, pp. 106-130
  - George E. Tinker, "American Indian Liberation: Paddling a Canoe Upstream," in *The Reemergence of Liberation Theologies*, ed. Thia Cooper (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013)
  - Lori Ransom and Mark MacDonald, "Systematic Evil and the Church: How does a Church Repent?" Forum Mission 10/2014
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Apostolic Succession; Apostolicity; Catholicity; Church; Communion of Saints; Ecclesiology; Ecumenism; Kerygma; Koinania; Marks of the Church; Unity of the Church
- Recommended Reading:
  - Thomas E. Reynolds, *Vulnerable Communion*, ch. 7
  - Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, "Solidarity: Love of Neighbor in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," in *Lift Every Voice*, pp. 30-39
  - Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite and Peter Crafts Hodgson, "The Church, Classism, and the Ecclesial Community," in *Reconstructing Christian Theology*, pp. 303-325

# Week Twelve / April 7: <u>Religious Pluralism and Hope?</u>

- Required Reading:
  - Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, chs. 13-14
  - Cheng, *Radical Love*, pp. 131-140
  - González, *Essential Theological Terms*: Amillennialism; Apocalyptic (Apocalypticism); Apocatastasis (or Apokatastasis); Chiliasm; Dispensation; Dispensationalism; Eschatology; Eternal Life; Hades; Heaven; Hope, Theology of; Immortality; Judgment; Kingdom of God;

Millennialism; Parousia; Postmillennialism; Premillennialism; Rapture; Universalism.

- Recommended Reading:
  - James Cone, Chapter 5, "The Meaning of Heaven in the Black Spirituals" in *The Spirituals and the Blues*, pp. 78–96.
  - Hall, Douglas John. Part IV: "The Reign of God and Christian Hope," in *Confessing the Faith: Christian Theology in a North American Context*, pp. 453-518

April 14: Final Paper Due / Optional Exam date to be determined.

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# **Provisional Bibliography**

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- Cone, James H. A Black Theology of Liberation, 40th anniversary edition. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2010.
- Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. New York: Crossroad, 2002.
- Kwok, Pui-lan. *Postcolonial Imagination and Feminist Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.
- Park, Andrew Sung. The Wounded Heart of God: The Asian Concept of Han and the Christian Doctrine of Sin. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.
- Phan, Peter C. *Christianity with an Asian Face: Asian American Theology in the Making*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2003.
- Yong, Amos. *The Bible, Disability, and the Church: A New Vision of the People of God*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 2011.

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Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Revised and expanded edition. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2002.

Brown, Robert McAfee. *Spirituality and Liberation: Overcoming the Great Fallacy*. Louisville: Westminster Press, 1988.

Caron, Charlotte. Part 1, Section 3, "One Feminist Theological/Thealogical Method" pp. 19–27 in *To Make and Make Again: Feminist Ritual Thealogy*. New York: Crossroad, 1993.

Chopp, Rebecca S., and Mark Lewis Taylor, eds. *Reconstructing Christian Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.

Chung Hyun Kyung. *Struggle to Be the Sun Again: Introducing Asian Women's Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1990. Comblin, José. *Called for Freedom: The Changing Context of Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1973. Douglas John Hall, "On Contextuality in Christian Theology," *Toronto Journal of Theology* 1 (1985): 3–16.

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 Hopkins, Dwight N. Introducing Black Theology of Liberation. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1999.

Hutchinson, Roger. "Contextualization: No Passing Fad," pp. 68–77 in Theresa Chu and Christopher Lind, eds., *A New Beginning*. Toronto: Canada China Programme of the Canadian Council of Churches, 1983.

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Roberts, Richard. "Wheels and Systems: A Plea for Another Theology." unpublished typescript, ca. 1930 (United Church/Victoria University Archives, Richard Roberts Papers, F.A. 118, Box 3, File 77).

Ruether, Rosemary Radford. *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*. Boston: Beacon, 1983. Russell, Letty. "Universality and Contextuality." *The Ecumenical Review* 30 (1979): 23-26.

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