

Semester 2: Classroom-based: CT3000P

Online: not available in academic year 2020

Description

The unit will explore the controversial developments which led from the initial Christian proclamation of Jesus life, death and resurrection to the later trinitarian doctrine of God as one substance in three persons. The historical, theological, scriptural and political contexts and consequences of this development will be explored. As well surveying key developments in later trinitarian doctrine, the re-emergence of this doctrine in twentieth-century theology will be closely studied. The place of this doctrine in the wider matrix of Christian doctrines as well as its roles in the encounter with modern atheism, religious pluralism and theological politics will be examined.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Identify the key developments in the emergence of the doctrine of the Trinity.
2. Articulate the sense(s) in which the doctrine can be described as 'biblical'.
3. Understand the different trajectories of the doctrine in the classical Eastern and Western traditions of Christianity
4. Summarise the reasons for the re-emergence of this doctrine in the twentieth century, including in the theologies associated with 'world Christianity'.
5. Explain the potential contributions of this doctrine to the church's dialogue with one or more of modern atheism, religious pluralism or politics.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Classroom-based	
Essay or group study resource on the 'biblical' nature of the doctrine of the Trinity (2000 words)	40%
Essay on either the trinitarian doctrine of a designated twentieth-century theologian OR an essay on the contribution of trinitarian doctrine to Christianity's encounter with one of atheism, religious pluralism or politics. (3000 words)	60%

Pre-requisite: CT1000P (Christianity's Big Ideas) or CT1010P (Culture, Beliefs and Theology) and one level 2 CT Unit.

Lecturer: J Frank Rees and Margaret Campbell

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Boff, Leonardo. *Trinity and Society*. Maryknoll:Orbis, 1988.

Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality and the Self: An Essay 'On the Trinity'*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Emery, Giles and Matthew Levering (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*. Oxford:Oxford University Press, 2011.

LaCugna, Catherine Mowry. *God For Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.

Ogbonnaya, A. Okechukwu. *On Communitarian Divinity: An African Interpretation of the Trinity*. New York: Paragon House, 1994.

O'Collins, *The Tri-personal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*. 2nd edn. New York: Paulist, 2014.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Trinity and the Kingdom of God: The Doctrine of God*. London: SCM, 1981.

Pannikar, Raimundo. *The Trinity and the Religious Experience of Man*. New York: Orbis, 1973.

*Peter C. Phan, (ed) *The Cambridge Companion to the Trinity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Rahner, Karl. *The Trinity*. Translated by Joseph Donceel. Introduction by Catherine Mowry LaCugna. New York: Herder and Herder, 2005.

Rusch, William G. (ed and trans). *The Trinitarian Controversy*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.

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Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Identify the key developments in the emergence of the doctrine of the Trinity.
2. Articulate the sense(s) in which the doctrine can be described as 'biblical'.
3. Understand the different trajectories, and explain the significance, of the doctrine in the classical Eastern and Western traditions of Christianity
4. Identify and articulate the reasons for the re-emergence of this doctrine in the twentieth century, including in the theologies associated with 'world Christianity'.
5. Explain and assess the potential contributions of this doctrine to the church's dialogue with one or more of modern atheism, religious pluralism or politics.
6. Evaluate the role of the doctrine of the Trinity within the wider matrix of Christian doctrines.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Classroom-based	
Essay or group study resource on the 'biblical' nature of the doctrine of the Trinity (3200 words)	40%
Essay on either the trinitarian doctrine of a designated twentieth-century theologian OR an essay on the contribution of trinitarian doctrine to Christianity's encounter with one of atheism, religious pluralism or politics. (4800 words)	60%

Pre-requisite: CT8000P (Christianity's Big Ideas) or CT8010P (Culture, Beliefs and Theology).

Lecturer: J Frank Rees and Margaret Campbell

Recommended reading

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Boff, Leonardo. *Trinity and Society*. Maryknoll:Orbis, 1988.

Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality and the Self: An Essay 'On the Trinity'*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

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