

S-115 Systematics I

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
(Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:25)

Dr. Joel D. Biermann

Course information

Catalog Course Description

This course examines and considers Christian doctrine of and theological reflection upon the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; God's work of creation; and his creatures, angels and man.

Course goals

Through readings of primary and secondary sources and class discussions, this course will seek to—nourish in the students:

- Willingness to speak faithfully as servants of the Word;
- Appreciation of theology as an essential church practice;
- Confidence in the Word of God;
- Faith in God, Christ, and the Spirit.
- a love for the study of theology and its practical relevance for ministry and life.

develop in the students the ability to:

- Describe the key components of a Lutheran confession of Trinitarian theology.
- Articulate a biblical account of God's creation and preservation of the world through his Word and Spirit.
- Describe and understand a biblical account of sin.
- Discriminate, construct, and measure the formulation of theological responses to issues in Trinitarian theology, creation, and sin.
- Participate in the rhetoric of theological dialogue.
- Recognize and characterize theologically issues and situations in the world.

develop in the students their knowledge and understanding of:

- Pressing questions confronting congregations touching on questions of creation and sin and the consequent issues of anthropology.
- The fundamental issues confronting the church in the areas of Trinitarian theology and the theological basis for responses to those issues.
- The nature and uses of doctrine in the life of the church.

Course procedure

The ordinary procedure will be for students to read the material assigned for each class period, attend the scheduled lecture, and participate in class discussion.

Course outline and schedule (Readings in *italics* are recommended.)

September 10

Introduction; Förde, *Theology is for Proclamation* 13-37

September 12

Genesis 1, Luke, John, Romans 8, Ephesians 1; LaCugna 1-18; Olson 1-11

September 17

Olson 15-49; LaCugna 21-79; (*Oden 181-224*)

September 19

LaCugna 111-142 & 209-241 (*LaCugna 81-109*)

September 26

Pieper 371-427; Oden 188-194

Paper #1 Due

October 1

Placher 1-68

October 3

Placher 71-145

October 8

Placher 146-215

October 10

NO CLASS

October 15

Pieper 427-463; (*Oden 51-130*)

Paper #2 Due

October 17

Examination #1

October 22

Oden 133-180

October 24

Oden 270-315; Pieper 483-494

October 29

Lennox 15-77, 207-210; Wilson 45-96; Hunter 82-108; Pieper 467-480; (*Oden 227-269*)

October 31

Bonhoeffer 9-27; Pieper 497-511

November 5

Bonhoeffer 28-69

November 7

Bonhoeffer 70-107

Paper #3 Due

November 12

Pieper 515-543

November 14

Examination #2

Course books*Required books*

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich *Creation and Fall Temptation: Two Biblical Studies*. Translated by John C. Fletcher. New York: Touchstone, 1997. ISBN: 0-684-82587-2

Hunter, Cornelius. *Darwin's Proof: The Triumph of Religion over Science*. Grand Rapids, Brazos Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-1587430565

- LaCugna, Catherine. *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*. New York: Harper Collins, 1991. ISBN: 0-06-064913-5
- Lennox, John C. *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* Oxford, Lion Book, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-8254-7912-0
- Oden, Thomas C. *The Living God: Systematic Theology: Volume One*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1987. ISBN: 0-06-066363-4
- Olson, Roger E. and Christopher A Hall. *The Trinity*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002. ISBN: 0-8028-4827-3
- Pieper, Francis. *Christian Dogmatics Volume I*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1950. ISBN: 978-0570067122
- Placher, William C. *The Domestication of Transcendence: How Modern Thinking About God Went Wrong*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. ISBN: 0-664-25635-X
- Wilson, Jonathan R. *God's Good World: Reclaiming the Doctrine of Creation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3881-5