

Christian Theology I

Montreal School of Theology

Fall 2010

Course Description

This course is the first of two courses (Christian Theology I and II) intended to provide an introduction to the central categories of Christian theology. Christian Theology I examines the following doctrinal themes: the nature and method of theology, the meaning of revelation, the place of Holy Scripture in the Christian tradition, the doctrine of God, the doctrine of creation, and providence and evil.

Course Instructors

Christian Theology I is being co-taught by John Simons, Principal of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and John Vissers, Principal of The Presbyterian College, Montreal. Both Principal Simons and Principal Vissers also serve as Adjunct Professors of Christian Theology at McGill University.

Course Learning Outcomes

Systematic theology (dogmatics) is the critical and constructive exploration of Christian doctrines and their implications for the faith and life of the Christian community in its diverse ecclesial expressions throughout the world. Through a program of lectures and discussions, and engagement with a series of theological readings, this course is intended to assist students in reaching the following learning outcomes:

- To become familiar with the nature, shape and content of major Christian doctrinal themes and symbols as the basis for further theological reflection and exploration
- To be able to reflect critically and constructively on the significance and function of Christian doctrine in the light of Scripture, tradition and the contemporary context
- To be able to reflect upon the meaning of Christian faith for a life lived in response to God
- To acquire skills in the areas of oral, written and conceptual analysis and further acquisition of a facility in the language of faith
- To be able to work on the relation between doctrine and moral action and begin to reflect upon the meaning of the Christian gospel for the practice of ministry in church and world
- To develop an understanding of and appreciation for a diversity of theological and ecclesiastical traditions and perspectives
- To develop an ability to identify one's own theological presuppositions, critically reflect upon them, and constructively work out one's own theological position

Course Schedule

The class will meet weekly on Monday evenings from 18:45 to 21:00 at The Presbyterian College, Montreal.

Monday, September 13	Introduction to Christian Theology
Monday, September 20	The Nature and Method of Theology
Monday, September 27	The Meaning of Revelation
Monday, October 4	The Doctrine of Holy Scripture
Monday, October 11	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)
Monday, October 18	The Doctrine of God (1)
Monday, October 25	The Doctrine of God (2)
Monday, November 1	The Doctrine of the Trinity (1)
Monday, November 8	The Doctrine of the Trinity (2)
Monday, November 15	The Doctrine of the Trinity (3)
Monday, November 22	The Doctrine of Creation
Monday, November 29	Providence and Evil
Monday, December 6	Doing Theology in Today's Context