

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at *The University of Western Ontario*
Fall 2016

5142A: Introduction to Sacramental Theology

Professor: Matthew Thollander
Email: matthew.thollander@mail.utoronto.ca

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a biblically grounded, historically conscious, and systematically disciplined introduction to sacramental theology. We will treat the sacraments as rooted in the economy of salvation in order to understand them as the expression and continuation in the Church of the central doctrine of our Faith, namely, the incarnation of the Son of God.

The course is arranged in three parts. Part one will focus on sacramentality in the historical tradition. Part two provides a systematic approach to understanding the sacraments. Part three treats contemporary issues in sacramental theology.

B. GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills, and attitudes:

Knowledge:

- (1) Understanding the sources of Catholic sacramentality in the tradition.
- (2) Grasping the analogical relationship between the meaning of "sacrament" when applied to the incarnation, to the Church, and the seven Sacraments of the Church.
- (3) Understanding the relationship between sign, symbol, and sacrament.
- (4) Awareness of the significance of sacramental theology to contemporary issues, namely, philosophy, political theology, and ecumenism.

Skills:

- (1) Identification of theological principles in varying contexts.
- (2) Reflection upon the nexus among the mysteries proclaimed by the Church.
- (3) Appropriation of the belief and understanding of these mysteries.
- (4) Explanation of the inter-related character of revelation, salvation, and the Sacraments of the Church

Attitudes:

- (1) Hermeneutic of Continuity
- (2) Historical Consciousness
- (3) Sacramental Vision of the Church

C. ASSESSMENT

Assignments will consist of four kinds:

- (1) Reading Précis and Questions—Every week each student will be asked to prepare a paragraph summary (300 words) of the required, assigned reading and to write out at least two questions generated by the reading. When more than one textual unit is assigned (e.g., multiple chapters), students have the option of focusing their summary on only one of the chapters from the required reading. [NB: On days when papers are due, no reading précis are required.]

- (2) In Class Presentation—Over the course of the term students will be asked to give one presentation on a reading assignment.
- (3) Short Paper—There will be one short paper assigned during the first two thirds of the semester. It is to be 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman. More specific instructions about content and structure will be given after the beginning of the term.
- (4) Final Paper—A final paper will be assigned during the last third of the semester. This paper is to be 10-12 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman. More specific instructions about content and structure will be given after the beginning of the term.

Your final grade in the course will be determined based on your participation and attendance (10%), the reading précis (20%), the in class presentation (15%), the short paper (25%), and the final paper (30%).

All courses are evaluated by means of grades, according to the following scale:

A+ 90 - 100% – for profound and creative work: exceptional performance with clear evidence of original thinking; a superior grasp of the subject matter with sound critical evaluations; strong evidence of an extensive knowledge base;

A 80 - 89% – for excellent work: outstanding performance with indication the student is approaching some original thinking; good organization and a well-developed capacity to critique, analyse and synthesize; an excellent grasp of the subject matter; thorough knowledge of the relevant literature;

B 70 - 79% – for good work: good performance with evidence of a grasp of the subject matter; some evidence of a critical capacity and analytic ability; a reasonable understanding of the relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature;

C 60 - 69% – for adequate work: intellectually adequate performance of a student who is profiting from his or her academic experience; an understanding of the subject matter and the ability to understand the basic concepts found in the material;

D 50 - 59% – for marginal work: minimally acceptable performance; some evidence of familiarity with the subject matter and some ability to synthesize it;

F below 50% – for wholly inadequate work: a failing performance in which there is little evidence of even a superficial understanding of the subject matter; an overall weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS

Required

O'Neill, Colman. *Meeting Christ in the Sacraments*. Rev. Ed. by Romanus Cessario. New York: Alba House, 1991.

Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010. [Originally Published: New York: Sheed and Ward, 1963].

Schmemmann, Alexander. *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1973.

E. STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Part I (Weeks 1-4): Sources in the Tradition

Week 1: Introduction and the Relation between Scripture and Sacramentality

Required:

- (1) Richard Bauckham, "Sacraments and The Gospel of John" p. 83-96.
- (2) Denis Farkasfalvy, "The Eucharistic Provenance of the Christian Bible" p.63-87.
- (3) Chauvet, Ch.3, "Relations between the Scriptures and Sacrament," p. 43-53

Week 2: Patristic Sacramentality – Part 1

Required:

- (1) Cyril of Jerusalem, Lectures on the Christian Sacraments, selections
- (2) Ambrose of Milan, Theological and Dogmatic Works, selections
- (3) Henri de Lubac, *Catholicism*, p. 14-48.

Week 3: Patristic Sacramentality – Part 2

Required:

- (1) Augustine, *City of God*, book 10.
- (2) Gregory of Nyssa, "On the Baptism of Christ," in NPNF₂ 5: 518-525.
- (3) Lewis Ayres, "Augustine and the West to AD 650," p. 156-169.

Week 4: Medieval Sacramentality

Required:

- (1) Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, IIIa, selections
- (2) Chauvet, "Scholastic Sacramental Theology's Point of Departure: The Hypostatic Union," p. 453-474; and "Sacramental Causality According to St. Thomas," p. 9-20.

Part II (Weeks 5-9). Systematic Understanding

Week 5: Christ as Sacrament

Required:

- (1) Schillebeeckx, Introduction and Ch.1-2, p. 2-43
- (2) O'Neill, chs. I-II, p. 1-43.
- (3) Henri de Lubac, *Splendor of the Church*, p. 147-173.

Week 6: The Church as Sacrament

Required:

- (1) Schillebeeckx, Ch.2 "The Church, Sacrament of the Risen Christ," p.47-90
- (2) Rahner, I. The Church as the Church of the Sacraments, 7-23.

Recommended:

- (1) O'Neill, ch.IV, p. 80-106.

Week 7: The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

Required:

- (1) Schmemmann, chs. 1, 2, 4, p. 11-47, 67-81.
- (2) O'Neill, chs.V-IX.

Week 8: The Sacraments of Healing: Confession, Anointing of the Sick

Required:

- (1) O'Neill, chs. XI-XII.
- (2) Schmemmann, ch. 6
- (3) Rahner, "On Christian Dying," in *Theological Investigations 7*

Week 9: The Sacraments of Service: Holy Orders, Marriage

Required:

- (1) O'Neill, ch. X, p. 233-252.
- (2) Pieper, ch. 2-3, "What Makes a Priest"
- (3) Schmemmann, Ch.5, The Mystery of Love, 81-94.

PART III (Weeks 10-12). Contemporary Issues in Sacramental Theology

Week 10: The Sacraments and Philosophy

Required:

- (1) Thomas Joseph White, "The Sacraments and Philosophy" p. 575-590.
- (2) Robert Sokolowski, *Eucharist, Eucharistic Presence: A Study in the Theology of Disclosure*, chs 13-14.

Week 11: The Sacraments and Political Theology

Required:

- (1) Cavanaugh, "The Church in the Streets"
- (2) Henri de Lubac, *Splendor*, "The Church in the Word," 114-146

Week 12: The Sacraments and Ecumenism

Required:

- (1) Lima Document, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, p. 1-31.
- (2) Scampini, "The Sacraments in Ecumenical Dialogue, p. 675-693.

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

Submission of Assignments: It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Services for Students with Disabilities at King's is available at

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/academic-support/>

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.