

**GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Term: **Spring 2010**

Instructor: David G. Schultenover, S.J.

Course #: THEO 8415, Section 101

Course Title: **History of Christian Thought: The Modern Era**

Content:

The course begins with the post-Trent development of confessional orthodoxy/Baroque Scholasticism and Descartes's and Pascal's new philosophical departures, which begin to characterize "the modern era." Mainly, however, the course will track the historical developments of Christian thought and theology from the Enlightenment to World War I, or from Schleiermacher to Harnack—i.e., mostly German theologians but with significant detours to Kierkegaard and Roman Catholic theologians of the Tübingen School, John Henry Newman, and George Tyrrell. The issues met along the way—most prominently the conversations stemming from Schleiermacher and Hegel and the rise of historical consciousness and criticism (particularly as applied to biblical studies)—are indispensable considerations for students of systematic theology.

The "modern" world has dramatically reshaped and challenged Christian theology. The rise of the scientific method (Copernicus, Galileo, Newton), following on the heels of the Reformation and the early modern Scholasticism of the 16th century, gave rise, through Descartes, Newton, and Locke, to *philosophical* challenges (epistemology, theodicy) that are still with us. The scientific method also profoundly influenced the formation of a peculiarly modern *historical consciousness* (in biblical criticism, critique of dogma) that would challenge, as never before, Christian theologians in the 19th-century struggle surrounding the authority of the Bible and church doctrine—on fundamental issues such as nature and grace, faith and reason (culture), Christology, ecclesiology, and other religions

Format:

Through presentations, the instructor and students will set the historical context of the readings. The instructor will make further presentations as deemed necessary, but by and large the classes will consist in discussion of questions arising from assigned readings.

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- A précis for each class (one page, single-spaced), highlighting the main issues and posing questions provoked by the readings.
- Student reports on readings (may be in connection with the research paper).
- A major research paper, presented to the class, on a topic worked out with the instructor.

Language Pre-requisites:

## Department of Theology

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Each student is expected to use and "upgrade" his or her German or French or both languages, as demonstrated through bibliographical research, reports, and the major paper. Other language use is rewarding and rewarded.

### Required Texts:

- James C. Livingston, *Modern Christian Thought*, vol. 1 (Fortress 2006) ISBN-13: 978-0800637958. [Vol. 2 (2006) is recommended. ISBN-13: 978-0800637965]. Find inexpensive and perfectly useable earlier editions from Macmillan on the Internet.
- Friedrich Schleiermacher, *On Religion*, ed. Richard Crouter (Cambridge University, 1996) ISBN 0521479754 (paper); 0521474485 (hard cover)
- Quentin Lauer, S.J., *Hegel's Idea of Philosophy* (Fordham University, 1983) ISBN 082320927X
- Søren Kierkegaard, *The Essential Kierkegaard*, ed. H. and E. Hong (Princeton University, 2000) ISBN 0691019401

### Optional texts:

Claude Welch, *Protestant Thought in the Nineteenth Century*, 2 vols. (Yale University, 1972-1985). ISBN 0300042000 (vol. 1); 0300042019 (vol. 2)

The above-listed works will be on reserve, as well as the following:

Crouter's 1988 edition of *On Religion* by Schleiermacher—it contains commentary omitted from the 1996 edition; Schleiermacher's *Brief Outline of Theology* (ed. T. Tice, 1990); Keith Clements, ed., *Schleiermacher: Pioneer of Modern Theology*, an anthology of readings; Martin Rumscheidt, ed., *Adolf von Harnack: Liberal Theology at Its Height*, an anthology; Wilhelm Pauck, *Harnack and Troeltsch: Two Historical Theologians*; and Ninian Smart et al., ed. *Nineteenth Century Religious Thought in the West*, vol. 1.