

Department of Theology

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**
Instructor: Dr. Danielle Nussberger
Course #: THEO 8516
Course Title: **The Trinity**

Content:

This seminar will examine the emphasis upon the economy of salvation in contemporary Trinitarian theology, beginning with Karl Rahner's axiom regarding the identity of the "economic" and "immanent" Trinity. Our task will be to analyze how various theologians have interpreted Rahner's axiom when adopting it and how sympathetic they are to talk of the "immanent" Trinity. We will pay particular attention to the trinitarian thought of Catherine Mowry LaCugna, Jürgen Moltmann, and Hans Urs von Balthasar. Investigating contemporary trinitarian theology from these various vantage points will involve an assessment of how each theologian approaches and construes the Christian theological tradition when constructing his/her rendition of Rahner's axiom. For example, in the case of LaCugna, do we agree or disagree with her readings of the Cappadocians, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, among others? Given the turn to the economy, another focus of our study will be the consequent shift in understandings of divine impassibility, again necessitating a response to how contemporary theologians approach the classic theological tradition regarding this significant issue. Choosing the above theologians as our primary interlocutors will also facilitate involving others in the discussion (i.e. Karl Barth, John Zizioulas, Walter Kasper...), making way for the opportunity to focus one's research on any one of these perspectives when writing the final paper.

Format:

Seminar style format with a combination of instructor's lectures and student-led discussion

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Student presentations on the reading material to initiate discussion
- a final 20-25 page paper

Language Pre-requisites:

- the use of at least one French, German, or other foreign language source in the final paper for those M.A. and Ph.D. students who are beyond their first year

Required Texts:

- Karl Rahner, *The Trinity* (Crossroad Herder, 1998).
- Catherine Mowry LaCugna, *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life* (Harper Collins, 1991).
- Jürgen Moltmann, *The Trinity and the Kingdom* (Fortress Press, 1993).
- Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Drama V: The Last Act* (Ignatius, 1988).
- Other supplemental articles on E-Reserve.