

## Department of Theology

### Doctoral Qualifying Examination Topics

#### Biblical Area

All scripture majors must choose *three* topics. One of these must be either #9 or #10, but not both. Those **not** majoring in Scripture choose *one* topic area from #1 through #8, but not #9 or #10.

1. Torah/The Pentateuch
2. The Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament
3. Wisdom Literature in the Old and New Testament
4. Canon, Text, and Inspiration
5. The Apocalyptic Movement and Its Literature
6. The Synoptic Gospels and Acts of the Apostles
7. Johannine Literature
8. Pauline Literature
9. Introduction to the Old Testament
10. Introduction to the New Testament

Each of these topics presuppose the following knowledge:

- a) the basic introductory questions in the topic area chosen;
- b) the method of exegeting this kind or group of texts;
- c) familiarity with texts of this type or group.

#### Historical Area

All majors in Historical Theology must choose *three* topics. Non-majors choose *one*.

1. The History of the Church and of Christian Thought to AD 324
2. Augustine of Hippo
3. Scholastic Theology; Anselm to Ockham
4. Thirteenth Century Thomism
5. Martin Luther
6. Sixteenth-Century Confessional and Conciliar Statements
7. Church, State, and Religious Liberty after the Reformation
8. The Enlightenment
9. Romanticism and Theology; European and American
10. Nineteenth-Century Liberalism and Its Impact
11. Greek Patristic and Byzantine Thought from Nicea to the Fall of the Byzantium (325-1453 AD)

## Systematics Area

All majors in Systematic Theology must choose *three* of the eleven topics, including *at least one* from Group I and one from Group II. Non-majors choose *one* topic. The subtopics are meant to designate a specific focus for the student's research and for the examination questions. They are not necessarily restrictive.

### Group I

1. The Systematic Theology of a Major Contemporary Figure or School. Choose one, for example: von Balthasar, Barth, de Lubac, Liberation Theology, Lonergan, Moltmann, Reinhold Niebuhr, Pannenberg, Rahner, Scheeben, and Tillich.
2. Theological Foundations: Systematic Theology and Theological Ethics (Sources, Methods, and Fundamental Concepts). Choose among:
  - a) Use of Scripture in Systematic Theology and Ethics
  - b) Possibility of Natural Theology
  - c) Revelation, Scripture, and Tradition
  - d) Faith as a Presupposition of Theological Method
  - e) Contemporary Understanding of Theological Method
  - f) Religious Language: Symbol, Analogy, and Myth
  - g) Relationship between Moral Theology and Moral Philosophy
  - h) Church, Community, and Moral Theology
3. The Trinity: The Relation between Contemporary and Classical Formulations
4. Christology: Choose one of the specific topics:
  - a) Significance of the Jesus of History
  - b) The Doctrine of the Incarnation
  - c) Spirit Christology
  - d) Ascending and Descending Christologies
  - e) Cross and Resurrection
  - f) Soteriology
5. Pneumatology: The Relation between Contemporary and Classical Formulations
6. Grace, Sin, Redemption: Choose one:
  - a) Original Sin and Grace: Relation between Twentieth-Century Interpretations and Classical Formulations
  - b) Justification: Catholic and Protestant Understandings
  - c) Grace and Nature, Knowledge and Faith
7. Church and Sacraments: Choose one:

- a) The Nature, Foundations, and Mission of the Church
  - b) Ecclesiological Significance of Baptism and Eucharist
  - c) Teaching Authority of the Church
  - d) Ecumenical Theology
  - e) Sacraments, Moral Life, and Spirituality
8. Creation, Providence, Eschatology: Twentieth-Century Interpretations and Classical Formulations.
9. Religious Pluralism: Theologies of Religious Pluralism and Interreligious Dialogue

## Group II

10. Christian Social Ethics: Theology and Application: Choose one:
- a) Peace and War
  - b) Economic and Social Justice
  - c) Family and Society
  - d) Church and State
11. Freedom, Sin, Conscience: Twentieth-Century Interpretations and Classical Formulations
12. Protestant and Catholic Ethics: Contemporary Perspectives

## Theology and Society

The student, with his/her adviser, selects primary areas of concentration for the DQE corresponding to the following three criteria:

Criterion one: Topics which test the student's competence in the allied discipline. These topics would be developed by the faculty person in the allied discipline in conjunction with the TAS committee.

Criterion two: Topics which test the student's competence in systematic theology. Topics developed by the systematics area would be acceptable.

Criterion three: Comparative topics which deal with the interrelationship between theology and the allied discipline concerning such issues as methodologies, major figures, major problems which cross the disciplinary boundaries.

After the Graduate Committee has approved the TAS Committee's topics, the student will then choose three. One topic will be generated from criterion one. The other two topics may be generated either from criterion two or three.