

# Christian Thought

PHIL 3220, Fall 2018

## About this Course

### What this course is about

In this course, we trace the development of important historical and contemporary trends in Catholic and Protestant Western Christian thought. Some of the specific areas covered include theology, ethics, mysticism, and political theory. In particular, we will examine Christian writing regarding the relationship between the material and spiritual realms. Two areas of special focus will be (1) the role of the suffering body in Christian thought and (2) Christian attitudes regarding poverty and wealth.

### What you will learn in this course

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- define and use basic vocabulary of Christian thought,
- describe and critically analyze the arguments of several significant Western Christian thinkers,
- identify examples of both diversity and continuity within Christian tradition,
- explain developments and changes in Christian thought in relation to various historical and contextual factors, and
- identify ways in which Christian thought has influenced historical, political, and philosophical developments around the world.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy Program by enabling students better to:

- discuss the views of at least three major historical figures of philosophy,
- critically analyze and explain a philosophical issue in written communications, and incorporate and defend a philosophical position in oral communications.

## Contact Information and Meeting Times

Instructor: [Dr. Rosemary Kellison](#)

Email: [rkelliso@westga.edu](mailto:rkelliso@westga.edu)

Phone: 678.839.5514

Office Hours in TLC 2245: Tues./Thurs. 8:45–9:20 am, 1:00–1:50 pm, & 3:20–5:00 pm.

See CourseDen Announcements for any changes in usual office hours.

Virtual Office Hours via Google Hangouts: by appointment (instant message or video chat)

Meeting Time: Tues./Thurs. 9:30–10:45 am

Classroom: Pafford 106

[Course Website on CourseDen](#)

English & Philosophy Department: 678.839.6512; TLC 2255

# Course Materials

## Required Texts

A customized course packet is available for purchase at UWG Bookstore. You must purchase this packet. This course packet is referred to as CT on the course schedule below.

Other required readings will be posted as PDFs on CourseDen, referred to as CD on the course schedule below.

You are required to bring the readings to class with you on the days we are scheduled to discuss them.

## Assessment

### Participation (18%)

To earn an excellent participation grade, you should:

- come to class on time each day. When you are not in class, you cannot participate, so a high number of absences, late arrivals, and/or early departures will lead to a lower participation grade.
- be attentive during class, which requires putting away your phones, tablets, and laptops (except to reference assigned readings), staying awake and engaged, and not talking while others are speaking.
- bring the assigned reading to class and be prepared to reference it.
- participate in class discussions in a way that demonstrates familiarity with and critical thinking about the assigned readings and shows respect for fellow classmates.

Your participation will be assessed according to a rubric (available on CourseDen) that measures your conduct and respect for others, use of the readings, quality of reasoning, and frequency of contributions. Participation will be graded three times throughout the semester (once every five weeks); each participation grade is worth 6% of your final course grade.

Regular attendance is expected in this course. Documentation must be provided for an excused absence. After two unexcused absences, each additional absence will result in a 1-point deduction from your final course grade. Repeatedly coming late to class will result in similar deductions. Each participation grade will reflect any deductions you have earned for excessive absences or late arrivals up to that point in the semester.

### Daily Reading Quizzes (30%)

While completing the assigned reading for each class day, you will respond to a quiz consisting of one or two short-answer questions. These quizzes are intended to help you become a more critical reader and to prepare you for informed participation in class discussion. Your highest 24 (out of 28 total) quiz grades will count toward your final grade; each is worth 1.25% of your final grade. Reading quizzes are due every class day (beginning on Aug. 23) at 9:30 am and will be submitted online through CourseDen. No late reading quizzes will be accepted.

## **Midterm Take-Home Essay Exams (36%)**

Three essay exams will be assigned throughout the semester. These open-book, open-note, non-cumulative exams are designed to assess your learning of the material from each portion of the course. Each midterm exam is worth 12% of your final grade.

## **Final Essay (16%)**

Your final essay will be formatted similarly to your midterm exams, but will be slightly longer and will reference materials from throughout the semester. I will provide a general prompt, but you will be able to choose what specific materials and concepts about which you want to write.

*Late exam/essay policy:* A 10% deduction will be assessed immediately when an exam or essay becomes late. An additional 10% deduction will be assessed for each consecutive day your submission is late. (This means that if you turn in your exam 2 days late, and your exam earns an 85%, your grade will be a 65%.)

## **Grading Scale**

90–100: A; 80–89: B; 70–79: C; 60–69: D; <59: F

## **Course Policies**

### **University Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Violation of the honor code will incur serious consequences. Please review the academic honor policy at the link below and consult with Dr. Kellison if you have any questions. If you commit a violation of the honor code, you will receive a minimum penalty of a 0 for the assignment. The violation will also be reported to the Student Conduct Specialist in the Division of Student Affairs. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

### **University Email Policy**

For privacy and security reasons, you must email professors only from your MyUWG email account. You are expected to check that account regularly.

### **University Closure Policy**

Should UWG cancel classes for any reason, our course will continue. You are responsible for checking CourseDen and your UWG email for information on how our course will proceed.

### **For Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability, you are entitled to accommodations. Contact UWG Disability Services for more information, and email Dr. Kellison your SAR immediately in order to obtain accommodations.

## For Honors Students

Any student wishing to receive honors credit for this course must bring the appropriate paperwork and ask Dr. Kellison for approval immediately; Honors Contracts are due by the end of the second week of classes.

For more details on these and other UWG policies, see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#).

## Course Calendar (subject to change with advance notice)

### Ancient Christian Thought

Date	Reading/Assignment
R 8/16	Introduction to course and syllabus
T 8/21	Gospel of Mark (CT 1)
R 8/23	Paul, Epistle to the Romans (CT 1)
T 8/28	Augustine, <i>City of God</i> XI.2–3,17; XIV.1–3,6–7 (CT 2)
R 8/30	Augustine, <i>City of God</i> XIV.10–11,13–17 (CT 2)
T 9/4	Augustine, <i>City of God</i> XIV.18–25,27–28 (CT 2)
R 9/6	Augustine, <i>City of God</i> XV.4; XXII.3,21–22,30; and <i>Letter to Boniface</i> excerpt (CT 2)
M 9/10	<i>Take-Home Midterm #1 due 11:59 pm</i>

### Medieval Christian Thought

Date	Reading/Assignment
T 9/11	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II q. 1, a. 1,4,7; q. 2, a. 8; q. 3, a. 8; q. 5, a. 1,3,7; q. 8, a. 1 (CT 3)
R 9/13	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II q. 55, a. 1–3; q. 58, a. 2; q. 61, a. 2; q. 62, a. 1; and II-II q. 47, a. 4,6–8 (CT 3)
T 9/18	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II q. 90, a. 2; q. 94, a. 1–6; q. 95, a. 1 (CT 3)
R 9/20	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> , II-II q. 10, a. 1,6,8; and <i>Summa contra Gentiles</i> I.3–4,6–7 (CT 3)
T 9/25	Catherine of Siena, <i>The Dialog of Divine Providence</i> excerpts (CT 4)
R 9/27	Julian of Norwich, <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> excerpts (CD)
T 10/2	Caroline Walker Bynum, “The Female Body and Religious Practice in the Later Middle Ages,” pgs. 181–205 (CD)
R 10/4	<i>No class—Fall Break</i>
M 10/8	<i>Last day to withdraw with a grade of W</i>
T 10/9	Caroline Walker Bynum, “The Female Body and Religious Practice in the Later Middle Ages,” pgs. 205–38 (CD)

### Reformation and Development of Protestant Christian Thought

Date	Reading/Assignment
R 10/11	Martin Luther, “An Open Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation” (CT 5)

M 10/15	<i>Take-Home Midterm #2 due 11:59 pm</i>
T 10/16	Martin Luther, "Secular Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed" (CT 5)
R 10/18	Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian" (CT 5)
T 10/23	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> 1.6, 1.16–17, 2.1, 2.3 (CT 6)
R 10/25	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> 2.7, 3.20–21 (CT 6)
T 10/30	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> 3.22–24 (CT 6)

### Reformation and Development of Protestant Christian Thought

Date	Reading/Assignment
R 11/1	Max Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , pgs. 1–16 (CT 7)
M 11/5	<i>Take-Home Midterm #3 due 11:59 pm</i>
T 11/6	Max Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , pgs. 16–35 (CT 7)
R 11/8	Mother Teresa, "On Poverty and the Poor" (CD)
T 11/13	Vijay Prashad, "Mother Teresa: Mirror of Bourgeois Guilt" (CD) Christopher Hitchens, "Mommie Dearest" (CD)
R 11/15	Dorothy Day, <i>Catholic Worker</i> and <i>House of Hospitality</i> excerpts (CT 8)
T 11/20	<i>No class—Happy Thanksgiving!</i>
R 11/22	
T 11/27	James H. Cone, "Black Theology in American Religion" (CD)
R 11/29	James H. Cone, "Legacies of the Cross and the Lynching Tree" (CD)
T 12/4	David Van Biema and Jeff Chu, "Does God Want You to Be Rich?" (CD) Joel Osteen, "You Can Live Your Best Life Now" (CD) Drew Pendergrass, "The Televangelist-in-Chief: Trump and the Prosperity Gospel" (CD)
R 12/6	Frederick C. Harris, "Entering the Promised Land? The Rise of Prosperity Gospel and Post-Civil Rights Black Politics" (CD)
M 12/10	<i>Final Essay due 11:59 pm</i>