Course Description

Trinity & Incarnation presents the mystery of the Triune God revealed in the mission of Christ and the gift of the Spirit. Special attention is given to the transformation of Jewish monotheism by New Testament revelations: the tandem development of Trinitarian and Christological doctrines in the patristic church; a systematic perspective on the Triune God, the person and work of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit; and the pastoral implications of the Catholic doctrine of God and Christ.

Course Goal

The course is intended to familiarize the student with scriptural bases of these core doctrines of the Christian faith, and their development over the course of the Tradition. Implications of these doctrines for other areas of theology, e.g., ecclesiology, ministry, sacraments will also be indicated.

Course Texts

Gerald O’Collins, *The Tripersonal God* (New York: Paulist, 1999)

Course Meets

19, 20, 22, 27, 29 May; 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16 June

Course Outline

Note: the Guideline Questions for the course texts are to be prepared in advance of the class for which the reading is due.

Part I

1. God in the Old Testament
   **READ:** O’Collins, *The Tripersonal God*, ch. 1

2. The New Testament Witness
   **READ:** O’Collins, ch. 2, 3 & 4
3. The Early Fathers of the Church
   READ: O’Collins, ch. 5; Hall, Learning Theology with the Church Fathers, ch. 1

4. The 4th Century Controversies: Nicea I to Constantinople
   READ: O’Collins, ch. 6; Hall, ch. 2, 3 & 5

5. From Athanasius to Aquinas
   READ: O’Collins, ch. 7

6. The Modern Turn
   READ: O’Collins, ch. 8, 9 & 10

Exam #1

Part II

7. Introduction
   (a) Who do you say that I am?
   (b) Contextualizing the question
   READ: Rausch, Who Is Jesus?, ch. 1 & 2

8. Jesus and the Scriptures
   The Jewish context
   READ: Rausch, ch. 3

9. Jesus: Public ministry
   READ: Rausch, ch. 4 & 5

10. Jesus: Death and Resurrection
    READ: Rausch, ch. 6 & 7

11. NT Christologies
    READ: Rausch, ch. 8

12. Forming the Classical Christology: the Great Councils
    READ: Rausch, ch. 9; Hall, ch. 4

13. Salvation and Christ
    READ: Rausch, ch. 10 & 11

Exam #2

Course Evaluation

Two exams
Each exam will constitute 50% of the final grade.

**Additional Bibliography**

The literature on the Trinity and on Christology is extensive. Check the reserve shelf in the library for a range of studies, from the introductory to more specialized works.