1 What is God One and Triune?

God One and Triune is a course of lectures and discussions on the Holy Trinity, structured according to the history of the Church’s developing understanding of this mystery. It includes the following particular topics or points of emphasis: 1. how metaphysical accounts of the Trinity can flow naturally from those of the Sacred Scriptures 2. how one can reconcile unity and distinction in the Trinity 3. whether one can speak adequately of the Trinity via analogical or metaphorical predication 4. how to understand the interrelationship between Trinitarian processions and Trinitarian missions 5. how one might grasp and reconcile the ecumenical disagreement over the filioque. Theological reflection depends on the harmonious cooperation of reason and faith, directed at the sources of revelation (i.e., Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium). The study of theology is the pinnacle of the Catholic intellectual tradition, and hence of a Catholic education.

2 What am I supposed to get out of this course?

At the end of this course, you will come away able to articulate a conspectus of the history of the development of Trinitarian dogma in the early Christian centuries through the high middle ages. This ability will include familiarity with the technical vocabulary of Trinitarian theology. You will also be able to understand and defend the traditional professions of the Church regarding God as one and triune with both historical arguments and systematic arguments pertinent to the historical context. Along the way, you will grow in your understanding of Trinitarian theology as more than an abstract theoretical exercise, as an ascent of the mind to God, the ultimate expression of which is liturgical and doxological.
3 Your professor

Instructor: Andrew J. Hayes, PhD; Office: 207 Hughes House; Telephone: 713 525 3585; Email: hayesaj@sthom.edu; Office Hours: MW 1:45-4:15 PM; Th (online) 4:30-6:30 PM
Curriculum Vitae: link

4 What books do I need?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Is it required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Brief History of the Doctrine of the Trinity</td>
<td>9780567031938</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Metrical Discourses on Faith</td>
<td>(see professor)</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Little Brown Handbook</td>
<td>9780321986504</td>
<td>yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You should be able to access a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and a copy of the Bible. Other required readings will be available in Blackboard.

5 Things to expect

The course is structured by weeks. In general, a given week or group of weeks will begin with a lecture and finish with close reading and discussion of a primary text. You should take detailed notes on each lecture. It is also wise to compile a list of any questions you have as each lecture progresses.

You are evaluated on your command of material in the lectures and the breadth and depth of your reading. This evaluation takes place twice orally during the term, and during the final written examination. You also are expected to write a formal academic paper on a specified topic. Details for the exams and paper are available in Blackboard. Note that the oral exams are flexibly scheduled. You make an appointment during the specified exam week. Your final course grade constitutes a summary evaluation of the academic quality of your work. It is based first and foremost on the paper. Your paper grade determines the range within which your final course grade falls, plus or minus one letter grade. For instance, if your paper earns a B, then your course grade will fall within the A-C range. You cannot fail the course,¹ and your other work will determine whether you earn an A, B, or C. If your aggregate performance on examinations is exceptional, this will push your course grade higher.

¹except for other violations of course rules, for instance, plagiarism or poor attendance.
If it is worse than your work on the paper, this will push your course grade lower. If your exams show no clear majority grade (for instance A, B, and D) your aggregate exam grade will be the median between your best grade and your worst. The same principles apply in the case of a lower grade on the paper. If you earn a C, for instance, then your highest possible course grade is a B, and your lowest possible course grade is a D. A chart is provided to explain the range of possibilities. Fractions of letter grades are given at the instructor’s discretion and will, as a rule, be applied positively in view of substantial effort, improvement, or participation, or negatively in view of lack of effort, or uncharacteristically poor performance on the final exam. More detailed standards for grades on papers and exams are available separately.

Various aspects of course business will be conducted electronically:

- **scheduling**: click here for the Bookedin online service;
- **paper submission**: click here for Turnitin use section ID: 13269000 and login password: ossius_f16;
- **grades**: each student receives a private dropbox folder for grades and feedback;
- **required readings**: click here for Blackboard;
- **communication**: via UST email only

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### 6 Schedule of topics and assignments (subject to change)

As a general rule, prepare ALL material in the Blackboard folder for each unit, even if it does not appear on this syllabus. Prepare assignments in the order in which they appear.

#### Week 1 (8/22-8/28)

**topic:** Introduction to Dogmatic Ascent

**readings:**
1. trinitarian formulations of St. Polycarp and St. Bonaventure (BB)
2. selection from Anatolios’ *Retrieving Nicaea* (BB)
3. Dünzl, chapter 1
4. selection from Ratzinger’s *Behold the Pierced One* (BB)
5. selection from Behr’s *The Nicene Faith* (BB)

**Week 2-3 (8/29-9/11)**

**topic:** High and Low Christologies in Scripture

**readings:**
1. Dünzl, chapters 2-3
3. Proverbs 1:1-9:19
4. Wisdom 7:25-30
5. Sirach 24:9
6. selection from Raymond Brown on wisdom motifs in John (BB)
7. selection from Irenaeus anthology (BB)

**Week 4 (9/12-9/18)**

**topic:** Origen: Dogma and the Life in Pursuit of Wisdom

**readings:**
1. Dünzl, chapter 4
2. selections from Origen (BB)

**Week 5 (9/19-9/25)**

**topic:** Athanasius

**readings:**
1. selection from Anatolios’ *Athenasius: The Coherence of His Thought* (BB)
2. Dünzl, chapters 5-7
3. selection from Athanasius’ *Second Oration against the Arians*

**first oral exam week!**

**Week 6-8 (9/26-10/16)**

**topic:** Ephrem: On the Royal Road to the Height

**readings:**
1. Ephrem’s *Metrical Discourses on Faith* (read, in order, one for each class period, preceded by my introduction)
2. Dünzl, chapters 8-10
3. selection from Wickes (BB)

**week 8: second oral exam week!**

**Week 9-10 (10/17-10/30)**

**topic:** Gregory Nazianzen: The Theologian

**readings:**
1. Theological Orations 1-3 (BB)
2. Gregory’s First Letter to Cledonius (BB)
3. Dünzl, chapters 11-13
4. selections from Emery on the Cappadocians (BB)

**Week 11 (10/31-11/6)**

**topic:** After Constantinople: Chrysostom and Dionysius

**readings:**
1. selections from John Chrysostom *On the Incomprehensibility of God* (BB)
3. Dünzl, chapter 14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>selections from pseudo-Dionysius (BB)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>selections from Rocca’s <em>Speaking the Incomprehensible God</em> (BB)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 12   | (11/7-11/13) | The classic insights of Augustine and Boethius | 1. selection from Boethius’ *On the Trinity* (BB)  
2. selection from Fortman’s *The Triune God* (BB) |
| 13   | (11/14-11/20) | Maximus the Confessor | 1. selection from Maximus on the Our Father (BB) |
| 14   | (11/21-11/27) | Introduction to the Bonaventurian Synthesis | 1. conciliar texts on the *filioque* (BB)  
2. selections from Bonaventure’s *Disputed Questions on the Mystery of the Trinity* (BB)  
3. selections from Emery’s *Trinity in Aquinas* (BB) |
| 15   | (11/28-12/4) | more on Bonaventure, catch-up and review, or more on the *filioque* | |
7 Rules

Rules are of two types: course-wide rules and assignment-specific rules.

course-wide rules: these apply to the course as a whole. All violations carry the same penalty: a full letter reduction in the course grade. This reduction can, however, be reversed if the problem is corrected and not repeated. The penalty does not accumulate (e.g., two violations are the same as one), but multiple, uncorrected violations will result in a failing grade for the course, at my discretion.

attendance, etc.: You are marked absent after five min. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences, or between absence and lateness. If you are more than five minutes late for an exam, you cannot take the exam. Late papers are not accepted. You are also marked absent if you fail to participate when called upon to do so. Any missed quiz, paper, or exam is recorded as failing. Apart from exceptions listed below, no makeups are permitted. The penalty applies after six absences/latenesses.

general rules on papers: Papers must conform to assignment expectations in all particulars, including grammatical correctness, proper length, Chicago citation style (footnote-bibliography, with use of Latin abbreviations in footnotes when the style guide calls for it). Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Further specifications are available with the assignment prompt, and must be followed to the letter. Note in particular that papers are accepted ONLY via Turnitin.

accommodations: Students who have a right to an academic accommodation must give me the official letter stipulating their specific arrangements. The student remains responsible for scheduling the final exam in the testing center and notifying me of the scheduled time at least three days prior.

technology: I’m not opposed to the use of technology in principle, but experience shows that smartphones are a distraction for everyone in the room. There are two and only two acceptable places for a phone in my classroom: up front recording the lecture or put away, silenced, off or in airplane mode. Treat the classroom like a sacred space dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. If you don’t, you will be marked absent. Laptops and tablets for note taking are acceptable.
**preparation:** You must have all the required textbooks, ideally as soon as the class begins, but no later than the first week after the first class session. Their ISBN numbers must match those on the syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility, not the bookstore’s, to arrange to have the proper books. You must come to class with readings prepared. If I realize you are not prepared, you will be marked absent.

**meetings:** I encourage you to meet with me outside of the classroom, especially for paper guidance. During office hours, you may walk in—no appointment required. At all other times, appointments must be scheduled using Bookedin, my online scheduling service. No student may schedule more than three one-hour paper sessions with me. This is to ensure that everyone has adequate access to assistance.

**oral exams:** Exam appointments must be scheduled. No exams are allowed without an appointment using Bookedin.

**communication:** You must use university email for electronic correspondence with me. Any lost or missed communication as a result of using third party email will be considered the student’s fault. Papers are never accepted via email.

**assignment-specific rules:** these are the instructions for specific assignments (the exams or paper). A violation of one of these rules results in a full letter reduction in the grade for the assignment. This applies even to rules for formatting and correct grammar. Such rules are not specified here, but separately on each assignment prompt.

### 7.1 Allowable exceptions to the rules:

Ordinarily, makeups and late submissions are not permitted. However, for the following cases, at my discretion, and subject to verification, they will be tolerated. These excuses apply only to making up an assignment or submitting it later than the stipulated time. Absences are recorded without regard for any excuse, and will still accumulate toward a course-grade penalty.

- Medical emergencies and serious illness
- A natural disaster (like a flood)
- Your kids had to stay home from school or daycare during the regular class time.
- A death in the family
- Your routine transportation broke down.
- An extra curricular event sponsored or sanctioned by the university
- An electronic service used by the course, such as Blackboard, Turnitin, or the like, is down.

In this case I will always extend the deadline by twenty four hours past the original deadline,
and you must resubmit within that timeframe. In the very unlikely event of a prolonged loss of service, I will extend the deadline as necessary in twenty four hour increments.

7.2 Typical excuses that are not accepted:

- Changing or unpredictable work hours: if you sign up for this course, you agree to schedule your business around the predetermined class schedule.
- Non emergent medical consultations and appointments
- Broken internet connection, broken or malfunctioning computer or other technology. You are responsible for having reliable technology, knowing how to use it, knowing how to troubleshoot it, and keeping backups.
- Unverifiable claims regarding Turnitin submissions. Keep your submission receipt in digital or paper form.

8 Revisions and updates

Any aspect of this syllabus is subject to revision, with timely notice.