Course Syllabus: CU 2208 NE  
Spring 2016

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Course Description:  
This course will explore the Scripture and commentary written on the Doctrine of God and Trinitarian theology. As a way to begin to understand the teachings of the Catholic church on the mystery of the Trinity, we will consider the following:

A. Familiarize ourselves with the Old Testament teachings on God and references to the Persons of the Trinity;  
B. Be able to reflect meaningfully on the images and titles of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit invoked in Scripture;  
C. Trace the historical development of Trinitarian theology in the Church’s Creed and Divine Liturgy.  
D. Articulate accurately the Church’s teachings on the mystery of the Trinity;  
E. Be able to explain and preach on the Doctrine of the Trinity from scriptural passages used in the liturgy and the celebration of the sacraments.

Required Texts:  
The Catholic Study Bible: The New American Bible, Oxford University Press, editors D. Senior & J. Collins (Any edition)  
The Trinity by Saint Augustine (Translator: Hill); ISBN: 978-1565484467  
The God of Jesus Christ (Pope Benedict XVI); ISBN: 978-1586171841  
Early Christian Doctrine (J.N.D. Kelly); ISBN: 978-0060643348  
The Tripersonal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity (Gerald O’Collins); ISBN: 978-0809148769

Grading/Course Requirements:  
The following grading scale for this class:  

There will be only 8 classes this semester, and your grade will be made up of one midterm and a final reflection paper.

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of classes. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also
contact Counseling and Disability Services in the Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 3162.

**Format of Presentation:**
This class will combine lecture with class discussion. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the required readings for the day. I expect the engaged student to take notes and ask questions on the materials presented in class. **Class preparedness and participation is a component of the student’s final grade.**

**Policy on Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and any student caught plagiarizing another’s work or cheating will be given a failing grade for the class. Please refer to the University of St. Thomas’ ethic of authorship policy, and ask the professor if you have any questions.
Lecture and Exam Outline

January 18, 2017: Introduction to Knowledge of God & Trinitarian Theology / Begin discussion on Biblical Images of God
For next class read: The God of Jesus Christ (Pope Benedict XVI): pp. 1-48
Review all passages from Scripture and the Catechism that was discussed in class

January 25, 2017: Continue discussion on Biblical Images of God / Begin discussion on biblical references to the 2nd Person of the Trinity
For next class read: The God of Jesus Christ (Pope Benedict XVI): pp. 57-92
Review all passages from Scripture and the Catechism that was discussed in class

February 1, 2017: Continue OT references to the Second Person of the Trinity / Begin discussion on biblical references to the 3rd Person of the Trinity
For next class read: The God of Jesus Christ (Pope Benedict XVI): pp. 103-113
The Tripersonal God: Understanding & Interpreting the Trinity (O'Collins): pp. 23-34
Review all passages from Scripture and the Catechism that was discussed in class

February 8, 2017: New Testament & the Church’s teachings on Christ / Midterm Reflection Paper
For next class read: The Tripersonal God: Understanding & Interpreting the Trinity (O'Collins): pp. 70-82
Review all passages from Scripture and the Catechism that was discussed in class

February 15, 2017: Begin discussion on Early Church’s controversies on doctrine of Incarnation & the Divine Persons
For next class read: Early Christian Doctrine (J.N.D. Kelly): pp. 223-237
The Tripersonal God: Understanding & Interpreting the Trinity (O'Collins): pp. 114-126

February 22, 2017: Continue discussion on Early Church’s controversies on doctrine of Incarnation & the Divine Persons
For next class read: Early Christian Doctrine (J.N.D. Kelly): pp. 252-263
The Trinity by Saint Augustine: pp. 65-73

March 1, 2017 (Ash Wednesday): Teachings on the Holy Spirit
For next class read: The Trinity by Saint Augustine: pp. 98-105
The Tripersonal God (O'Collins): pp. 128-131, 135-141, 144-147

March 8, 2017: Trinitarian Theology in the Divine Liturgy & the teaching of the faith / Final Exam Reflection Paper