

Second Semester 2018-19
Wednesdays 10.50-12.25
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www.romestudy.org/trinity.html

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course will introduce the student to the understanding of the Most Holy Trinity in the Christian tradition, particularly as understood by Roman Catholics. Students will be able to

- Present a clear description of the Christian dogma of the Trinity
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the issues involved in exploring the nature of God in the Trinity and its historical development
- Show a detailed knowledge of current Catholic teaching on the Trinity and the connection between the dogma of the Trinity and the Church's understanding of grace, Christology, Ecclesiology, the sacraments, and Christian living
- Discuss similarities and differences in Christian approaches to the Trinity (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, various Protestant approaches, etc.).

Specific skills: Students will acquire the ability to

- contribute in an intelligent and informed manner to discussion on the development of doctrine
- engage skillfully and fairly with contentious issues that may arise around the Trinity
- locate such debate within a broad historical context
- accept and present cogent arguments on the issues of the Trinity
- engage with broader questions surrounding the nature of the Trinity
- identify traditions of thought on the Trinity that are distinct from those of the Catholic tradition, and at the same time to be able to engage in constructive debate
- engage in further independent study.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. February 20: Trinity in Worship and the Bible
2. February 27: The official dogma
3. Friday, March 8 (10.50-12.25): Early explorations
4. March 13: The Council of Nicea I
5. March 27: The Council of Constantinople I
6. April 3: Augustine
7. April 10: Anselm and the *filioque*
8. Friday, May 3 (10.50-12.25): Richard of St. Victor
9. May 8: Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure
10. May 15: Modern Developments
11. May 22: Contemporary Issues

Exam: May 29

ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following texts from the tradition are essential for a thorough grasp of the issues

- Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies*, book 3
- Tertullian, *Against Praxeas*
- Athanasius of Alexandria, *Orations against the Arians*
- Basil of Caesarea, *On the Holy Spirit*
- Gregory of Nyssa, *On Why Not Three Gods*
- Gregory of Nazianzus, *Theological Orations*
- Augustine, *De Trinitate*
- Anselm of Canterbury, *Monologion* and *De Incarnatione Verbi Dei*
- Richard of St. Victor, *De Trinitate*
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I, qq. 1-43
- Karl Rahner, *The Trinity*, trans. Joseph Donceel, New York: Herder and Herder, 1970

HELPFUL SUMMARY TEXTS

The following are helpful overviews. An extensive bibliography can be found as a separate file (romestudy.org/trinity/bibliography.pdf).

- Farrelly, John, *The Trinity: Rediscovering the Central Christian Mystery* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005).
- Fortman, Edmund, *The Triune God* (Michigan: Baker, 1982).
- Hill, Edmund, *The Mystery of the Trinity* (London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1986).
- Hill, William, *The Three-Personed God* (Washington DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1984).
- Holmes, Stephen R., *The Quest for the Trinity: The Doctrine of God in Scripture, History, and Modernity* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012).
- Hunt, Anne, *Trinity: Nexus of the Mysteries of the Christian Faith* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2005).
- Kasper, Walter, *The God of Jesus Christ*, trans. Matthew J. O'Connell (London: SCM Press, 1983).