Course Syllabus
RGT3223HF – Trinity: Mystery, Revelation, Response
Regis College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2016

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Eric Mabry
Office Location:	Regis College, Rm. 210
Telephone:	Office – (416) 922-5474, ext. 240
E-mail:	eric.mabry@utoronto.ca
Office Hours:	TBD

Course Identification

Course Number:	RGT32xxH
Course Name:	Trinity: Mystery, Revelation, Response
Course Location:	Classroom A, Regis College
Class Times:	Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00am
Prerequisites:	None

Course Description

This course is a textually attentive, historically conscious, and theologically disciplined exploration of the mystery of the Trinity through an explication of the Church's doctrine regarding the Trinity. It begins, therefore, in the definitive revelation of the triune identity of God through and in the person of Jesus Christ. It then traces the development of the Church's reflection and proclamation of this mystery through her controversies and councils, seeks to understand key systematic developments in the Patristic and Medieval periods, and contemplates and engages contemporary approaches and applications. This itinerary of reflection is intended to promote a personal and interior appropriation of the doctrine of the Trinity.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

(1) Sarah Coakley, *God, Sexuality and the Self*: *An Essay on the Trinity* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013).

(1) Gerald O'Collins, *The Tripersonal God*: *Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*, 2nd ed. (New York: Paulist Press, 2014).

(3) Gilles Emery, *The Trinity: An Introduction to the Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God*, trans. Matthew Levering (DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2012).

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should contact the instructor immediately and seek help from the University's IT department.

Course Learning Objectives

Regis College

BD Level
Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS, students will develop an aptitude for (1) interpreting, (2) analyzing, and (3) appraising primary texts within the Christian theological tradition through a close (and sometimes guided) reading of texts and written assignments wherein students describe, compare, and evaluate the texts they have read.

(B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES, students will learn to distinguish (1) revelation, (2) dogma, (3) and theological reflection through a guided appraisal of the historical development of the doctrine of the Trinity and consequently to distinguish historical theology, dogmatic theology, and systematic theology without divorcing them from each other.

(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION, students will apply the doctrine of the Trinity and the Church's theological reflection on that mystery by testing and applying the psychological analogy through a guided examination of their own intellectual operations and expressing their findings in written form.

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP, students will develop strategies for presenting the doctrine of the Trinity in various ministerial contexts. They will illustrate these strategies in written form.

AD Level: N/A

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas.

(1) Preparation, participation and reading (10%) – In addition to participating in the regular activity of the class, including the reading of the required texts, students are expected to engage the material actively during lecture and seminar through questions and conversation.

(2) <u>Weekly Précis and Questions</u> (15%)—Each week, students will be required to submit a one page (300-500 word) précis of one of the assigned readings, followed by **two**, textually focused questions, either for understanding or for judgment.

(3) <u>Short papers</u> (25% x 3) – Students are expected to submit three short papers during the course of the term. These papers will be due during weeks 5, 9, and on the final examination day.

Grading System

> A+ (90-100)
> A (85-89)
> A- (80-84)
> B+ (77-79)
> B (73-76)
> B- (70-72)
> Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. The Instructor will deduct grade points for each day exceeding the due date of the assignment. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Late work (AD). N/A.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate

punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. A student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses.

Course Schedule

Week 1
Day, Date   Course Introduction / Revelation, Dogma, Faith, and Theology

Week 2
Day, Date   The Revelation of Jesus Christ regarding the Divine, Triune Identity
                     Reading: TBD

Week 3
Day, Date   Scriptural Foundations
                     Reading: TBD

Week 4
Day, Date   Trinitarian Controversies and Conciliar Responses
                     Reading: TBD

Week 5

Day, Date   Patristic Developments
         Reading:
            Gregory Nazianzus, *Theological Orations*
            Hilary of Poitiers, *On the Trinity*

Week 6

Day, Date   Augustine and the Psychological Analogy
         Reading: Augustine, *On the Trinity*

Week 7

Day, Date   Medieval Developments
         Reading:
            John Damascene, *On the Orthodox Faith*
            Richard of St. Victor, *On the Trinity*
            Peter Lombard, *Sentences*, Book 1, dd. ?????

Week 8

Day, Date   Thomas Aquinas and the *via doctrinae*
         Reading: TBD

Week 9

Day, Date   Trinitarian Processions, Relations, Persons / Psychological Analogy Revisited
         Reading: TBD

Week 10

Day, Date   Trinitarian Missions
         Reading: TBD

Week 11

Day, Date   Twentieth Century Developments
         Reading: TBD

Week 12

Day, Date   Contemporary Challenges and Prospects
         Reading: TBD

Exam Week

TBD