

**Course Syllabus**  
**RGT3437HS – Sacramental Theology**  
**Regis College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Winter 2017**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Eric Mabry  
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Office Hours: TBD

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: RGT34xxH  
Course Name: Sacramental Theology  
Course Location: Classroom A, Regis College  
Class Times: Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00pm  
Prerequisites: None.

***Course Description***

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This course is a biblically grounded, historically conscious, and systematically disciplined exploration of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church and a traditioned introduction to her theology about the sacraments and their implications not just for believing participants but for the salvation of the whole world. The notion of a sacrament is one that is an expression (and continuation) of the central doctrine of our Faith, namely, the incarnation of the Son of God. This indicates that the basic meaning of “sacrament” as employed by the Church is one which is supernaturally derivative (both ontologically and symbolically) from the definitive revelation of God in History and the promulgation and extension of this revelation by the Church down through the ages.

***Course Resources***

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**Required Course Texts (for a select bibliography, see below)**

(1) Louis-Marie Chauvet, *The Sacraments—The Word of God at the Mercy of the Body* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001).

(2) Colman O’Neil, *Meeting Christ in the Sacraments*, rev. ed. (New York: Alba House, 1991).

(3) Edward Schillebeeckx, *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010) [Originally Published: New York: Sheed & Ward, 1963].

**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***

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### **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:

- (1) Distinguish and relate sign, symbol, and sacrament.
- (2) Identify and Evaluate the Analogical Character of the term "sacrament."
- (3) Examine and illustrate the symbolic and causal character of the sacraments.
- (4) Demonstrate the relevance of other mysteries of the Faith (such as the Trinity and Incarnation) for sacramental theology.

(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION, students will enrich their appraisal of the symbolic meaning and causal efficacy of the Sacraments by situating them in developing cultural and historical contexts. This written exercise will equip students to appropriate their own active participation in the liturgical celebration of the Sacraments.

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP, because students are able to describe and appraise the symbolic character of human existence and identify the various ways in which humans make meaning and are affected by meaning, they will be able to illustrate the significance of diverse liturgical settings and the correct implementation of the rites of the Church in the celebration of the Sacraments.

**AD Level: N/A**

## ***Evaluation***

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### **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) Weekly Précis and Questions (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) Short papers (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 should stipulate the penalty for late work.] 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***

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**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](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](http://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***

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### **Week 1**

*Day, Date*

Course introduction / What is a Divine Mystery?

**Week 2**

*Day, Date*

What is a Sacrament?  
Reading: TBD

**Week 3**

*Day, Date*

Christ as Sacrament.  
Reading: TBD

**Week 4**

*Day, Date*

Church as Sacrament  
Reading: TBD

**Week 5**

*Day, Date*

Introduction to the Sacraments of the Church  
Reading: TBD

**Week 6**

*Day, Date*

Baptism and Confirmation  
Reading: TBD

**Week 7**

*Day, Date*

Eucharist I  
Reading: TBD

**Week 8**

*Day, Date*

Eucharist II  
Reading: TBD

**Week 9**

*Day, Date*

Reconciliation  
Reading: TBD

**Week 10**

*Day, Date*

Anointing of the Sick  
Reading: TBD

**Week 11**

*Day, Date*

Holy Orders  
Reading: TBD

**Week 12**

*Day, Date*

Matrimony  
Reading: TBD

**Exam Week**

*TBD*

## **Select Bibliography**

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- Augustine. *Teaching Christianity*. Translated by Edmund Hill. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The City of God*. 2 Vols. Translated by William Babcock. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2012-13.
- Chauvet, Louis-Marie. *Symbol and Sacrament: A Sacramental Reinterpretation of Christian Existence*. Translated by Patrick Madigan and Madeleine Beaumont. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1995.
- Guardini, Romano. *The Spirit of the Liturgy*. Translated by Ada Lane. New York: Herder and Herder, 1998.
- Hugh of St. Victor. *On the Sacraments of the Christian Faith*. Translated by Roy J. Deferrari. Cambridge, MA: The Mediaeval Academy of America, 1951.
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- De Lubac, Henri. *Corpus Mysticum: The Eucharist and the Church in the Middle Ages*. Translated by Gemma Simmonds with Richard Price and Christopher Stephens. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007.
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- McAuliffe, Clarence. *Sacramental Theology: A Textbook for Advanced Students*. St. Louis, MO: Herder, 1958.
- Peter Lombard. *The Sentences*. 4 Vols. Translated by Giulio Silano. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 2007-2010.
- Rahner, Karl. "The Church and the Sacraments," in *Inquiries*. New York: Herder and Herder, 1964: 191-294.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Theology of the Symbol." In Vol. 4 of *Theological Investigations*. Translated by Kevin Smyth. Baltimore: Helicon Press, 1966: 221-252.
- Ratzinger, Joseph. *The Spirit of the Liturgy*. Translated by John Saward. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2000.
- Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologica*. Translated by the Fathers of the English Dominican Province. Notre Dame, IN: Christian Classics, 1981.