PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

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Discipline Administration:
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TIMETABLE

Lecture: Mondays, 9 to 10 a.m., MR252
Seminar: Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m., Taylor C25

Students can view their university timetable at

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through close reading and seminar discussion of selected texts, this course will introduce students to major themes in a Christian account of God and his effective presence in Jesus Christ. In tracing the connections between trinitarian, christological, and soteriological teaching in some influential teachers of the Christian church, this course will attend in particular to the conceptual relations between the doctrines of eternal generation, incarnation, and reconciliation.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course aims to develop students' ability to responsibly engage the tradition of Christian theological reflection on the nature of God and God's relation to the world and the doctrines which exposit these, including crucially Trinity, Christology and the doctrine of salvation. Structured as a seminar built around active student participation, the course will enhance students' ability to read and discuss classical and contemporary theological texts, and will promote informed and critical reflection on the context, demands, and limits of Christian theology.

Through the course, successful students will have the opportunity
• to deepen their knowledge of definitive themes, texts, and figures in the theological tradition of the Christian church;
• to gain fluency in the use of technical language deployed in Christian trinitarian and christological discourse;
• to gain a richer sense of the historical development of Christian reflection on the nature and activity of God;
• to practice the art of close reading and critical discussion of significantly complex texts.

A NOTE ON GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

The University seeks to promote reflection on the ways in which students may acquire during the course of their studies a set of dispositions and portable skills that will enable them to live well in the world whatever they go on to undertake and achieve. Thus the institutional formula: ‘A University of Aberdeen education will enable graduates to become: Academically excellent; critical thinkers and effective communicators; open to learning and personal development; and active citizens.’ This course contributes to the development of these graduate attributes in the following ways:

Academic excellence

• This course offers model skills related to the close reading of texts, and consideration of how to approach such texts in the context of intellectual and Church history.
• Students will learn to gather, analyse, assess and discuss material from primary literature.
• Students will negotiate secondary literature and learn to adjudicate contested interpretative issues.

Critical thinking and effective communication

Students successfully completing this course will:
• Acquire a measure of intellectual flexibility through engagement with a variety of scholarly activities
• Acquire a measure of precision in thinking and writing through close-reading of theological texts
• Formulate questions and communicate complex ideas in public discussion and debate

Openness To Learning And Personal Development
This course provides a context within which students may:
• Acquire integrity in addressing the particularly of Christian theological thinking
• Gain self-awareness, self-confidence and a measure of maturity
• Develop self-discipline in organisation and be able to undertake independent study

Active Citizenship
The course helps students develop the capacity to appreciate views of the world potentially very different from their own. Such skills and openness of attitude are vital for a negotiating life in a democratic and pluralist society.

LECTURE AND SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week 1
14 September  Lecture: themes and questions in trinitarian christology
17 September  Seminar: K. Tanner, ‘The Trinity as Christian Teaching’

Week 2
21 September  Lecture: the scriptural coordinates of the doctrine of the trinity

Week 3
28 September  Lecture: the rudiments of trinitarian doctrine
1 October    Seminar: Thomas Aquinas, Compendium theologiae, chs. 37-67

Week 4
5 October  Lecture: the eternal Fatherhood of God
8 October  Seminar: E. Durand, ‘A Theology of God the Father’

**Week 5**
12 October  Lecture: the eternal generation of the Son

**Week 6**
19 October  Lecture: the *ratio* of incarnation: atonement
22 October  Seminar: Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

**Week 7**
22 October  Lecture: the hypostatic union
29 October  Seminar: T.F. Torrance on the double homoousios

**Week 8**
2 November   Lecture: *communicatio idiomatum*
5 November   Seminar: Reformational readings

**Week 9**
9 November   Lecture: Assumption and kenosis
12 November  Seminar: E. Chr. van Driel, ‘The Logic of Assumption’;
              C.S. Evans, ‘Kenotic Christology and the Nature of God’

**Week 10**
16 November  Lecture: being and act, nature and history
19 November  Seminar: Ritschl, ‘The Doctrine of Christ’s Person and Life Work’

**Week 11**
23 November  Lecture: the offices and states of the mediator
26 November  Seminar: K. Barth, *Church Dogmatics IV/1*

**Revision** 3 December

**READING LIST**
A full list of set readings for the fortnightly seminars and secondary resources for further research will be available in class and posted on MyAberdeen.
ASSESSMENT

1. A set of concise (300-400-word) papers on weekly set readings (50%);

2. 50% = second assignment: a 3,000-word research essay

Students will write a research essay on an essay title chosen from a list given in class and posted on MyAberdeen. The essay should be approximately (+/-10%) 3,000 words in length. Further information and instruction will be provided.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).

Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Weekly response papers: Due at the beginning of each relevant seminar
Second Assignment: Friday, 20 November, at 3.00 pm

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

For the weekly response papers, submit one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen by 2 p.m. on the date of the relevant seminar, and submit one paper copy with a receipt confirming Turnitin submission directly to the course coordinator at the seminar.

For the research essay, submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic
copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.