

# TRT32D/52D Foundations for Systematic Theology Online Learning Mode Unit Outline

### **About this Unit Outline**

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Foundations for Systematic Theology Online.** It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

**SEMESTER 2 2017** 

# **Important notice**

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at <a href="https://www.actheology.edu.au">www.actheology.edu.au</a>

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "Academic Misconduct". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "Guidelines for Essays." (See also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

# Information about this unit Unit description

This preparatory half unit examines the importance of systematic theology, takes a bird's eye view of Christian doctrine and gives the learner skills on 'how to do theology'.

# **Learning Objectives**

- 1. To introduce students to the aims and methods of systematic theology.
- 2. To provide students with a clear overview of the whole scope of Christian doctrine.
- 3. To do this with a view to:
  - Preparation for studies in Systematic Theology in following years
  - The integration of doctrine, church history, biblical study, and Christian life and practice

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Upon completion of this unit students will be able to:

- 1. Understand what the discipline of systematic theology is
- 2. Understand why systematic theology exists as a discipline
- 3. Be aware of the major topics generally covered in systematic theology
- 4. Understand why the major topics are what they are
- 5. Grasp how the major topics relate to each other
- 6. Understand basic issues of method in doing systematic theology
- 7. Be able to present their own theological reflections on a topic

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- 6. Understand basic issues of method in doing systematic theology
- 7. Be able to present their own theological reflections on a topic
- 8. Be able to discuss and evaluate recent developments in Systematic Theology

## **How this Unit Contributes to the Course**

Theology can be intimidating for beginners. Many students have been overwhelmed by the diversity of opinions and sheer volume of information to comprehend. Studying this unit in your first year of theological studies helps you establish a foundation of concepts and terminology on which to build a theological framework and should help to equip you for 400/600 level theology units usually completed later in your course. For those doing a one-year course, this unit helps to establish the foundations for good theological thinking

# **Pre-requisites and Co-requisites**

This unit is a Type B Elective. It caters for students studying for the following accredited courses of the Australian College of Theology: BTh/BMin/AssocDegTh/DipTh/DipMin and MDiv/GradDipDiv/GradCertDiv.

This unit is being taught at QTC at foundation level (300/500 level); therefore there are no prerequisite requirements.

# How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

The unit is taught over 8 weeks, followed by an assessment period of about one week. It begins in the week of Monday 18 September, and concludes on Wednesday 22 November, when the final piece of assessment is due for submission. It is delivered online, requiring students to have regular access to a reliable internet connection and an internet-capable device suitable for downloading unit content and completing written unit assessments.

Weekly unit material will be delivered in a mixture of formats, predominantly audio recordings prepared specifically for online delivery, alongside written materials drawn from publications together with notes and other resources produced by the lecturer. Occasionally short video files may also be provided. All materials supplied by the lecturer will be made available through the QTC Moodle page for this unit; students will also participate in online discussions and activities through Moodle.

This unit is a half unit, worth 2 credit points (cp) towards your degree.

A 2cp unit is considered to require an average total time commitment of approximately 32 hours outside of class time.

Students are required to listen to all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date.

# **Teaching staff**

**LECTURER** 

### **Dr Andrew Moody**

Email: amoody@qtc.edu.au

For general questions about this unit, especially prior to the commencement of lectures, please contact QTC Assistant Registrar, Lizi Phillpotts, who will arrange for your questions to be answered. <a href="mailto:assistantregistrar@qtc.edu.au">assistantregistrar@qtc.edu.au</a>

# **Other Key Contacts**

### Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

E <u>assistantregistrar@qtc.edu.au</u>

### **Moodle functions and queries**

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

E <u>registrar@qtc.edu.au</u>

### Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, how to use eBooks, to request a chapter of a book or article emailed to you, to request a book posted to you, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

E <u>library@qtc.edu.au</u>

# Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	
Week 1 From Mon 18 Sept	Nature of Doctrine, Revelation, Scripture Guide to the Assessments	
Week 2 From Mon 25 Sept	Characteristics of God's nature Creation and Providence	
Week 3 From Mon 02 Oct	The Trinity & Holy Spirit	
Week 4 From Mon 09 Oct	The Trinity & Holy Spirit (cont.)	
Week 5 From Mon 16 Oct	Humanity and sin	
Week 6 From Mon 23 Oct	The Person and Incarnation of Christ.  The Gospel – how does salvation work?	
Week 7 From Mon 30 Oct	The nature of the Christian Life. Our life together as God's people (church, ministry, sacraments)	
Week 8 From Mon 06 Nov	The final goal of God's Salvation in Christ (Eschatology)	

# **TRT32D Assessments (Online Learning Mode)**

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

**PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY** that for Assessment Items 2, 3, 4, students are to complete **EITHER** the three assessment items related to *JUSTIFICATION*, **OR** the three assessment items related to *REVELATION*. Students are **NOT** to make a selection of items drawn from both of these topics.

ASSESSMENT TASKS	DESCRIPTION	
Online Forum Contributions Approx. 400 words	On <b>ONE</b> occasion during the teaching weeks of this unit, students will be asked to upload a brief 200-word summary of one or more key ideas of their own choice from weeks 1-4. When not scheduled to provide a summary, each student shall, in other	
15% of final grade	weeks, respond briefly to the summaries uploaded by other students to the forum. Students will be assessed on their contributions to the forum over FIVE weeks of the unit.	
	No forum contributions are required in the Weeks commencing 18 September, 13 November, or 20 November. In line with ACT attendance requirements, students must contribute in at least four weeks during the unit, otherwise they will receive a mark of zero out of fifteen for Online Forum Contributions.	
Annotated List of Biblical Passages 750 words	Choose <b>ONE</b> of the following topics: <b>EITHER JUSTIFICATION</b> :  Prepare an annotated list of biblical passages relevant to how we are saved. (750 words)	
30% of final grade  Due Friday 06  October 2017	OR REVELATION: Prepare an annotated list of biblical passages relevant to the topic of how we know God. (750 words)	

Book Review	Write a <b>1000 word</b> book review on <b>ONE</b> of the following books:	
1000 words	EITHER	
40% of final grade	<b>JUSTIFICATION</b> : a Review of Luther's <i>Freedom of a Christian</i> . (1000 words)	
Due Friday 03	OR	
November 2017	<b>REVELATION</b> : a Review of BOTH of the following parts of Michael Horton's <i>Pilgrim Theology</i> : The introductory chapter entitled 'Why Study Theology' (500 words) AND Chapter 1 entitled 'Knowing God' (500 words). Total of 1000 words. The parts will be weighted equally.	
Talk Outline	Write a <b>300 word</b> outline of a talk on <b>ONE</b> of the following:	
300 words 15% of final grade Due Wednesday 22 November 2017.	JUSTIFICATION: an outline of a talk on what salvation is.  OR  REVELATION: An outline of a talk on what it means to know God.	

# **TRT52D Assessments (Online Learning Mode)**

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

**PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY** that for Assessment Items 2, 3, 4, students are to complete **EITHER** the three assessment items related to *THE ATONEMENT*, **OR** the three assessment items related to *REVELATION*. Students are **NOT** to make a selection of items drawn from both of these topics.

ASSESSMENT TASKS	DESCRIPTION
Online Forum Contributions	On <b>ONE</b> occasion during the teaching weeks of this unit, students will be asked to upload a brief 200-word summary of one or more key ideas of their own choice from weeks 1-4. When not
Approx. 500 words 15% of final grade	scheduled to provide a summary, each student shall, in other weeks, respond briefly to the summaries uploaded by other students to the forum. Students will be assessed on their contributions to the forum over FIVE weeks of the unit.
	No forum contributions are required in the Weeks commencing 18 September, 13 November, or 20 November. In line with ACT attendance requirements, students must contribute in at least four weeks during the unit, otherwise they will receive a mark of zero out of fifteen for Online Forum Contributions.
Annotated List of Biblical Passages	Choose ONE of the following topics:  EITHER  ATONEMENT:
600 words 20% of final grade	Prepare an annotated list of biblical passages relevant to how God has saved us in Christ.
Due Friday 06 October 2017	OR REVELATION: Prepare an annotated list of biblical passages relevant to the topic of how we know God

### **Book Reviews**

### **Total of 1300 words**

### 45% of final grade

### Due Friday 03 November 2017

Write **TWO** 650 word Books reviews on **ONE** of the following topics:

### **EITHER**

### **ATONEMENT:**

Write a book review of

(a) Calvin's Institutes Book, 2, Chapter 16 (650 words)

### **AND**

(b) Chapters 3 and 4 of Steve Jeffrey, Michael Ovey, and Andrew Sach. *Pierced for our Transgressions*. Nottingham, Eng: IVP, 2007. (650 words)

The two book reviews will be weighted equally.

### OR

### **REVELATION:**

Write a book review of

(a) Calvin's Institutes Book 1, Chapters 1-2 (650 words)

### **AND**

(b) Chapters 1-4 of Peter Jensen. *The Revelation of God. Leicester, Eng*: IVP, 2002. (650 words)

Write a **600 word** outline of a talk on **ONE** of the following:

The two book reviews will be weighted equally.

# **Talk Outline and Reflection**

### EITHER

### 600 words

### 20% of final grade

### Due Wednesday 22 November 2017

### 1. ATONEMENT:

Write a 250-300 word outline of a talk on how Christ has saved us, followed by a 250-300 word reflective comment explaining your thinking, and how Assessment Item 3 (Book Review) contributed to your thinking about the Atonement.

### OR

### 2. **REVELATION**:

Write a 250-300 word outline of a talk on what it means to 'know God', followed by a 250-300 word reflective comment explaining your thinking, and how Assessment Item 3 (Book Review) contributed to your thinking about Revelation.

### **Guide to Assessments**

### What are we looking for?

### **Annotated list of Biblical passages**

The challenge of this part of the task involves two dimensions—the selection of the biblical texts and the comments you make upon them.

In the selection of the texts we are looking for the widest possible grouping of texts that are *significant* in establishing the Bible's teaching on this topic. This means we are looking for texts to be included that have something genuinely important to say on the topic, something not already covered by other texts that are included.

In the comments made upon the texts we are looking for the comments to *clearly explain how* the texts contribute to the Bible's teaching on that topic: i.e. what each text actually adds to our picture of the Bible's teaching on the matter. We don't want *any* comments of a 'general' nature on the texts - about authorship, context, the main idea of the passage or the like - only what it contributes to our understanding of the topic you have chosen.

The challenge of this task is that the need for breadth in texts chosen is in tension with the need for depth in explanations. This means that we are looking for judicious selectivity - only the most significant texts, and only the most significant comments to be made on texts.

### **Book Reviews**

This task is looking for two main skills to be demonstrated: your skill in reading a document, and your ability to critically reflect on what you have read.

In showing your reading ability we need to be able to see a *clear description of the content of what you have read*. This involves selectivity - you need to pick out what you thought were the most important points said, for you cannot simply repeat everything. It also involves looking at how the writer has structured their material and/or how their argument builds and develops and helps your reader have insights into the way the content of the document is organized and how it functions in his argument.

Demonstrating some grasp of the writer's purpose is also important. In showing your critical reflection we need to be able to see an independent mind that judiciously weighs the strengths and weaknesses of the document. This does not require you to be positive or negative about the document - a critical reflection can be a deeply appreciative reflection. It does require you to be able to say why (i.e. give reasons for) you think the work you read is valuable - and where its value lies - and to indicate where you think it said something wrong, offered a weak argument, adopted an approach of arguing or structuring that had limitations with it, or was unclear, and to identify any aspects of the topic that were not included in the document and that you believe needed to be for it to accomplish its purpose.

### For historical documents

Some of the documents included are 'historical', being written in an earlier period than the

last one hundred years or so. Reviewing these involves demonstrating an additional skill - of reading them as a historical document rather than a modern one. As this is a doctrine unit, and not a church history unit, this is less important than it would be for church history - we are more interested in what the documents contribute to our understanding of the teaching of Scripture than our understanding of the Church's past. Nonetheless, reading them well and critically reflecting on them will involve appreciating how they would have functioned for their original audience, and not reading them as though they are written to a modern audience.

### **Talk Outline**

This task is looking for your ability to harness your work in producing the bibliographies and reviews to formulate a piece of Christian teaching on the topic. There are three possible areas to try and address – seek to be comprehensive in explaining the topic, seek to ensure that the audience understands the essential core of the topic by discussing it at some depth, seek to show why the topic matters and/or what its implications are. Usually trying to do all three equally will result in doing none of them well, so again, selectivity is the key. Ideally the talk outline will reflect which biblical texts you have identified in your bibliography, and your critical reflections on the strengths and weakness of the approaches to the topic undertaken by the documents you reviewed.

### Reflection on talk outline (TRT52D only)

Here we are looking for your ability to self-reflect and explain yourself. In particular, we are looking for you to explain the issues raised in the previous paragraph - how your selection of the biblical texts helped determine how you went about constructing your talk (e.g. which texts you decided to use and why) and how your reviews helped inform your approach (e.g. where did you say something like 'that worked well, and I can use that in my talk', and where did you say, 'that needed something more so I'll make sure I don't have that weakness in my talk'?).

# **Learning Resources**

### **Set Texts**

Students should purchase ONE of the following:

Jensen, P.F. At the Heart of the Universe, Homebush West, NSW.: Lancer, 1991.

Milne, B. Know The Truth, 3rd edition, Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 2010.

Horton, M. *The Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

### **Required Texts for Book Reviews:**

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1960.

Horton, M. *The Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Jeffrey, Steve, Michael Ovey, and Andrew Sach. *Pierced for our Transgressions*. Nottingham, Eng: IVP, 2007

Jensen, Peter. The Revelation of God. Leicester, Eng: IVP, 2002

Luther, M. *The Freedom of A Christian*. Translated by Mark D. Tranvik. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2008.

### Recommended

The Nature and Purpose of Systematic Theology

Clark, D. K. To Know and Love God: Method for Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003.

Franke, J. R. *The Character of Theology: An Introduction to its Nature, Task, and Purpose.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.

Healy, N. M. "What is Systematic Theology?" *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 11 (2009): 24-39.

Vanhoozer, K.J. "Christ and Concept: Doing Theology and the "Ministry" of Philosophy." Pages 99-145 in *Doing Theology in Today's World*. Edited by J.D. Woodbridge and T.E. McComiskey. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.

Webster, J. "Introduction: Systematic Theology", pp 1-15 in *The Oxford handbook of Systematic Theology*. Edited by J. Webster, K. Tanner, I. Torrance. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2007.

### The Central Topics of Systematic Theology

Ford, D. *Theology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. Gunton, C. E. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2002.

Hammond, T.C. *In Understanding be Men*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Edited by D. F. Wright, Leicester, Eng: IVP, 1968.

Jensen, P.F. At the Heart of the Universe, Homebush West, NSW.: Lancer, 1991.

Knox, D.B. *The Everlasting God*, Welwyn: Evangelical Press, 1982.

Larsen. T. and Treier, D. J. *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

McGrath, A. E. Christian Theology: An Introduction. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

McGrath, A. E. *Theology: The Basics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.

Milne, B. Know The Truth, 3rd edition, Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 2010.

Packer, J.I. Concise Theology, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers Inc., 1993.

### The Method of Systematic Theology

Bowman, R.M. *Orthodoxy and Heresy: A Biblical Guide to Doctrinal Discernment*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992.

Clark, D. K. To Know and Love God: Method for Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003.

Clendenin, D.B. *Eastern Orthodox Theology: A Western Perspective*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.

Edwards, D.L., and J.R.W. Stott. *Essentials: A Liberal-Evangelical Dialogue*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1988.

Kim, S. C. H., ed. Christian Theology in Asia. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Kreeft, P. Fundamentals of the Faith. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1988.

Larsen. T. and Treier, D. J. *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Letham, R. *Through Western Eyes. Eastern Orthodoxy: A Reformed Perspective.* Fearn, Rosshire: Mentor, 2007.

Lossky, V. Orthodox Theology: An Introduction. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Press, 1978

Mackintosh, H.R. Types of Modern Theology. London: Collins, 1937.

Migliore, D. Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

Muller, R.A. The Study of Theology, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.

Muller, R.A. "The Role of Church History in the Study of Systematic Theology." Pages 77-97 in *Doing Theology in Today's World*, editors J.D. Woodbridge and T.E. McComiskey. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.

Nichols, A. The Shape of Catholic Theology. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1991.

O'Collins, G. Fundamental Theology. London: DLT, 1981.

Ott, L. The Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma. Rockford: Tan Books and Publishers, 1960.

Ratzinger, J. Catechism of the Catholic Church, Homebush, NSW: St Pauls, 1994.

Schleiermacher, F. *The Christian Faith*. Edited by H.R. Mackintosh and J.S. Stewart. Edinburgh: T&T Clark. 1960.

Schwarz, H. *Theology in a Global Context: the Last Two Hundred Years*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.

Stott, J.R.W. Evangelical Truth, Leicester, Eng. IVP, 1999.

Sykes, S. An Introduction to Christian Theology Today, Atlanta, GA: John Knox,1971.

Sykes, S.W. "The Fundamentals of Christianity." Pages 64-80 in *Unashamed Anglicanism*, London: Darton, Longman, & Todd, 1995.

Vanhoozer, K. J. *The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005.

Ware, T. The Orthodox Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Penguin Books, 1993.

Warrington, K. Pentecostal Theology: A Theology of Encounter. London: T&T Clark, 2008.

Williams, R. Tokens of Trust. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2007.

Zizoulas, J. D. Lectures in Christian Dogmatics. New York: T & T Clark, 2008.

### Classics:

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologiae*. 2nd rev. ed. Translated by Fathers of the English Dominican Province. 22 vols. London: Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 1912-1936.

Augustine. *On Christian Doctrine*. In Vol. 2 *of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Series 1. Edited by Philip Schaff. 1886-1889. 14 vols. Repr. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Barth, Karl. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Translated by. G. Foley. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1968.

Bavinck, Herman. Reformed Dogmatics, 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003-2008

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1960.

John of Damascus. *The Orthodox Faith*. In Vol. 9 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Series 2. Edited by P. Schaff and H. Wace. 1886-1889. 14 vols. Repr. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Peter Lombard. *The Sentences*. Translated by G. Silano.. 4 vols. Toronto: <u>Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies</u>, 2007-2010.

Origen. *On First Principles,* In Vol. 4 of *Ante-Nicene Fathers*. Edited by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. 1885-1887. 10 vols. Repr. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *An Introduction to Systematic Theology*, Grand Rapids. MI: Eerdmans, 1991.

Schleiermacher, F. *The Christian Faith*. Edited by H.R. Mackintosh and J.S. Stewart, Edinburgh: T.&T. Clark, 1960.

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*. Edited by J. T. Dennison. Translated by G. M. Giger. 3 vols. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1997.

# **ACT Standards: Grades**

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4