

MODERN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Georgia State University
RELS 3305 // Spring 2010
Tuesday / Thursday 1-2:15pm, Aderhold 329

Instructor: Vincent Lloyd (vlloyd@gsu.edu; 404.413.6116)
Office: 34 Peachtree Street, 11th Floor
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-12:30, and by appointment

We will investigate the tradition of reflection on Christianity from the Enlightenment to the twentieth century. The course will involve close reading of primary sources, examination of the development of Christian thought as a tradition of reflection, and discussion of historical context.

Objectives:

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

- 1) Identify key figures in the history of modern Christian thought, and some of their claims
- 2) Describe major themes and trends in the development of modern Christian thought
- 3) Be able to speak to the way historical events have influenced modern Christian thought, and the way Christian thought has influenced events of modern history.

Workload:

Conventional wisdom holds that, for each hour a student spends in class, she or he should spend three hours on coursework outside of class. That means that, for our class, you should anticipate spending about 8 hours outside of class on coursework. If you find yourself spending significantly more or significantly less time, please speak with the instructor.

Grading:

1/3: Daily questions for discussion (in the event of an absence, questions and answers)

1/3: Three short papers (due Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 8)

1/3: Final project (due May 4)

Note: I compute averages of letter grades, not percentages.

Textbooks for Purchase:

- James Livingston, *Modern Christian Thought: The Enlightenment and the Nineteenth Century*, Fortress Press, 2006, paperback
- Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone Is Credible*, translated by D. C. Schindler, Ignatius Press, 2004, paperback
- Mary Daly, *Beyond God the Father*, Beacon Press, 1993, paperback
- G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, Ignatius Press, 1995, paperback

Other Required Readings:

Are available through the GSU library's "e-reserves" (go to <http://www.library.gsu.edu/services/> and click on "Find Course Reserves" from the left column, the password is 4ka41m79S). You must bring a paper copy of the readings to class during the relevant week.

Discussion Questions:

Each day you should bring to class three questions that touch on the main points of the reading for the day. In other words, the questions should ask more about overarching themes and "big issues" rather than little details, although a good question may start with a detail and ask to add context.

Reading Schedule:

--schedule is subject to change

SCHEDULE:

Introduction: Theology as a Branch of Knowledge

January 12: Introduction

January 14: John Henry Newman, *The Idea of a University*, Discourses II and III

Reformation Background

January 19: Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*, Chapter 1

January 21: Luther, "Ninety-five Theses" and "The Freedom of a Christian" from *The Reformation Reader*

Enlightenment and Romanticism

January 26: Livingston Chapters 2

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book IV, Chapter 18

January 28: Livingston Chapter 4

Friedrich Schleiermacher, *On Religion*, Second Speech

The Oxford Movement

February 2: Livingston Chapters 7 and 8

February 4: John Henry Newman, "Faith and Reason, Contrasted as Habits of Mind"
Paper #1 Due

Biblical Criticism

February 9: Livingston Chapters 9 and 10

February 11: Benjamin Jowett, "On the Interpretation of Scripture" (selections)

Protestantism, Liberal and Conservative

February 16: Livingston Chapters 11 and 12

February 18: Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology* Volume I, Chapters 1 and 6

The Modernist Controversy

February 23: Livingston Chapters 13 and 14

February 25: George Tyrrell, "Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi"

Kierkegaard

March 2: Livingston Chapter 15 (pp. 384-396)

Kierkegaard, selections from *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*

March 4: Kierkegaard, selections from *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*
Paper #2 Due

Barth

March 16: "Introduction" and "Theology" from *Cambridge Companion to Karl Barth*

Karl Barth, selections from *Dogmatics in Outline*

March 18: Karl Barth, selections from *Dogmatics in Outline*

Feminist Theology

March 23: Rachel Muers, "Feminism, Gender, and Theology"

Mary Daly, *Beyond God the Father*, pp. 13-43

March 25: Mary Daly, *Beyond God the Father*, pp. 44-97

Liberation Theologies

March 30: Mary Daly, *Beyond God the Father*, 132-178

April 1: James Cone, "God in Black Theology" from *A Black Theology of Liberation*

Vatican II

April 6: Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, "Vatican II and the Aggiornamento"

April 8: Balthasar, *Love Alone is Credible*, pp. 9-60

Paper #3 Due

Balthasar

April 13: Balthasar, *Love Alone is Credible*, pp. 61-106

April 15: Balthasar, *Love Alone is Credible*, pp. 107-150

Literature and Theology

April 20: Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, pp. 13-50

April 22: Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, pp. 51-108

Alison Milbank, "Fairies, Fusiliers and Thomists"

(Post-)Modern Orthodoxy

April 27: Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, pp. 109-168

April 29: Slavoj Žižek, "The 'Thrilling Romance of Orthodoxy'"

Tue, 5/4: Final Project Due