

W11 RGT 6/3333 HF
Transforming Dynamics of Grace
Course Syllabus
Gordon Rixon, S.J.

Office Hours: By appointment
Regis College, 100 Wellesley Street West, Room 112
Email: gordon.rixon@utoronto.ca
Office Phone: 416-922-5474 x225

Course Description

Participants explore the biblical sources, historical development, systematic elaboration, ecumenical context and transformative social implications of the doctrine of grace. Written assignments are varied in order to help participants sort out the different tasks involved in doing theology and progress toward a final synthetic case study. The 6000 level section introduces the construction, use and evaluation of Boolean-based algorithms to search and analyze digitized corpora. 3000 Level: lectures, quizzes, short papers. 6000 Level: lectures, seminars, book review, research paper.

Course Objectives

3000 Level Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify, differentiate and locate within their cultural horizon representative treatments of grace in the Tanach, the Pauline corpus and the Johannine corpus;
- 2) Identify key moments of the development of the doctrine of grace in the eastern and western Christian traditions;
- 3) Analyze a contemporary cultural horizon and develop a personal narrative that brings selected elements of the doctrine of grace to some positive light;
- 4) Develop a synthetic overview of one approach to a theology of grace;
- 5) Apply learning about the doctrine and theology of grace to explore the dynamics of social-cultural change.

In addition, 6000 level students will be able to:

- 1) Identify a critical interpretive question about the development of either the doctrine or theology of grace.
- 2) Pursue a program of independent research that employs an advanced methodology such as rhetorical analysis, genetic analysis, source reading, clarification by contrast, dialectical analysis and systematic reasoning.
- 3) Construct, use and evaluate Boolean-based algorithms to search and analyze digitized corpora.
- 4) Present a peer seminar.
- 5) Author a rigorous study of an aspect of the development of either the doctrine or a theology of grace with a clearly identified hypothesis and a well differentiated program of analytic and synthetic reasoning.

Accessibility

Students with disabilities may be eligible to register with Accessibility Services and receive necessary supports. For more information please arrange to speak privately with the course professor or see the online information available at <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

Class Preparation and Participation

Reading assignments must be completed prior to class. Students are asked to submit a question based on the readings and lecture to the course bulletin board by mid-night of the day following the class. Attendance at all classes is required. Four additional one hour seminars will be arranged for students taking the course at the 6000 level. Lectures, group discussion, online quizzes, short papers, major paper.

Beginning on August 15th, the course reader will be available for sale (\$10) at the Student Services office at Regis College, which is open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday. Copies of the course reader will also be available at the first class.

3000 Level Assessment and Written Assignments

1 Feb	Unit One: Online Quiz – Representative Treatments
1 March	Unit Two: Online Quiz – Doctrinal Development
8 March	Unit Two: Reflection Paper (2 pages)
22 March	Unit Three: Systematic Paper (2 pages)
12 April	Unit Four: Case Study (4 pages)

6000 Level Assessment and Written Assignments

Third Seminar	Book Review
12 April	Student Seminars
3 May	Research Paper

Please, papers should be type-written, doubled spaced, left-justified, and have one inch margins on all sides and no more than 12 characters per inch (ie, a standard font, size 10-12 is acceptable). Do not exceed the page limit. Extensions for assignments are to be negotiated with the professor prior to the due-date. Under no circumstances will extension be given beyond August 30. All sources must be documented in accord with accepted academic practice such as that described in Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 5th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. An excellent guide to style is presented in Joseph M. William, *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. For additional writing assistance, consult <http://www.utoronto.ca/www/writing/>

Grading

3000 Level—the semester score will be allocated as follows: online quizzes (5% each), reflection paper (20%), systematic paper (20%), case study (40%) and class/bulletin board participation (10%).

6000 Level—the semester score will be allocated as follows: book review (10%), seminar (20%), major paper (60%) and class/bulletin board participation (10%).

Course Itinerary

Reading and Assignment Schedules for each unit are available on the course Blackboard website access through the student portal www.portal.utoronto.ca

Please note that four additional one hour seminars will be conducted for students taking the course on the 6000 level. The first three seminars will be scheduled in consultation with those involved. The fourth seminar will focus on presentation of student papers and will be held on April 12th.

Unit One – Narrative Development: Grace and Justice in the Scriptures

Session One: Introduction and the Tanac
Session Two: Paul and Temporal Metaphors
Session Three: John and Spatial Metaphors

Unit Two - Doctrinal Development: Grace in the Early Church

Session Four: Gregory of Nyssa - Life of Moses

Session Five: Augustine - Confessions

Session Six: Controversy - Grace and Freedom

Unit Three – Theological Development: Synthesis and Dialectic

Session Seven: Aquinas

Session Eight: Aquinas

Session Nine: Luther/Trent

Unit Four -- Systematic Development: Addressing Contemporary Issues

Session Ten: Grace and the Two Trinitarian Missions

Session Eleven: Grace and History

Session Twelve: Co-Developmental (Ecological, Social, Cultural) Transformation

Course Communication

Students are responsible to setup a @utoronto.ca email account and enter this address in their ROSI record. For more information go to www.its.utoronto.ca/communication-and-collaboration.htm - the professor is not able to send email to non- @utoronto.ca email addresses.

Students are responsible to access the course Blackboard website regularly (at least weekly) to participate in the course bulletin board and to view announcements, the course syllabus, the reading and assignment schedule for each unit, quizzes and other course resources required for successful participation. Log on the portal by going to www.portal.utoronto.ca on your web browser.