

20121 RGT5578 HS - Lonergan's Method in Theology

Course Syllabus

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Course Description

The course introduces six aspects of advanced theological research through a critical reading of Bernard Lonergan's *Method in Theology*. Lonergan's methodological approach is exemplified and complemented by rhetorical analysis, genetic analysis, source reading, clarification by contrast, dialectical analysis and systematic reasoning. The course introduces the construction, use and evaluation of Boolean-based algorithms to search and analyze digitized corpuses. Lectures, Seminars, computer lab, book review, research paper.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify a critical interpretive question focused on the sources and method(s) of theology.
- 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 corpuses.
- 4) Present a peer seminar.
- 5) Author a rigorous study of focus on a topic relevant to the method(s) of theology 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>

Course Textbook

Students may purchase *Method* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, latest reprint) at the Front Desk, Student Services, Regis College, 416-922-5474 x221.

Class Preparation – Bulletin Board Participation

- Each week students are required to post one critical question arising from the assigned reading and lecture on the course bulletin board. Questions may be contextualized with short comments (less than 200 words). The questions must be posted by midnight on the day following class.
- All students are asked to review the current postings on the course bulletin board after the deadline for submission of questions and before class.
- The bulletin board post and response features may also be used by students for follow-up discussions of issues raised during the semester. Students may not post more than three messages per week on the bulletin board. The professor will participate regularly.
- The bulletin board may be accessed through the course Blackboard website (see instructions below).

Class Participation

Attendance and active participation in all classes are required.

Writing Assignments

Short Review Paper: A five page critical book review of Lonergan's *Method in Theology*, due at the beginning of the seventh class. The review presents and contextualizes the critical questions the student intends to explore in a seminar to be conducted in the final weeks of the semester.

Major Paper: A 15-20 critical treatment of a topic approved by the instructor. The major paper is due one week after the last class. Extensions may be negotiated prior to the last class, but in no case may work be submitted later than three months after the last class. The final paper is to be submitted as an email attachment addressed to the course Instructor and as a hardcopy to the Student Services Office, room 111, Regis College, 100 Wellesley Street West.

Paper Guidelines: 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. 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. Williams, *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. For additional writing assistance, consult <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/>

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference databases solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. For more information, please see <http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/programmes.html>

Seminar Presentations

Students present a critical discussion of a topic approved by the instructor. The seminar presentation may form the basis of the major written assignment.

Computer Labs

Students will participate in two supervised computer labs to construct, use and evaluate Boolean-based algorithms to search and analyze a digitized sampling of Lonergan's corpus.

Grading

The semester score will be based on bulletin board participation, class preparation and class participation (20%), a five page of critical review (20%), seminar (20%) and a major paper (40%).

Course Itinerary

Week 1: Rhetorical Analysis: Introducing the Performative Dynamics of *Method in Theology*.

Introduction of Boolean-based algorithms for searching and analyzing digitized corpuses.

Week 2 & 3: Genetic Analysis: Reading the Background Chapters through their Internal Context

Week 4: Source Analysis: Reading the Background Chapters through their External Context

Week 5 & 6: Clarification by Contrast: Lonergan and Gadamer on Hermeneutics

Week 7 & 8: Dialectical Analysis: Alternatives to "Foundations"

Week 9 & 10: Systematic Development: Reading the Foreground Chapters through Doran

Week 11 - 13: Student Seminars

Logging in to your Blackboard Course Website

Like many other courses, RGT5589 uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the RGT5589 website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the U of T portal login page at portal.utoronto.ca and login using your UTORid and Password. Once you have logged in to the portal

using your UTORid and Password, you'll find the link to RGT5589 course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

Email communication with the course Instructor

At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information via email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up and properly entered in the ROSI system.

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a hotmail, gmail, yahoo mail or other types of accounts is not advisable. In many cases, hotmail/gmail/yahoo automatically filters email from any utoronto.ca address into the junk mail folder. Therefore emails from your course instructor will end up in your junk mail folder.

You are responsible for:

1. Ensuring you have a valid UofT email address that is properly entered in the ROSI system
2. Checking your UofT email account on a regular basis.

Bibliography

Primary Authors—Bernard Lonergan

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Verbum: Word and Idea in Aquinas, CWL 2. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997.

Understanding and Being, CWL 3. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990.

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Primary Authors—Other

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Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *Truth and Method*. New York: Continuum, 1997.

Secondary Authors

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