Trinity – Spring 2015
Dr. Kelly

Content and Structure of the Course: We study the doctrine of the Holy Trinity exegetically, historically and theologically. In addition to its biblical basis and theological rationale, attention will be given to philosophical, cultural and pastoral implications of it. The course involves lectures and some class discussions.

Course Requirements:

(1) Complete the required reading. The required texts are:

Read: Chapters 4, 5 and 7-9, as well Chapter 5, Appendix iii.

There will also be a handout on Beauty and the Trinity which will be uploaded to Canvas during the semester.


Richard of St. Victor, On the Trinity (Translated and commentary by Ruben Angelici; Wipf & Stock, 2011)

Reading quizzes will be given after each chapter according to schedule on the next page (please read the schedule thoroughly), and your cumulative quiz grade constitutes 33% of the course grade.

(2) Essay: 7 to 9 pages, due at the beginning of class on March 24. Constitutes 33% of course grade. Choose one of the following topics for your essay:

Trinity and the Old Testament
Trinity in the Gospels
Trinity in the writings of Paul
Trinity in the Book of Revelation
The Holy Spirit in Athanasius’ Letters to Serapion
The Deity of Christ in Athanasius’ Contra Arianos
Trinity in the Epistles of Gregory Nazianzus
Trinity in St. Hilary’s De Trinitate
Basil the Great on the Holy Spirit
Trinity in Catechetical Lectures of Cyril of Jerusalem
Full Equality of the Son and the Spirit according to Epiphanius’ Panarion
The Holy Spirit as ‘the bond of charity’ in St. Augustine’s De Triunitate
Trinity in Richard of St. Victor
Trinity in John Calvin
The Holy Spirit and Missions (make particular reference to chapter 16 of Andrew Murray’s The Spirit of Christ)
Trinitarian versus Unitarian Worship
Trinitarian spirituality and Campus Ministry

(3) Final Exam to be taken during exam week based on lectures and discussions from class. Constitutes 33% of the course grade.
The following questions should be used to prepare for a reading quiz, which will be held on the dates listed. Be able to give a four or five sentence response to any of the questions for each section. The lowest quiz grade for the semester will be dropped. An absence on a quiz day will count as the dropped quiz. Quizzes added together constitute 33% of the course grade.

**Kelly, Systematic Theology I, Chapter Four (Quiz 2/10/15)**

(1) Why does Richard of St. Victor think that God exists as three persons rather than one person?

(2) Discuss some of the divine names in Scripture that indicate God’s sovereignty.

(3) Discuss in some detail the meaning of God’s Name, “I AM THAT I AM.”

**Kelly, Systematic Theology I, Chapter Five (Quiz 2/24/15)**

(4) Is the divine love deficient without human love? Why or why not?

(5) Discuss how the beauty of creation reflects the beauty of God.

(6) Discuss the majesty of God.

**Kelly, Systematic Theology I, Chapter Seven (Quiz 3/10/15)**

(7) Discuss how “Relational terms signify who God is.”

(8) Discuss Old Testament intimations of the Trinity.

(9) Discuss the face of God.

**Kelly, Systematic Theology I, Chapter Eight (Quiz 3/24/15)**

(10) Discuss *homoousios* in some detail.

(11) Discuss Perichoresis

(12) Discuss John Calvin’s understanding of ‘Person.’

**Kelly, Systematic Theology I, Chapter Nine (Quiz 4/7/15)**

(13) Discuss how Irenaeus teaches the co-equality of the Son and the Spirit with the Father.

(14) Discuss how Gregory of Nazianzus, Cyril of Alexandria and Epiphanius understand the unity of God to rest in the Being of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, rather than the Person of the Father.

**Kelly, Handout on Beauty (Quiz 4/21/15)**

(15) What connection do Gregory of Nyssa and Augustine see between beauty and Trinitarian love?
(16) How is Christ's Incarnation an aspect of the internal beauty of God?

(17) How does Jonathan Edwards connect God's light to his glory and beauty?

(18) What are some Biblical (Hebrew and Greek) words for beauty (you can transliterate them into English)?