Theology 01601, “Introduction to Christian theology – I”  
Summer 2013, 3 credits

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Office: Stokes Hall 321N  
Office Hours: Mon. 4:00-5:15 (& by appointment)

Schedule (class times & day(s)): Mon/Wed 6:15-9:00  
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Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
This is a one-semester introduction to the development of Christian theology from the biblical period through the Reformation. This course considers significant theological questions in conversation with some of the most important writings in the tradition of Western Christian thought. Its purpose is to encourage students by drawing systematically on primary sources of historical significance to uncover the roots of the Christian faith and life.

Course Objectives
1. The student will gain factual knowledge of the history and development of Christian theology from the first through the sixteenth centuries.
2. The student will learn the fundamental theological principles that guided the development of Trinitarian and Christological orthodoxy in the patristic period, the development of theories of salvation in the medieval period, and the issues that provoked the controversies over grace and sacraments in the sixteenth century.
3. The student will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual history of western culture, especially of the ways in which various aspects of western philosophy and cultural were appropriated by Christian theology.
4. The student will demonstrate theological knowledge across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture on theology as demonstrated by exams and papers.

Grading
1. Attendance/Participation (cf. BC Academic Catalog, 2011-12, p. 36) -10% of overall grade: Students are expected to attend all class meetings, having done the assigned reading for that day, and participate in class discussion. You are allowed at most three unexcused absences. An “unexcused absence” is defined as one that a) has not been cleared with the professor and b) has not been formally documented by the Academic Dean or by University Health Services.
2. Pop Quizzes - 15% of overall grade: Throughout the term, an unspecified number of in-class “reading quizzes” will be given at the beginning of a class period. They are designed to reflect how carefully students are reading the material and to motivate students to keep up with the reading. They will be short and easy if the reading has been done carefully. Students arriving after the quiz has begun will not be allowed to take or make up the quiz. The lowest two (2) quiz grades will be dropped.
3. **Short paper** - 25% of overall grade. The 4-6 pager paper will treat some aspect of Aquinas’ soteriology.

4. **2 Exams** - 50% of overall grade. **Exam #1** (25% of overall grade) and **Final Exam #2** (50% of overall grade) will consist of objective questions (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false) which will measure both content and conceptual mastery of the material covered. **Students with unexcused absences (as defined above) on exam days will be permitted to make up the exam, but with a one (1) letter-grade penalty.**

**Summer Grading System**
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

**Grade Reports:** All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their summer grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

**Text(s)/Readings (Required)**
- Leo Donald Davis, *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils: Their History and Theology*

**Text(s)/Readings (Recommended)**
- Joseph F. Kelly, *The Ecumenical Councils of the Catholic Church: A History*

**Important Policies**
[http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html)

**Written Work**
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html](http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html).

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.
Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the Summer Session Office at 617-552-3800 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

Course Assignments (readings, exercises and/or experiences)
It is expected that 8 hours per week of your study time out will be spent on out of class assignments and exercises. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.”
**THE PATRISTIC PERIOD: GOD AND CHRIST**

June 24  **Intro: Historical Overview of the Development of Christian Theology**

June 26  **Patristics-1: Trinity**
- Nicaea – Davis, *First Seven Ecumenical Councils*, pp. 33-78.

July 1  **Patristics-2: Trinity**
- Constantinople I – Davis, *First Seven Ecumenical Councils*, pp. 81-133.

July 3  **Patristics-3: Christology**

July 8  **Patristics-4: Christological**

July 10  **Patristics-5: Refinements and Icons**

July 12  Exam #1 (out of class, virtual exam)

**THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD: SALVATION**

July 15  **Medieval-1: Thomas Aquinas on Salvation**
- *Summa Theologiae*, III q. 46

July 17  **Medieval-2: Thomas Aquinas on Salvation**
- *Summa Theologiae*, III qq. 47-48

July 22  **Medieval-4: Thomas Aquinas on Salvation**
- *Summa Theologiae*, III qq. 49-50

**Paper #1**: Due, Tuesday, July 24 at 11:59PM

**THE REFORMATION PERIOD: GRACE AND EUCHARIST**

July 24  **Reformation-1: Martin Luther**
- Robert Holcot, *Lectures on the Wisdom of Solomon*, Ch 3, Lcts. 35, 52,
- *Two Kinds of Righteousness*, pp. 86-96 (BBV)

July 29  **Reformation-2: Trent on Salvation**

July 31  **Reformation-4: Trent on Eucharist**
- Council of Trent, “Decree on the Eucharist,” pp. (BBV)

Aug. 2  **Final Exam** (virtual/take home)