

# SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

## PMIN 201 *Fundamental Theology*

Winter 2012 Prof. Parrella

### TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

- This course introduces the student to the basic issues and first questions of theology: human experience and religious experience; the nature of theology as the work of the church; ways of understanding God; the mystery of divine revelation and various interpretations of revelation; the activity of faith and types of faith; the relationship between faith and beliefs or the symbols and stories of faith; finally, the God of Christian Revelation as Trinity and as the Christ.
- The desired learning outcome of the course is more than just a body of information, but a way of thinking theologically and using and doing theology in practical and pastoral situations. The course is intended to be an “invitation to do theology,” that is, to discover the meaning of God in the experience of both individual and community and to “unpack...the revelation of God that takes place in human experience through faith” (D. Lane). The course also considers theology as a practical science, one that affects both the individual and the community, and one that is always in service to the church.

#### REQUIRED READINGS

- Lane, Dermot. *The Experience of God. An Invitation to Do Theology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition. New York: Paulist, 2003 [1981]. (In bookstore.)
- Tillich, Paul. *The Dynamics of Faith*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1956. Reprint, with a new introduction to the Perennial Classics Edition by Marion H. Pauck. New York: Harper Collins, 2001. (This work also appears in *Main Works/ Hauptwerke*, vol. 5, *Writings on Religion*, edited by Robert Scharlemann, 231–290. Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1988.) (In bookstore.)
- Parrella, Frederick J. “Paul Tillich and the Doctrine of the Trinity: A Catholic Perspective.” In *Trinität und/oder Quaternität—Tillichs Neuerschließung der trinitarischen Problematik, Eng.: Trinity and/or Quaternity—Tillich’s Reopening of the Trinitarian Problem*, Tillich-Studien, vol. 10, edited by Gert Hummel and Doris Lax, 280-298. Münster: Lit-Verlag, 2004. (In course reading packet.)
- Lane, Dermot. “The Cross of Christ as the Revelation of God.” In *Christ at the Centre. Selected Issues in Christology*, 53-79. New York: Paulist Press, 1991. (In course reading packet).
- Dei Verbum* in *The Documents of Vatican II*, edited by Walter Abbott. New York: Herder and Herder/Association Press, 1966; *Vatican II: The Conciliar and Post-Conciliar Documents*, 2 vols., edited by Augustine Flannery. Collegeville, Minn.: The Liturgical Press, 1975, 1982. Available at: [http://www.catholicprimer.org/papal/dei\\_verbum.pdf](http://www.catholicprimer.org/papal/dei_verbum.pdf)
- Nichols, Aidan. “What Theology Is.” *New Blackfriars* 69, 819 (1988): 383-392. <http://www.christendom-awake.org/pages/anichols/theology.htm>. This version: 18 July 2009.
- O’Collins, Gerald. “Vatican II and Fundamental Theology.” *Irish Theological Quarterly* 74, 4 (2009): 379-388. The online version of this article can be found at: <http://itq.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/74/4/379>

Gounelle, André. "Tillich: A Vision of Protestantism for Today." In *Spirit and Community: The Legacy of Paul Tillich*, edited by Frederick J. Parrella (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1995): 158–166. (Appendix A, course reading packet.)

Parrella, Frederick J. *Fundamental Theology Notes*. Unpublished, Santa Clara University, 2006–2010. (These notes are not a complete fundamental theology by any means but may be of some help to you in certain parts of the class.)

## PAPERS

Two papers are required for the course. Please follow the instructions in the *Writing Guides* in the course reading packet carefully. Remember each paper must have: (1) a title page; (2) page numbers.

For the papers, the form to be used is the University of Chicago method, found in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994). This approach has been made popular in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. This small book, first published in 1937, contains all the information on the mechanics of a term paper: capitalization, footnotes or endnotes, spelling, punctuation, bibliographies, typing, etc. Also recommended for style and good writing is William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., New York: Macmillan, 1979. This classic work, first published in 1935, contains chapters on elementary rules of word usage, principles of composition, formation of style, matters of form, and words and expressions commonly misused in writing.

### PAPER ONE

"A Theological Reflection on..."

Choose any topic from the readings of the first five weeks, and discuss the topic in two steps: first, present what the texts say about the topic; second, apply the texts to your experience of God in the world, especially in your ministry or intended ministry.

- The paper should be a *minimum* of **seven (7)** pages of text, not counting notes, though more is always acceptable.
- Some ideas or questions: (1) What is the nature of theology? (2) What is Dermot Lane's approach to God? (3) What is Paul Tillich's approach to God? What do they have in common? (4) How can we make God more relevant to those in the culture who have rejected the idea of God or who cling to an idolatrous notion of the divine? (5) How can we understand revelation today? How is revelation both unique and universal at the same time?

These are not discrete topics, merely suggestions. More will be discussed in class.

- Due: Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> week

### PAPER TWO

"A Theological Reflection on..."

Choose any topic from the readings of the ten weeks of the course, and discuss the topic in two steps: first, present what the texts say about the topic; second, apply the text to your experience of God, the concept of revelation, the mystery of faith, the belief system, et al. and to your ministry or intended ministry.

- The paper should be a *minimum* of **ten (10)** pages of text, though more is always acceptable.
- Some ideas or questions: (1) What is faith? How is faith often distorted today? (2) What are beliefs and how are faith and beliefs related? (3) What are symbols and myths and how do they

form the essence of the belief system? (4) How can one “break the myth” in order to both keep faith alive yet make it intelligible to today’s world? (5) What does it mean to call God Trinity? (6) How is this God of love revealed in the Cross of Jesus of Nazareth? Again, these are not discrete topics, merely suggestions. (7) How does *Dei Verbum* fundamentally change the Catholic view of Revelation? (8) How does O’Collins explain and “retrieve” fundamental theology? (9) What are the fundamental differences between Protestantism and Catholicism as expressions of the Christian faith? (10) Compare O’Collins, Nichols, and Gounelle.

- Please consult with me in person, by phone, or by e-mail about your topic for this final paper. Each student will present an overview of his or her paper in the final (10<sup>th</sup>) week of the course.

- Due: No later than Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> week

### **ATTENDANCE**

A student is expected to attend all classes and the material covered and announcements are the student’s responsibility. Reasons exist why a student *cannot* or *does* not attend class. Failure to attend class means that the student will be unfamiliar with the assigned reading material as well as ideas presented and discussed in class for the required papers. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to keep up to date with the course. You can call me seven days a week with any questions you have; if you are ill or cannot attend class on a particular evening, you can inform me beforehand

### **PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

- Please make every effort to arrive at class on time. Many of you are working and/or have family responsibilities, but your timely arrival is appreciated.
- Please be sure your cell phone is turned off. You would not want your phone to ring in class. And for the texting generation, don’t even think about it!

*Thank you.*

### **GRADING POLICY AND CLASS STYLE**

- Grades will be based on the two papers required for the course. They will be evaluated on the basis of students’ ability: **(1)** to reveal to the reader their command of the assigned readings in both depth and breadth; **(2)** to develop a clear argument of the student’s choosing, based upon the required readings and supplementary bibliography, and to develop this argument in a coherent, scholarly, and creative fashion.
- Since this is a course in a pastoral ministries program, the papers may and should involve some pastoral applications.
- References to the texts—either citations or direct quotations—are essential to a successful grade.
- Class discussion and questions are important. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and ask questions or offer comments on them.
- Each paper will count 45% of the final grade; class participation, discussion, and insightful questions will count for 10%.
- The grade of Incomplete will be given out only under special and unusual circumstances. Please make every effort to complete your work in a timely manner.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Santa Clara University insists on honesty and integrity from all members of its community. The standards of the University preclude any form of cheating, plagiarism, forgery of signatures, and falsification of data. A student who commits any offense against academic honesty and integrity may receive a failing grade without a possibility of withdrawal. An offense may also dictate suspension or dismissal from the University.

Cheating can take many forms. The most common form of cheating is plagiarism. Note carefully: *whenever you use the precise words or even the ideas of another, you must give a complete reference* (author, title, city, publisher, date, page number) *to your source text either in a footnote or endnote.* You may also *not* plagiarize another student's ideas or words.

At the same time, it is perfectly legitimate, even desirable, for students to talk over their topics, exchange ideas, and edit each other's papers. This is an important part of the process of learning: sharing your creative ideas with your peers. This presumes that all students collaborating with others both give and receive from such fruitful collaboration.

## DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in the Drahnann Center in Benson, room 214, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources before receiving accommodations.

## SCHEDULE

Please follow the schedule as closely as you are able.

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| 1 <sup>st</sup> week: | Introduction. The reading, "Fundamental Theology Notes" should be read along with the other assigned readings of the course.<br>Tillich, <i>Dynamics of Faith</i> , chapter 1 and 2. |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> week  | Tillich, <i>Dynamics of Faith</i> , chapter 1 and 2.<br>Dermot Lane, <i>The Experience of God</i> , Introduction and chapter 1.  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> week  | Tillich, <i>Dynamics of Faith</i> , chapter 2 and 3.<br>Lane, <i>The Experience of God</i> , chapters 1 and 2.   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> week  | Lane, <i>The Experience of God</i> , chapter 2.<br>Tillich, <i>Dynamics of Faith</i> , chapter 3 and 4.  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> week  | Lane, <i>The Experience of God</i> , chapter 3.<br>Discussion of first papers.   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> week  | Tillich, <i>Dynamics of Faith</i> , chapter 3 and 4.<br>Paper due  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> week  | Tillich, <i>Dynamics of Faith</i> , chapter 5 and 6.<br>Parrella, "The Trinity"  |

8 <sup>th</sup> week	Lane, "The Cross of Christ..."; O'Collins, art.; <i>Dei Verbum</i>
9 <sup>th</sup> week	O'Collins, art.; <i>Dei Verbum</i> ; Gounelle article.
10 <sup>th</sup> week	O'Collins, art.; <i>Dei Verbum</i> ; Nichols, art. Discussion of final papers.
11 <sup>th</sup> week	Final paper due at class dinner.

### CONSULTATION

My office is in Kenna Suite 300, Room H. If you wish to consult with me at any time about your papers or any other issue related to the course or your career plans, please make an appointment after class or by telephone for a mutually convenient time. *I will always be available before your class, and many times after class, if this time is the only time convenient for you.* You may call me at home on any day of the week with questions you may have. Often brief questions can be discussed over the phone in order to save time for both of us.

Remember a quarter goes very quickly and it is up to you to keep up with the assignments. If you call or email me, be certain to leave a telephone number where you can be reached. Telephone usually is preferred over email because questions and ideas can be exchanged immediately. Use email or texting for very short, factual questions. Thank you.

**One word of advice:** *relax and be good to yourself while you study. I want to help you learn how to do theology and I will try to do so at every step of the way.*

You may contact me this way:

Office phone: 408.554.4714  
 Religious Studies Dept.: 554.4547 (Victoria Gonzalez)  
 Pastoral Ministries Program: 554.4831 (Saralynn Ferrara)  
 Home phone: 408.259.8225  
 Cell phone: 408.674.3108  
 Email: [fparrella@scu.edu](mailto:fparrella@scu.edu)  
 Carrier pigeon or smoke signals: TBA

*"When I shall be dead, tell the kingdom of the earth that I have loved it much  
 more than I ever dared to say."*