

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Fall 2018

Monday

6:00 – 8:30 pm

BS/ST770 The Triune God of Scripture

PR = BS621, BS622, and ST601 or permission of instructor.

Dr. Brent Laytham

Course Description:

From Marcion to the New Atheism, there have been perennial claims that the God found in Scripture is at odds with traditional Christian claims about the Triune God. There are ancient and contemporary complaints that the God of Scripture is disturbingly violent, contradictory, changeable, and patriarchal, and that the triune God of doctrine and creed is not the God revealed in Scripture. In modernity, biblical scholars have made the strongest claims to divergence between divinity in canon and in creed, so that now many exegetes and theologians alike take it for granted that the Christian doctrine of God at best develops biblical revelation, or at worst distorts it. This seminar will read cutting-edge biblical scholarship, ancient patristic texts, and new systematic theology to highlight the multiple convergences between biblical and doctrinal understandings of God's name, nature, identity, and action.

Course Requirements:

- **Active participation:** This course will be run as a seminar; each student will actively contribute to the learning conversation in each session. (20%)
- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 800 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:**
 1. One critical response paper - 1 p. single-spaced. (15%)
 2. One additional reading summary - 1 p. single-spaced. (10%)
 3. Either
 - a) one 15-page research paper on an approved topic or
 - b) two 8 page pastoral responses to rejecters of scriptural trinitarianism (45%)
- **Other:**
 1. Weekly question arising from course reading (part of participation grade)
 2. Oral presentation of writing #2 (5%)
 3. Oral presentation of writing #3 (5%)

Required Texts – Reading 50% or more of the following:

Stephen Bullivant, *The Trinity: How Not to Be a Heretic* (Paulist, 2015). 978-0809149339 *read all*

R.W.L. Moberly, *Old Testament Theology: Reading the Hebrew Bible as Christian Scripture* (Baker Academic, 2013). 978-0801097720 *read chapters 1, 2, 4, 6*

Marianne Meye Thompson, *The God of the Gospel of John* (Eerdmans, 2001). 978-0802847348 *read nearly the entire book*

Wesley Hill, *Paul and the Trinity: Persons, Relations, and the Pauline Letters* (Eerdmans, 2015). 978-0802869647 *read all*

Gilles Emery, OP, *The Trinity: An Introduction to Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God* (Catholic University of America Press, 2011) 978-0813218649 *reading at least half of the book*

Available electronically:

Excerpts from Augustine, Athanasius, Basil, Nyssa, etc.

Chapters 1 and 2 from Gary Anderson, *Christian Doctrine and the Old Testament: Theology in the Service of Biblical Exegesis* (Baker, 2017)

Key articles by exegetes and theologians, including Soulen, Rowe, Seitz, Brueggemann, Holmes, etc.