

## **TMST7045 GRACE**

Wednesday, 10:00—12:00, Fall 2021

Simboli Hall, 9 Lake St, 110

Instructor: Dominic Doyle

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Office Hours: by appointment

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

#### ***Overview***

This course examines the various ways in which Christian theologians have described and conceptualized the experience of grace. It does so through a historical survey of major figures and controversies. Themes to be explored include: sin, forgiveness, and healing; sanctification; divine initiative and human freedom; the relationship between nature and grace; and the social dimensions of grace.

#### ***Schedule of Topics***

1. Introduction – Old Testament
2. Paul
3. Augustine and conversion
4. Augustine and Pelagius on grace and freedom
5. Aquinas on God, sin, and the essence of grace
6. Aquinas on the kinds and effects of grace
7. Luther
8. Trent
9. John of the Cross and Ignatius of Loyola
10. Rahner on nature and sin
11. Rahner on grace
12. Bonhoeffer on the cost of grace
13. Lonergan on grace, evolution, and history
14. Liberationist and feminist perspectives

#### ***Outcomes***

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Provide an overview of the key themes in the doctrine of grace
- Explain some of the major controversies in the history of grace in Christian theology
- Demonstrate an awareness of modern and contemporary developments

#### ***Requirements***

- (1) Active participation in class discussion (20% of grade).
- (2) One analysis papers (4–5 pages), due Oct 20 at 5:00 PM (30% of grade).

(3) Final take-home exam (9–12 pages), due Dec 13 at 5:00 PM (50% of grade).  
All written work must be 12 point font, double-spaced, one inch margins on all sides, and submitted anonymously to the course website (Canvas) under “Assignments.”

### **COURSE BOOKS AND ARTICLES**

The following books can be purchased at the Boston College bookstore. They are also on reserve at the School of Theology and Ministry library.

- \* J. Patout Burns, ed., *Theological Anthropology* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981).
- \* Thomas Aquinas, *Aquinas on Nature and Grace*, ed. A. M. Fairweather (London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006).
- \* Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003).

All other readings assignments are posted as PDFs on the course web-site on the home page/syllabus.

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE OF READING ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Sep 1</b>	<b>Introduction: Old Testament</b>	<b>Week 1</b>
<b>Sep 8</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Week 2</b>
<b>Sep 15</b>	<b>Augustine on conversion</b> Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett, 1993): 3-13 (Book I, chs. 1-12); 23-31 (Bk. II, all); 54-59 (Bk. IV, 4-10); 123-125 (Bk. VII, 20-21); 129-147 (Bk. VIII, all); 173-180 & 186-193 (Bk X, 1-8; 17-29).	<b>Week 3</b>
<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>Augustine and Pelagius on grace and freedom</b> Pelagius, “Letter to Demetrias,” in Burns, 39–55. The Canons of the Council of Carthage, in Burns, 57–60. Augustine, <i>On the Grace of Christ</i> , in Burns, 61–96. Augustine, <i>On Original Sin</i> in <i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i> , vol. 5, ed. Philip Schaff (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1956), 252–55. Augustine, <i>On Grace and Free Will</i> in <i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i> , 457–60. Augustine, <i>On Rebuke and Grace</i> , in Burns, 96–108. Synod of Orange, in Burns, 109–128.	<b>Week 4</b>
<b>Sep 29</b>	<b>Aquinas on God, sin, and the essence of grace</b> Thomas Aquinas, selected prologues in <i>Summa theologiae</i> .	<b>Week 5</b>

Aquinas, *Aquinas on Nature and Grace*, ed. A. M. Fairweather (London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), 53–56 (I, question 2, article 3); 56–77 (I, qq. 3–4 & q. 12, art. 12); 119–164 (I-II, qq. 82, 85 & 109–110).

Optional Reading:

Brian Shanley, “Divine causation and human freedom in Aquinas,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 72 (1998): 99–122.

**Oct 6                      Aquinas on the kinds and effects of grace                      Week 6**

Aquinas, *Aquinas on Nature and Grace*, ed. Fairweather, 164–218 (I-II. 111–114).

Aquinas on the theological virtues, in *Summa theologiae*, I-II.62.

Optional Reading:

Joseph Wawrykow, *The Westminster Handbook to Thomas Aquinas* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005), 63–69.

**Oct 13                      Luther                      Week 7**

Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003), 1–74.

**Oct 20                      Trent                      Week 8**

\*Analysis paper due

Council of Trent, “Decree on Original Sin” and “Decree on Justification” in ed. Jacques Dupuis, *The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church* (New York: Alba House, 2001), 201–204, 806–823.

**Oct 27                      John of the Cross and Ignatius of Loyola                      Week 9**

John of the Cross, *The Living Flame of Love* in *The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross* (Washington, D.C.: ICS Publications, 1991), 633–715.

Ignatius of Loyola, “Contemplation for Attaining Love” in *Saint Ignatius of Loyola: Personal Writings* (London: Penguin, 1996), 329–30.

Michael Buckley, “Humanism and Jesuit Theology”, in *The Catholic University as Promise and Project: Reflections in a Jesuit Idiom* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press), 74–89.

Michael Buckley, “Reflections,” in *The Jesuits: Cultures, Sciences, and the Arts, 1540-1773* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999), 713–716.

**Nov 3                      Rahner on nature and sin                      Week 10**

Karl Rahner, *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity* (New York: Crossroad, 1995), 1–115.

Optional Reading:

John O'Donnell, “The Mystery of Faith in the Theology of Karl Rahner” *Heythrop Journal*, 25 (1984), 301–318.

**Nov 10                      Rahner on grace                      Week 11**

Rahner, “Reflections on the Experience of Grace” *Theological Investigations* 3, 86–90.

Rahner, "Nature and Grace" *Theological Investigations* 4, 165–188.  
Rahner, "Experience of the HS" *Theological Investigations* 18, 189–210.  
Rahner, "On the Theology of Worship" *Theological Investigations* 19, 141–49.

**Nov 17                      Bonhoeffer on the cost of grace                      Week 12**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York: Macmillan, 1959), 11–114.

**Nov 24                      Thanksgiving recess – no class**

**Dec 1                      Lonergan on grace, evolution and history                      Week 13**

Cynthia Crysdale and Neil Ormerod, *Creator God, Evolving World* (Minneapolis, Fortress, 2013), 57-102.

Joseph Komonchak, *Foundations in Ecclesiology* (Boston College, MA: Lonergan Workshop, 1995), 167-89.

**Dec 8                      Liberationist and feminist perspectives                      Week 14**

Archbishop Oscar Romero "The Political Dimension of the Faith from the Perspective of the Option of the Poor" and "Last homily" in *Liberation Theology: A Documentary History*, ed. Alfred Hennelly (Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1990), 292–306.

Jon Sobrino, "Five Hundred Years: Structural Sin and Structural Grace," *The Principle of Mercy: Taking the Crucified People from the Cross* (New York: Orbis, 1994) 69–82.

Joy Ann McDougall, "Closed Eyes and Blocked Vision: Gendering Tanner's Theology of Sin and Grace" in *The Gift of Theology: The Contribution of Kathryn Tanner* ed. Rosemary Carbine and Hilda Koster (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2015), 235-55.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTICES**

Teaching through Disruption:

Should adverse circumstances prevent a class session from meeting, we will endeavor to cover the material from that week by either rescheduling the class or using a variety of online tools, such as Panopto video recordings of instructor lecture (available on Canvas), online discussion, etc.

For Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with the [Connors Family Learning Center](#) (learning disabilities and ADHD) or the [Disability Services Office](#) (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

Academic Integrity Policy:

*Plagiarism* is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one's own. Penalties at Boston College range from a grade penalty to dismissal from the University. To avoid plagiarism, any use of another's words or ideas must be fully cited. If in the original wording, quotation marks or blocked, indented quotations must be used. For more information regarding plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, please consult the STM website at <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/acadprog/acadpol.html>

The STM Writing Companions Corner (WCC) offers students one-on-one help with writing research papers, exegeses, reflection papers, and other assignments frequently given by STM faculty. Please watch *STM News* for more information on signing up for an appointment in the WCC.

Bias neutral and Inclusive Language:

Language is not fixed or static, but is constantly evolving and changing as society's attitudes and practices change. Be aware of the development of new forms of expression that endeavor to describe persons in non-discriminatory ways that are appropriate, respectful and just. In accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style and generally accepted contemporary canons of scholarship, the expectation is to use bias neutral language in academic writing. In addition to gender inclusive language, conscientious effort should be made to use appropriate language with reference to race, ethnicity, disability, age, religion, social status, etc.

Attendance and Grading Policy:

<http://www.bc.edu/schools/stm/acadprog/acadpol.html>