Theology 325: Twentieth Century Theology  
Dordt College/Gereformeerde Hogeschool

Drs. P. Th. Bareman

Class meets at H101 in the GH look at the schedule

Course description

“This course will survey several important theologians and theological trends from the 20th century, including liberation theology and other significant schools of thought as well.”

Course Objectives

1. The student will examine major themes, trends, and figures in theology from the twentieth century against its historical background, and thereby current issues in the broader field of theology.

2. The student will understand an extensive view of Christian faith by comparing Reformed theology with non-Reformed and non-evangelical theologies.

3. The student will acquire critical understanding of modern religious culture by asking questions of worldview and perspective reflected in a particular author and theology.

Textbooks

Compulsory

Articles

1. A. Rasmusson, Church and Nation-State: Karl Barth and German public theology in the Early 20th Century.


You can use further, but not compulsory:


**Methods of Instruction**

Class lectures and discussion; reading and writing assignments; class presentations

**Course Requirements**

1. **Attendance and participation in class (10%)**
   Professor reserves the right to adjust the final grade slightly up or down, depending on students’ class attendance, preparation, and participation. Consult the Theology Department’s Learning Covenant.

2. **Reflection Journals (30%)**
   Student will submit 15 reflection journals (no more than 2 pages, single-spaced) out of 18 selected topics. The purpose of this journal is to summarize the central ideas and to reflect them in our society and personal lives. Journals are due at the beginning of the class and those turned in late will be given a reduced score by 3 points.

   The journals will be graded on a 10-point scale as follows:
   - 10 points  Good summary, superb insight, clearly communicated.
7 points  Touches the main issues, shows understanding.
5 points  Attempts the assignment; partially done or misses the point.
2 points  Journal showing no evidence of reading
0 points  Rushed journal handed in late

Have a look below for some ideas on how to write your journal.

3. **Group Presentation (10%)**
   Each group of two students will select one theologian/theological trend by the third class period. Each group will make an in-depth study of the theologian/theological trend and deliver presentation on the given date. The purpose of this presentation is to better understand the given theologian and theological trend, improve skills of communication, and lead the class discussion. The presentation will be made at the beginning of the class and followed by discussion.

   Some tips for presentation: highlight the main concepts/doctrines/emphases and be creative in styles of presentation.

   Each presentation will prepare an outline as follows:
   (1) A brief (1-page) biographical sketch of a major theologian. You may check with electronic database or other books.
   (2) An in-depth review (2-3 pages) of a major theological work. This review should include student’s critical understanding and evaluation of the work.

4. **Term Paper (20%)**
   Each student will write a 8-10 page term paper on a theologian/theological trend. The purpose of this assignment is to help student to scholarly engage in the theological subjects. Careful reading, critical examination, and clear writing are the keys for a good paper.
   You can use the website: www.findarticles.com or http://theologytoday.ptsem.edu

5. **Two tests and Final (10% each)**
   See the course calendar. Details will be given in class.
6. Grading

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Reflection journal

In this paper, you are to reflect on what you have learned during the lessons Contemporary theology. Every week has two lessons Contemporary theology. After each week, you have to hand in, on an individual basis a reflection concerning these lessons and your contribution/participation.

In this reflection, you are obliged to write on several levels of reflection.

1. What was the content of the lessons? Write briefly what it was all about: which subjects did we discuss, the point of views, the ideas and so on.

2. What was your knowledge before these lessons about this subject? And moreover: write about your opinion before you heard about this.
3. Did these lessons (the content of course) change your opinions or confirm your opinions?

4. Did these lessons mean something for your own beliefs and what? What is the key word when dealing with your own opinions?
### Course Calendar
#### Twentieth Century Theology/Spring 2010

**First period**
During this period you have to read and study the following articles:
A. Rasmusson, Church and Nation-State: Karl Barth and German public theology in the Early 20th Century.

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<td>8.30 – 10.00</td>
<td>Cont. theo. Reconstruction of transcendence</td>
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<td>Cont. theo. Neo-orthodoxy</td>
<td>G/O 63-77 J1</td>
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<td>Cont. theo. Brunner – Bultmann</td>
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**Second period**
During this period you have to read and study 2 articles:

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<td>Cont. theo. Bonhoeffer</td>
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<td>16 Feb.</td>
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<td>Cont. theo. Bonhoeffer</td>
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<td>Cont. theo. Theology of hope/Moltmann</td>
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<td>Cont. theo. Theology of hope/Moltmann</td>
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<td>7 March</td>
<td>8.30 – 10.00</td>
<td>Cont. theo. Repeat + <strong>group presentation 2</strong></td>
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<td>8.30 – 10.00</td>
<td><strong>Test 2</strong></td>
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**10 March Excursion to Leiden**
Third period
During this period you have to read 3 articles

Working on your term paper
14 March 8.30 – 10.00 Pannenberg G/O 186-199
17 March 8.30 – 10.00 idem
21 March 8.30 - 10.00 group presentation 3 + preparation final paper J5
24 March 8.30 – 10.00 Liberation Theologies G/O 200 – 224
Watching movie: the boksman – Oscar Romero
28 March 8.30 – 10.00 idem + final paper
Movie Oscar Romero
31 March 8.30 – 10.00 Narrative theology G/O271 – 285 J6
4 April 8.30 - 10.00 Narrative Theology + final paper
7 April 8.30 - 10.00 Questions + articles
18April 8.30 - 10.00 Questions + articles
21 April 8.30 - 10.00 hand over final paper
28 April Final test