

## SYLLABUS - REL 3600: 20th-Century Theologians

Catawba College, Spring 2013

Dr. Barry R. Sang

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### Course Description

The past century saw the living, writing, and dying of some of the greatest minds in Christian theology. These are men and women who have articulated formal visions of the faith which challenge the Christian world to live and see differently. Theology, as the rational engagement of faith and life, calls Christians to reflect seriously on the nature of a living religion.

This course is a study of the major movements within 20th-century Christian theology. The student need not be Christian to appreciate and learn from the theologians we will study, but the student must be willing to read, think, evaluate, and participate in group discussions before that learning may take place.

<b>Expected Learning Outcomes Each Student Should Be Able to:</b>	<b>Means of Assessing Those Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate orally and in writing an introductory knowledge of the major theological movements within 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Christianity.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class Participation</li><li>• (4) Analytical Papers</li><li>• Final Examination (cumulative)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrated orally and in writing the ability to analyze and evaluate the basic tenets of each of those movements.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class Participation</li><li>• (4) Analytical Papers</li><li>• Final Examination (cumulative)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate the ability to lead and participate in group oral discussions of substantive human thought.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class Participation</li><li>• Leadership of 2-3 theologian discussions</li></ul>

**Textbooks** Each of the following are required for this course:

Musser, Donald W., and Price, Joseph L., eds. *A New Handbook of Christian Theologians*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996. 0-687-27803-1. (Note: This book is out of print, but used copies can be obtained through Amazon.com for as little as \$4.)

Hennelly, *Liberation Theology: A Documentary History*. Publisher: Orbis Books (1990) ISBN-10: 088344593X ISBN-13: 978-0883445938. Available through Amazon.com: approx.. \$29

Other assignments will be distributed.

### Attendance Policy

Attendance will be checked promptly each day at the beginning of class. Tardiness should be a rare exception; if it persists, each late arrival will be counted as an absence. If you are late for class you **MUST** see me after class to insure that I mark you present; otherwise you will be marked absent. Three absences are allowed during the semester, whether "justified" or not.

**Each absence beyond the three permitted will result in a two-point reduction in your final grade for the course. Any student missing more than one fourth of the sessions will automatically be given an F or an I for the course, depending on the circumstances. Papers turned in late without a justifiable and verifiable excuse will be penalized 10 points for each week day they are late. If you miss class on a day you are responsible for leading discussion, you will earn a zero unless you provide me with a justifiable and verifiable excuse and it had better be good!**

The bottom line is this: this is a seminar class which requires the participation of all of its members to work. When you are absent the whole class suffers. Please try to be present as often as you can.

### **Summary of Grade Distribution**

Class Participation:	30%
	(15% discussion leadership; 15% participation)
Analytical Papers (4):	55%
Final Examination:	15%

### **Grading Scale:**

100-92:	A	Clearly superior college-level performance
91-90:	A-	
89-87:	B+	
86-83:	B	Good college-level performance
82-80:	B-	
79-77:	C+	
76-73:	C	Acceptable college-level performance
72-70:	C-	
69-67:	D+	
66-63:	D	Minimally-acceptable college-level performance
62-60:	D-	
≤ 59:	F	Failure to achieve college-level performance

### **Class Participation**

The majority of class discussions will be led by the student members. Discussion facilitation will be shared as equitably as possible and will be graded according to the criteria indicated on the sample evaluation form attached to this syllabus. Please notice that you are to lead discussion. This means that, except for summary information given throughout your session, you are not to lecture. Your basic job is to do whatever you can to help us wrestle with the theology of the person we are discussing that day.

### **Analytical Papers**

In the course of the semester we will be examining the five major theological trajectories in the 20th century. For **FOUR** of these theologies you must write a 6-7 page (typed, standard fonts) paper in which you must do the following:

1. Carefully describe the fundamental elements of the theology or the basics of the theologian's beliefs;
2. Carefully explain where you see the strengths and weaknesses in this theology/theologian.
3. Explain whether this theology/theologian has contributed in any way to your own theology. If not, explain why you've rejected its basic principles.
4. Provide a properly-formatted works cited page.

I would encourage you to explore different resources for knowledge of the theologies/theologians you choose. In any case, **you must responsibly document your sources, using the MLA or APA format, but not both at once. Online sources should include only reputable educational institutions. Please see me should you have any questions about format or sources.**

Consult the "Paper Policy" indicated below. *The papers are due exactly one week after we have finished discussing that theology. The only exception to this rule is the last theology, the paper for which is due no later than Tuesday, April 30, 2013.*

### Paper Policy

The papers submitted in this course are expected to reflect those qualities epitomized by a liberal arts education. *Your grade will be directly affected by grammar, syntax and spelling. After determining your paper's grade, I will deduct 2 points for each grammatical error, and 1 point for each spelling and punctuation error. The greatest total penalty, however, will only be 10 points (i.e., one letter grade).* The simplest way to avoid such penalties is to have a reliable friend proof-read your paper before submitting it for a grade. For further information on plagiarism and the Honor Code consult the appropriate pages in the *Catawba College Catalog*. However, the following list of "thou shalt nots" should prove to be generally useful:

### Some of the Most Common Types of Plagiarism

1. Failing to identify direct or word-for-word quotations by use of appropriate symbols and reference to the source.
2. Restating in your own words the work (ideas, conclusions, words) of another without reference to the source.
3. Presenting as your own the creative work (for instance, music or photographs or, of course, written work) of another without proper acknowledgment.

**Rule of thumb: When in doubt, document.**

### Special Instructions for Submitting Papers

It is a requirement of this course that you submit your papers to me via *Blackboard*. You must follow the following instructions carefully:

- ◆ Compose your paper in **WORD (not in WORKS)**.
- ◆ The paper must be titled and must conform to all of the paper requirements stated above. **At the top of the first page you must type your name and your email address. If either is not there, I will deduct five points from your paper's grade.**

- ◆ Save the paper in WORD, noting where you saved it. (Of course, always back up your paper to a thumb drive or some similar, secure storage device.)
- ◆ Log in to Blackboard
- ◆ Go to this course and click on the *Assignments* link.
- ◆ Find the assignment for which your paper has been written, and click on the hyper-link for that assignment.
- ◆ To attach your file, use this sequence of commands:
  - ◆ Browse; Choose File, Open, Submit (don't forget this one)
- ◆ You will receive a day and time receipt window for your submission. You **MUST** copy and print that window and save it. If there is some question about your paper being submitted on time, this is the only proof you will have that you did so.
- ◆ My remarks will be found in colored print, embedded within your text, as well as in marginal "bubbles." Your grade will be found at the very end of your paper where I have typed and/or highlighted your name.

### The Writing Center

The Catawba College Writing Center provides free, one-on-one consultations to all Catawba students. Our tutors have been intensely trained, and while they won't rewrite students' papers for them, they will give students feedback and encouragement at all stages of the writing process (brainstorming, drafting, revising, polishing). Students who use the writing center should be prepared to discuss the assignment they are working on and to begin making revisions, with the tutor's guidance, during the session. **All** students are encouraged to use the Writing Center which is open afternoons (in ADMN 211) and evenings (in the Library, Study Room #5). Walk-ins are welcome, but we honor appointments first. For more information or to make an appointment, call 704-645-4819 or stop by ADMN 211.

### TOPICS AND PREPARATIONS

I. Introduction and Formulation of Working Questions (1st two classes)

II. Introduction to Neo-Orthodoxy: Context and Characters

**Preparation:** Braaten & Jensen, "The Crisis in Theology," pp. 15-18 (handout).

III. A Sampling of Neo-Protestant and Neo-Orthodox Theology

A. Walter Rauschenbusch

**Preparation:** "Neo-Protestantism in America," pp. 352-3, 356-361 (hand-out)

B. Karl Barth

**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 49-59

C. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 85-98

D. Paul Tillich

**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 449-459

IV. Introduction to Process Theology: Context and Characters [Sang]

**Preparation:** Sang, "Some Process Theology Vocabulary" (hand-out);

- V. A Sampling of Process Theology [Sang]
- A. Alfred North Whitehead and Charles Hartshorne  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 200-213; Braaten & Jensen, "Whitehead," pp. 340-351 (hand-out)
- B. John Cobb, Jr.  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 106-117
- VI. Introduction to Liberation Theology: Context and Characters [Sang]  
**Preparation:** Hennelly, pp. xiii-xxvi ; 1-3
- VII. A Sampling of Liberation Theology
- A. Gustavo Gutierrez, "Toward a Theology of Liberation"  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 189-199; Hennelly, pp. 62-76.
- B. Paulo Freire, "Conscientizing as a Way of Liberating."  
**Preparation:** Hennelly, pp. 5-13
- C. Juan Luis Segundo, "The Future of Christianity in Latin America"  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 419-426; Hennelly, pp. 29-37
- D. Leonardo Boff, "Toward a Christology of Liberation;" "Second General Conference of Latin American Bishops (Medellin)"  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 74-84; Hennelly, pp. 89-105; 159-162
- E. Oscar Romero, "The Political Dimension of the Faith From the Perspective of the Option for the Poor;" "Last Homily."  
**Preparation:** Hennelly, pp. 292-306
- F. Jon Sobrino  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 427-433 ; Hennelly, pp. 314-317
- VIII. Introduction to Black Theology: Context and Characters [Sang]  
**Preparation:** From Cone and Wilmore, *Black Theology, vol 1: "Introduction," "Black Power," "The Black Manifesto," "Black Theology,"* pp. 15-39 (handout)
- IX. A Sampling of Black Theology
- A. James H. Cone  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 118-126; "The Gospel of Jesus, Black People, and Black Power" (from *Black Theology and Black Power*, pp. 31-61) (handout)
- B. Cornell West  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 505-512
- X. Introduction to Feminist Theology: Context and Characters [Sang]  
**Preparation:** *Rising*, pp. 1-17 (handout)
- XI. A Sampling of Feminist and Black Womanist Theology
- A. Mary Daly  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 127-134; *Rising*, pp. 53-62; 210-218 (handouts)

- B. Rosemary Radford Ruether  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 399-410; *Rising*, pp. 43-52 (handouts).
- C. Sallie McFague  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 278-286; "An Epilogue: A Christian Paradigm" (handouts).
- D. Black Womanist Theology  
**Preparation:** Musser, pp. 513-519; Delores Williams, "Womanist Theology: Black Women's Voices," in *Black Theology, vol 2*, pp. 265-272; Jacquelyn Grant, "Womanist Theology: Black Women's Experience as a Source for Doing Theology, with Special Reference to Christology," in *Black Theology, vol 2*, pp. 273-289 (handouts).
- E. Overview: Rita M. Gross  
**Preparation:** "What Went Wrong? Feminism and Freedom from the Prison of Gender Roles" (handout).

XII. Summary Observations

XIII. Evaluations

**FINAL EXAMINATION: THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013 11:30 am – 2:30 pm**

# Discussion Facilitation Evaluation

last revised March 2010

*(All grading is on a 4-point scale)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Sem/Yr: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

1) **Knowledge:** Facilitator's level of understanding of material and resources is enough to prompt class with meaningful discussion questions. (30%)

Comments:

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) **Structure:** Ensures discussion proceeds on topic in organized fashion (20%)

Comments:

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

3) **Participation:** Encourages and values everyone's contribution (40%)

Comments:

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

4) **Time:** Manages time well (10%)

Comments:

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_