

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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**TITLE:** Mystery of the Trinity

**TERM:** F **YEAR:** 20119 [September to November 2011]  
- 4 Saturday Classes - Dates: Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Oct 29, Nov. 19.

**PROFESSOR:** Deacon Peter Gittens

**REGISTRATION:** UNLIMITED

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course considers basic themes in the theology of the Holy Trinity from a biblical, historical and systematic viewpoint and addresses selected contemporary questions about the mystery of the tri-personal God.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

The student will:

- Identify and become familiar with foundational principles and sources of Trinitarian theology
- Learn how to interpret Trinitarian questions according to the mind of the Church by exposure to first rate practitioners of the Tradition.
- Develop an appropriate Trinitarian vocabulary.
- Recognize the relevance of these principles and themes, not only for the broader enterprise of theology, but for contemporary living.
- Grow in historical knowledge of the context in which these foundational Trinitarian principles and central themes have come under scrutiny and reappeared in different guises.
- Appreciate the insight that to be a Christian is to believe in, experience, and worship God in a Trinitarian way.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Gerald O'Collins, S.J., *The Tripersonal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*, New York: Paulist Press, 1999.

## **POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

A choice of a Book Report, or a Researched Paper on a Trinitarian Topic, (25%)

Mid-term test (study topics provided in advance - 20%)

Class Presentation of Book Report/Researched Paper (5%)

Participation Mark 10%

Final exam (study topics provided in advance) 40%

**(Criteria for evaluation are found in the TST BD handbook)**

## **ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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Congar, Yves. *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*. 3 vols. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1983.

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Del Colle, R. *Christ and the Spirit*. New York: Oxford UP, 1994.

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---- *Trinity, Church, and The Human Person*. Ypsilanti, MI: Sapientia Press, 2007.

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- Kelly, Antony. *The Trinity of Love*. Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, 1989.
- Kimel, Alvin F. Jr. (ed.). *Speaking the Trinity. The Holy Trinity and the Challenge of Feminism*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans and Leominster, England: Gracewing, 1992.
- LaCugna, C.M., *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.
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- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Tripersonal God. Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1999.
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Zscheile, Dwight J. "The Trinity, Leadership, and Power," *Journal of Religious Leadership*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2007.