

# **Dogmatic Theology**

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# Page 1: Dogmatic Theology

Sacred Heart Theological Seminary

Module Two- Dogmatic Theology

**Contents:** A study of entire theoretical doctrine concerning God Himself and His external activity, based on the dogmas of the Church.

## **Overview:**

Accepting and maintaining our religious doctrines cannot be taken lightly. The theology we accepted has been recognized formally over time and has been authoritatively affirmed by the leadership and follows of our denomination. To be able to defend our doctrines and belief system students should have relevant information about their belief system in order to stand firm in their respective Churches. It is also important to remain a growing Church that admits new evidence to enhance our spiritual experience of Truth, for Truth is God and God is Truth.

## **Goal:**

To raise the student's awareness on the need and methods use to defend the doctrines of God's existence and His revelations.

## **Learning Objectives:**

1. Discuss the three main periods in the history of dogmatic theology.
2. Formulate and communicate the doctrine that is considered essential to Christianity.
3. Discuss the importance of accepting the theoretical truth of faith concerning God and His work and how it relates to the official theology recognized by your Church teachings.
4. Defend the basic beliefs of doctrine held by your religion to be the authority that is not to be disputed.
5. Interpret the dogmas of your religious denomination.
6. Demonstrate and understanding of theological and religious doctrine questions and traditions
7. Define the main areas of the Holy Trinity; Christology; The Holy Ghost; Mariology; Theological Anthropology; Eschatology and Ecclesiology.
8. Write a discussion paper on assigned issues within dogmatic theology
9. Write a formal paper on a given dogmatic theological question,
10. Complete a weekly writing exercise and pass a comprehensive examination

related to the core learning outcomes.

Instructional learning objectives are intended to emphasize to both the facilitator of instruction and student that learning outcomes are an integral part of the learning design. Effective instruction and testing require a clear conception of the desired learning outcomes.

### **Why study Dogmatic Theology?**

**This course is intended to intensify our belief system primarily base on faith and to enable those within a church body to formulate and communicate the doctrines that is considered essential to Christianity. Additionally, it will emphasize the importance of propositional truth over experiential, sensory perceptions.**

### **Assignments**

Readings for this course will be individually identified within each assignment. The general content of our study will cover the Holy Trinity; Christology; the Holy Spirit; Mariology; Theological Anthropology; Eschatology; and Ecclesiology.

### **Materials:**

Reading materials should not be purchased as they are provided free through the various internet channels listed in this syllabus. You are not required to copy any reading materials unless, of course, if you want to.

### **Schedule:**

Weekly assignment questions will be sent each week to the student by the instructor. Specific directions for Discussion 1 and the formal paper will also be sent to the student.

### **Grading: The following weighting is assigned.**

Weekly assignments 40%

Discussion paper 10%

Paper 20 %

Exam 30%

## Dogmatic Theology

Grades are assigned as follows:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
<60%	F

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## Weekly assignment #1

Read PP 1-3

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogmatic\\_theology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogmatic_theology)

1. Define the term Dogmatic Theology
2. Discuss why is there is some confusion between apologetics or fundamental theology with dogmatic theology?
3. Explain the use of dogmatic theology and following the Protestant Reformation.
4. State one of the purposes of dogmatic theology
5. Discuss the history of the term dogmatic theology
6. Explain why the term dogmatic theology by both Catholics and Protestants

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## Weekly Assignments # 2

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity>

**The Holy Trinity**

**Read PP: 1-25**

1. Explain the doctrine and teaching of the Trinity
2. Discuss the history of the concept of Trinitarianism.
3. Cite the New Testament reference upon which the doctrine of the Trinity is based?
4. Explain who introduced the Christian tradition of the Trinity?
5. Cite the New Testament passages that are the basis for the doctrine of the Trinity.
6. Explain why Christianity is a monotheistic religion
7. Discuss the doctrinal benefit
8. Discuss the ancient Nicene theologians
9. Compare and contrast the principal disagreement between Western and Eastern Christianity on the Trinity.
10. Describe the three human figures representative art of the Trinity used throughout history.

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## Weekly Assignment # 3

### Christology

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christology>

Read PP. 1-16

1. Define what Christology is and the primary considerations include.
2. Explain why Christological questions have important in the life of the Church.
3. Summarize the four councils concerns about disputes over Christology
4. Discuss what the term Docetism means in the readings.
5. Explain what the readings indicate about the divinity of Christ
6. Discuss the groups who argued that Jesus was an ordinary man
7. Compare and contrast the terms hypostases with hypostasis
8. Identify the positions rejected by the Third Council of Constantinople
9. Explain what most Christian believe about the resurrection of Jesus?
10. Discuss the threefold offices of Christ
11. Explain the differences between Christology from above and from below
12. Argue pro and con that the Christian faith is inherently political.



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## Weekly Assignment # 4

### The Holy Spirit

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy\\_Spirit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Spirit)

Read PP: 1-11

1. Discuss the Holy Spirit's specific divine function in the life of the Christian or the Church including how the Holy Spirit is believed to be active in the life of Christ enabling Him to fulfill His works on earth.
2. Identify the various metaphors and symbols that refer to the Holy Spirit
3. Discuss the prevailing view in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Restoration Movement.
4. Explain the emphasis placed on the Holy Spirit by Pentecostalism.
5. Discuss the two categories of the Non-Trinitarian viewpoint
6. List the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit
7. Explain why or why not the gender of the Holy Spirit is significant
8. Discuss the Non-Christian views about the Holy Spirit

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## Weekly Assignment # 5

### Mariology

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariology>

Read PP. 1-5

1. Discuss some of the prevailing views about Mary as the Mother of God.
2. Explain the Protestant view of Mary
3. Discuss the Catholic view of Mary
4. Discuss where Mariology has received the largest amount of formal attention.
5. Explain the document *Lumen Gentius* of the Second Vatican Council
6. Identify the Islamic view of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7. Discuss the importance of the Marianum
8. Explain the Pontifica Academia Mariana Internationale Center
9. What is your opinion on the Mariology dogmas and doctrines should they be doctrine or should they be in the category of popular piety?
10. Express your opinion on the practice of saying the Rosary
11. What is your opinion on the key apparitions of Mary throughout the world
12. Define the term hermeneutics within the field of Church history.

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## Assignment # 6 Discussion paper

Popular piety plays a tremendous role in religion or spirituality today. Pious acts not sanctioned by some Churches seem to be on the increase across the nation.

Examples of popular piety are: devotion to angels; shrines, veneration of the saints; apparitions of the Blessed Mother such as in Guadalupe; Lourdes; La Salette; and Fatima; relics of the saints; and rosaries. Numerous Catholics wear the Miraculous Medal in honor of Mary.

Are these types of beliefs beneficial or harmful to the dogmas and doctrines of the Church?

What is your view on popular piety?

Should the Church give allowance to popular piety? Support your view.

Please limit your discussion paper to 5-6 pages.

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## Assignment # 7

### Theological Anthropology

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_anthropology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_anthropology)

Read PP: 1-7

1. In the content of Christian theology, what is theological anthropology?
2. Explain how theological anthropology differs from the social science of anthropology.
3. Name the three traditional views of the human constitution.
4. What is the Greek name for the body?
5. List the bible texts typically used to support Trichotomism
6. Explain the modern theologians view on holism or monism.
7. Compare and contrast Creationism with Traducianism.
8. Discuss the terms Pelagius and Arminians
9. Why do you agree, or disagree with Saint Augustine that all humans are born into the sin and guilt of Adam are powerless to do good without grace?
10. Explain why or why not Purgatory exists.
11. What is meant by a monistic anthropology?
12. Why in your opinion have the term annihilationism become more popular?

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## Assignment # 8

### Eschatology

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschatology>

#### Read PP:

1. Explain the general and broad term of Eschatology
2. Discuss how time is described in eschatological terms.
3. Explain how Christians and Jewish eschatologist view the end of time
4. Discuss the eschatology teachings in the Baha'i, Brahma Kumari and Buddhist religions
5. List the Christian bible's Eschatological passages
6. What bible book is at the core of Christian eschatology?
7. Discuss the four Christian eschatology approaches in the book of Revelations
8. What is your view on the second coming of Christ?
9. Is your view point correspond with the scriptures?
10. Interview three people randomly and learn what they think about the end of time
11. Explain why most people believe the book of Revelations rather than admitting they don't know?
12. What part does the Antichrist play in the end of time, if any?

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## Assignment # 9.

### Ecclesiology

Read PP. 1-5

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecclesiology>

1. Define Ecclesiology and its areas of concern.
2. Why are there different ecclesiologies within the various Church institutions?
3. Explain the origins of the word Etymology
4. Discuss the various questions/issues asked by ecclesiology
5. Discuss the four basic models of the Church as defined by Cardinal Avery Dulles.
6. Discuss your viewpoint for and against the four basic models.
7. Summarize Martin Luther's view on magisterial reformation ecclesiology
8. In your opinion was Martin Luther guilty of schism and having a Donatist position regarding his views on ecclesiology?
9. Discuss your viewpoint on Radical Reformation Ecclesiology

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## Week # 10 Grace

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace\\_\(Christianity\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_(Christianity))

Read PP 1-11

1. Define the term grace in Christian theology
2. Discuss the so called watershed that divides Roman Catholicism from Protestantism, Calvinism from Arminianism and modern liberalism from conservatism.
3. Cite the Old and New Testament that give examples of grace.
4. Discuss how the bestowing of grace differs from the Roman Catholicism to Protestantism.
5. Discuss the two forms of grace in Catholicism
6. Discuss the fifth century debate between Pelagius and St. Augustine of Hippo
7. Explain what is meant by the statement “Grace became a sort of spiritual currency and the Church was its banker.”
8. Define the works of supererogation and the doctrine of Pope Clement VI.
9. Discuss the concept of grace in Eastern Christianity and compare it with Orthodox theology.
10. Discuss some of the criticisms that characterized the Protestant Reformation as a sort of spiritual currency.
11. What is the position of Lutheranism on achieving salvation?
12. Summarize the Council of Trent of 1547
13. Name the three kinds of divine grace John Wesley believed God provided
14. Summarize grace in the Churches of Christ; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Orthodox; Roman Catholic and Protestant.

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## Week 11. Sacraments

### Read PP 1-11

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacrament>

1. Summarize the various definitions of the term Sacrament
2. Define the term Sacraments as used in Western Christianity
3. How many sacraments were instituted by Christ?
4. Discuss the differences between what appears in the Bible and the teachings of various dominations on the number of sacraments
5. Explain the difference between visible and invisible components of grace
6. List the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church
7. Define sacrament in the Catholic Tradition
8. Summarize the Catholic Church validity of all sacraments.
9. Discuss the term ordinance comparing it to the term sacrament
10. Discuss the Anglican teaching on the Sacraments
11. Discuss the enumeration, naming, understanding and the adoption of the sacraments  
according to various denominations.
12. What is your opinion about non-sacramental churches such as the Quakers and the Salvation Army?



# **Page 13: Dogmatic Theology**

## **Week 12 Formal Paper Due**

### **Question 1**

Divine revelation has revealed only a small part of the knowledge of God and the spiritual world. Does dogmatic theology in the usual form satisfy the need of the Christian to have a world viewpoint?

### **Question 2**

Argue a position either for or against whether or not dogmatic theology is primarily an ancient perspective and remains a lifeless collection of separate dogmas.

### **Question 3**

Are there innumerable numbers of God's mysteries closed to us? What is the process of receiving modern day dogma, and what are the obstacles that prevent us from knowing current revelation from God?

Please limit your paper to 5-6 pages