

REL 4420 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY  
Dr. Mountcastle

Course Description:

Types of theology: fundamentalism, liberalism neo-orthodoxy. Current trends: religious atheism (Nietzsche, Altizer), secular theology (Bonhoeffer, Cox), process theology (Whitehead, Chardin), existential theology (bertocci, DeWolf), liberation theology (Gutierrez, Boff).

Texts: Hordern: *A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology*  
Miller and Crenz: *Contemporary Theologians*

Session

Topic

1. Introductory remarks, aims of the course, student reports and examinations. Based on preferences submitted by the students, topics will be assigned. Each person is responsible for a well-developed research paper of 8 to 10 pages including foot notes and bibliography. The student will present his paper to the class and answer questions about his area of specialization. Academic evaluation will be based on the individual's research paper, class attendance, contribution to discussions and evidence of growth in theological understanding. A written essay type exam may be assigned at the discretion of the professor.
2. Definitions and Problems – Theology and philosophy of religion, faith and reason, religious language.
3. Subject matter of Theology – Arguments for the existence of God, Christology: Incarnation and Atonement.
4. Heresies: Gnostic, Docetism, Arianism, Apollinarianism, Nestorianism, Creeds: Nicene, Chalcedonian, Apostle's
5. Theological Models: Fundamentalism, Liberalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, Theological Pluralism.

The remainder of sessions will be presentations of student reports in the following areas of study:

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

Spong: Christianity must change. – Pagels: Gnostic Gospels

Bultman: Demythologized Gospels – Tillich: Existential analysis.

Mack: The Lost Gospel – Q – Funk and Borg: The Jesus Seminar

SECULAR THEOLOGY

Altizer: Christian Atheism

Bonhoeffer: Religionless Christianity

HOPE THEOLOGY

Moltmann: Hope as Promise – Braaten: Hope as Revolution

Vahanian: Hope as Utopia

## PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY

DeWolf and Bertocci: Boston personalism

Wieman: Christian Naturalism

Whitehead, Teilhard, Cobb, and Pittenger: Process Theology

Dean: Aesthetic Theology

## PLAY THEOLOGY

Rahner: Faith as Humor

Cox: Faith as Celebration

Neale: Faith as Adventure.

## LIBERATION THEOLOGY

Cone and King: Black Liberation

Daly and Ruether: Women's Liberation

Gutierrez, Boff, and Arias: Latin Liberation

Bishop Tutu: African Liberation

Gahndi: Asian Liberation

## COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY

Radhakrishnan: Eastern Religion and Western Thought

Campbell: The World Mono-myth

Robinson: East-West Theology

Sethna: World Spirituality

Eliade: Comparative Religion

Mountcastle: Sci/Fi and Future Theology