THEO9402 – The Doctrine of Humanity
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological & Historical Studies Division
Fridays 8-12 Jan 27 Feb 10, 24 Mar 10, 24 Apr 7, 21, 28
Spring 2017

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Seminar Description
This seminar provides an intensive study of the doctrine of humanity through an analysis of the biblical data in light of historical and contemporary interpretations. A contemporary theological understanding of humanity is developed. Topics will include the origin and nature of humanity, human constitution, the image of God, human dignity, responsibilities, characteristics, and relationships, and implications of being human in light of the fall and redemption.

Textbooks Required

Marc Cortez. Christological Anthropology in Historical Perspective: Ancient and Contemporary Approaches to Theological Anthropology.
Michael Welker (Editor). The Depth of the Human Person: A Multidisciplinary Approach

Readings Required


Assignments

Note in fulfilling all assignments
We will be talking about “man” frequently in this class. It is now standard in scholarly work to write with inclusive language. (Use "man" only when referring to males. Use terms like "persons," "anthropology," "humans," etc.). Make your pronouns either plural or gender inclusive.
--When possible, use active rather than passive verbs. (Not "is thinking," but "thinks").
-- Make every word carry its freight. Be precise about what you mean.
Each seminar participant will

• **Lead the seminar discussion over assigned readings.** All the members of the class will read the chapters each week, but each will facilitate discussion. The facilitator is to stimulate the class discussion of readings in support of a section of material. The presenter should normally have a handout of 2-4 pages single spaced, summarizing/describing the key issues and concepts in the readings. Applying the highlights of the content in a case study might be helpful to provoke the discussion. Raise questions which arise out of the readings or are addressed to the readings. The summaries should be able to be compiled such that all the seminar participants will have a useful summary of the entire reading content as a helpful resource. Participants should email both professors identifying the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of discussion topics to lead the seminar. (Professors will confer and send assignments to all students in the second week of January.)

• Present a book critique over one of the bibliographical readings. Please submit an email to both professors stating your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for this assignment (these should be books you have yet to read.) no later than Jan 7, 2017. (Professors will confer and send assignments to all students in the second week of January.)

  Your critique should be about 8-10 pages (single spacing with double spacing between paragraphs is okay), stating the thesis of the book and briefly summarizing the material in the book (about 2/3 of the length) and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses (about 1/3 of the length).

• **Write a paper on a some topic regarding anthropology** — Propose your first and second preferences for a paper topic, and communicate your preferences to both professors as soon as possible, so that everyone can know what they will be doing. Every effort will be made to give you your first or second choice. A suggestive list of ideas for papers follows the bibliography, but is not intended to be exclusive or limiting, and the books listed are merely starting points – other books and journal articles should be consulted in writing the paper. If you have a paper proposal in which you have particular interest, and is germane to our study, we will consider it. The paper should have a fairly narrow focus.

  The papers should be about 15-20 pages in Turabian form. Single spacing is okay if you double space between paragraphs. About two-thirds should be an analytical description of the views presented by those whom you're studying. About one-third should be your personal theological and philosophical evaluation of these ideas from your (evangelical Christian) perspective. Evaluations should address issues such as:

  --What underlying philosophy or presuppositions does it express?
  --What are the strengths and weaknesses of the model?
  --Is it consistent with your understanding of the Bible?
  --How does it address other key Christian doctrines (God, anthropology, ecclesiology, soteriology, pneumatology, eschatology)?
  --What individuals or models in historical theology might be related to this view?
  --What are the implications of this model for Christian theology and the practice of ministry in the 21st century?
Don’t be afraid to raise questions for which you know no answer. The paper should be such that you could present it with minor amendments in a professional meeting. A respondent for each paper will critique the ideas presented in the paper, and point out any areas for improving style. Papers which are in poor style or have significant problems in content will be required to be rewritten.

Provide the class members with copies one week in advance of the seminar in which you’re presenting, so that we can all come to class having read the paper. You may enhance your presentation with handouts, overheads, audiovisuals, etc. You should present your paper in 45-50 minutes, allowing time for the seminar to engage in a discussion of your paper.

In addition to the normal Turabian guidelines, good writing style is important. Please submit an email to both professors giving your 1st and 2nd choices for a paper topic no later than Jan 7, 2017. (Professors will confer and send assignments to all students in the second week of January.

**Seminar Schedule**

**Time** | **Topic** | **Presenter** | **Text**
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Friday, 1/27, 8-12  
**Christian Anthropology in our Texts**  
8-9 | Introduction to Anthropology Edens and Brooks |  
10:10-11:10 | The Imago Dei Cortez: ch 5-6, Welker: Unit IV, Garrett, ch. 30-31 Erickson, ch. 22. |  
11:10-11:50 | Human in Race and Gender Cortez: ch 1 and 7, Garrett, ch. 32-33, Erickson, ch. 24 |  
11:50-12 | Closure Dr. Edens |  
Friday, 2/10, 8-12  
**Christian Anthropology in our Texts**  
8:00-9:00 | Human Constitution and Images of Personhood Cortez: ch 8, Welker: Unit III (pg.147-185), Garrett, ch. 34 Erickson, ch. 20 |  
9:00-10:00 | The Fall and Its Impact Garrett, ch. 35-36 Erickson, ch. 26, 28 |  
10:10-11:10 | The Consequences of Sin Welker: Unit III (pg. 186-256), Garrett, ch. 36-38, Erickson, ch. 25, 27, 29, Akin ch 8. |  
11:10-11:50 | Open Discussion led by Dr. Edens ? Topic? |  
11:50-12 | Closure Dr. Brooks |  
Friday, 2/24, 8-12  
**Christian Anthropology in our Texts**  
8-9 | Open Discussion on ?topic? |  
9:10-10-10 | First book review from Bibliography sections 1, 3- 5 |  
10:20-11:20 | Second book review from Bibliography sections 2, 6-8 |  
11:20-11:50 | Open Discussion led by Dr. Brooks on ? Topic? |  
11:50-12 | Closure Dr. Edens |  
Thursday, 3/10, 8-12  
**Christian Anthropology Papers**  
8-9 | Open Discussion Led by Dr. Brooks on ? Topic? |  
9:10-10-10 | Third book review from Bibliography sections 9-12 |
10:20-11:20 Fourth book review from Bibliography sections 1, 3-5 ________
11:20-11:50 Open Discussion led by Dr. Edens on ? Topic?
11:50-12 Closure Dr. Brooks

**Thursday, 3/24, 8-12**

**Christian Anthropology Papers**
8-9 Open Discussion led by Dr. Edens on ? Topic?
9:10-10-10 Fifth book review from Bibliography sections 2, 6-8______
10:20-11:20 Sixth book review from Bibliography sections 9-12 ________
11:20-11:50 Open Discussion led by Dr. Brooks on ? Topic?
11:50-12 Closure Dr. Edens

**Thursday, 4/7, 8-12**

**Christian Anthropology Papers**
8-9:50 Paper and Response 1______________
10--11:50 Paper and Response 2______________
11:50-12 Closure Dr. Brooks

**Thursday, 4/21, 8-12**

**Christian Anthropology Papers**
8-9:50 Paper and Response 3______________
10--11:50 Paper and Response 4______________
11:50-12 Closure Dr. Edens

**Thursday, 4/28, 8-12**

**Christian Anthropology Papers**
8-9:50 Paper and Response 5______________
10--11:50 Paper and Response 6______________
11:50-12 Closure Dr. Brooks

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**Paper Ideas**


3. **Persons and Animal Rights** — Using works such as Peter Carruthers, "Brute Experience," in

4. Definitions of Anthropology and Personhood — Using works such as Michael F. Goodman, ed., What Is a Person? (Clifton, NJ: Humana, 1988); Larry A. Hjelle and Daniel Ziegler, Personality Theories (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981); and Michael Carrithers, Steven Collins, and Steven Lukes, eds., The Category of the Person (Cambridge: University Press, 1985); provide various definitions of person, personality, life and human. Evaluate these definitions and address which is best suited to a biblical anthropology. Keep in mind how your definitions impact on issues such as abortion and euthanasia.


and Theological Anthropology contrast the pros and cons of euthanasia. Provide a biblical/theological/philosophical response.


11. Persons and Medical Ethics — Survey recent works on medical ethics such as Tom Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989); Stephen E. Lammers and Allen Verhay, eds., *On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives on Medical Ethics* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987). Address the issues raised by modern medical technology, especially the economics of health care and the moral dilemmas raised in modern medicine.


Cambridge University Press, 1970), discuss the anthropology of non-Christian religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam.


**15. Personalism** — Discuss the anthropology of personalism of the Boston School of Personalism, particularly E. S. Brightman and Peter Bertocci. The *Personalist Forum* is a journal which would provide useful articles in this study.

**16. Existentialism or Postmodernism** — Examine the anthropology of selected existentialists such as Soren Kierkegaard, Gabriel Marcel, Friedrich Neitzsche, Albert Camus and other representatives of Theatre of the Absurd. Another option would be to examine the anthropology of postmodern thinkers such as Richard Rorty and Jean Baudrillard.

**17. Race and multi-ethnic identity in America** — Explore the distinctions of racial and multiethnic identity in the American experience.

**18. Action Theory** — Study works in Action Theory such as McCann and Mele (see bibliography) in describing and/or proposing a distinctively Christian and Biblical Action Theory.

**19. Creation and Personhood** — Address the implications for anthropology of each of the most widely held perspectives on creation, i.e., naturalistic evolution, theistic evolution (BioLogos), old earth creationism with no theistic evolution (Reasons to Believe), Intelligent Design, and young earth creationism (Christian Science).

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**Bibliography**

**Section 1: Biblical Perspectives on Personhood**

**Section 2: Theological Perspectives on Personhood**

**Section 3: Bioethics, Definition of Life Issues**

**Section 4: Personhood and Personal Identity, Personality Theories and Psychological Approaches**

**Section 5: Embodiment and Human Origins**
Murphy, Nancey Murphy. *Bodies and Souls, or Spirited Bodies?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Section 6: Persons and Gender

Section 7: Human Nature
, with Richard Gill and Gladys M. Sweeney, eds. *Human Nature in Its Wholeness: A

Section 8: Animals, Artificial Intelligence, and Chimeras
University Press, 1986), 215-228;

Section 9: Cultural Anthropology and the Social/Societal/Governmental Dimension of
Personhood
Cox, Monte. Green Like the Sky: Readings in Missionary Anthropology. San Diego: Cognella,
2012.
Dewey, John. The Political Writings, ed. Debra Morris and Ian Shapiro. Indianapolis: Hackett,
1993.
Habermas, Jurgen. Between Facts and Norms: Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law
Fukuytama, Francis. The Great Disruption: Human Nature and the Reconstitution of the
Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. Anthropological Reflections on Missiological
Hiebert, Paul G. Cultural Anthropology. 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983).
Howell, Brian M, and Janell Williams Paris. Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A
Christian Perspective.
Kant, Immanuel. Perpetual Peace and Other Essays, trans. Ted Humphrey. Indianapolis:
Hackett, 1983.
Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2005.
Locke, John. Two Treatises of Civil Government, ed. Peter Laslett. Cambridge Texts in the
1989.
Section 10: Human Freewill vs. Determinism, and Action Theory

Section 11: Personal Immortality

Section 12: The Mind/Body Problem


