THE 790/890 — Seminar: Theology of Jürgen Moltmann
Fall Semester 2013

Essential Information
Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information
Professor: K. Steve McCormick, Ph.D. Email: smccormick@nts.edu
Office: (816) 268-5486
Office Hours: By appointment

Catalog Description
This seminar course will examine the theology of Jürgen Moltmann.

Course Narrative & Rationale
This course will use lectures, readings, papers, and group work to fulfill its objectives.

Degree Objectives
1. The articulation of the knowledge of this God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

2. The development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the intellectual challenge of the literature of the Christian faith, by the critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity, and of the literature and practices of Christian spirituality, ethics and ministry.

3. The growth of mature self-awareness and self-understanding as flawed human beings, reconciled to God and to each other within the Christian community, who are being transformed into the perfect likeness of Christ, filled with his Spirit, and gifted for the service of humanity.

4. The investigation of human society, thought and culture in order to articulate clear and coherent views of the context of the mission of the Church, and to develop an understanding of the Church as the community of faith with a passion for the gospel engaging in mission to different cultures.

**Course Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course you will have (R = Course requirement directed toward achieving objective):

1. Demonstrated an understanding of the 'place' and 'meaning' of Ecumenism within the catholicity of the Church. (R1, R2, R3)

2. Demonstrated an understanding of Moltmann's theology within our Wesleyan theological framework. (R1, R2, R3)

3. Demonstrated an understanding of Historical Context(s) and Developing Doctrine(s) through the life and thought of Jürgen Moltmann. (R1, R2, R3)

**Required Texts & Course Materials**


Total Pages of Required Reading: 1,830

**Supplemental Recommended Texts**


Total Pages of Recommended Reading: 837

**Course Outline**

**Jürgen Moltmann's Theology**

• Moltmann’s Autobiographical Sketch
• Introduction to Moltmann’s Theology
• The Trinity & the Kingdom of God (1980)
• God in Creation (1985)
• The Way of Jesus Christ (1989)
• The Spirit of Life (1991)
• The Coming of God (1995)

**Course Assignments & Requirements**

1. There will be one **Comprehensive Final Take Home Exam (Outcomes 1–3)** that is critically reflective and synthetic in nature. As this Exam attempts to answer the specific questions that make up this exam, every synthetic response to these questions should not only be written to properly cover necessary content, but they should also be carefully written to demonstrate the **Outcomes** that have been designed to govern this course. This will be given at the end of the semester. The content of this exam will cover all the class readings, lectures and Class discussion. This exam will be posted and available one week prior to the close of the class. This exam will comprise 1/4th of your final grade. **This Final Take Home Exam is due on Monday, December 2 of Finals Week.**
2. **Class Seminar (Outcomes 1-3)** Class participation is crucial. To assist in this process, each week you will be required to prepare for, and participate in, the Class Seminar as sketched in the *Course Outline and the Table Talks*. The totality of your Class Seminar Participation (Book Digest Paper Presentations and class conversation) will constitute 1/2 of your final grade.

*Critical Book Digest Papers:* (Outcomes 1-3) Each student will write a critically reflective précis for each of the five assigned theology texts (*Theology of Hope, The Crucified God, The Church in the Power of the Spirit, The Trinity & the Kingdom of God, The Coming of God*). Each précis is to be approximately 5-7 pages, double-spaced and in twelve point font. The written papers along with your class presentations and the defense of your critical reflections will comprise 1/2 of your final grade. Each paper is due on the assigned date for the Book Discussion:

**Critical Book Digest & Presentation Schedule:**

| Theology of Hope          | September 9 |
| The Crucified God         | September 23 |
| The Church in the Power of the Spirit | October 7 |
| The Trinity & the Kingdom of God | October 21 |
| The Coming of God         | November 4  |

*Here are a few questions and issues to consider in your reading and in the careful writing of your Critical Book Digest Précis:*

1) What is the thesis of the author?
2) What underlying assumptions guide each author in the defense of his thesis and accompanying arguments?
3) What significant contributions are made in the thesis and its defense?
4) Where are the specific places of 'disconnect' in the critical arguments made to support the thesis?
5) Where are the places of 'convergence' with one author to the other? Be clear and concise and explain why you think there is overlap and how and why this is important.
6) Where are the places of 'divergence' with one author to the other? Be clear and concise as you explain why you think there is strong disagreement and disconnect between them. How and why is this significant?
7) Where did you find yourself resonating with Moltmann and why? What crucial difference will each make in the way you understand God, grace, salvation, Truth, Scripture, Church, Hope, etc?
8) Where are the provocative places in each author and why do you find yourself resisting such argumentation in each?
9) Does the author(s) fairly and consistently represent the theology of Irenaeus? How? Where?
10) Where and why do you think Moltmann may have overstated his case?

3. **Group Research (Thesis) Papers: (Outcomes 1-3)**
Each student will be assigned to a Research Group of 4 students to develop a thesis and collaborate on the research and writing of a 10 page (2,500 words) typewritten paper that is fully footnoted, with bibliography, table of contents, and in Turabian format. Specific detail pertaining to the thesis of each Research Paper, and the make up of each Research Group, will be elaborated on during the first day of class. Each Research Group of 4 students will also be assigned to work as a Critical Rebuttal Group of 4 students. All rebuttal groups will have access to the full text of the Group Research Paper. These will be uploaded into Moodle for the entire class. The Research Group Papers are due: Monday, November 11, 2013. The scheduling of these Class Presentations and Responses will take place after the Groups are assigned and the topics are chosen. This should happen no later than the second week of the semester! The Group Research Paper along with the Presentation and defense of the thesis will comprise 1/4th your final grade.

Each Rebuttal Group will bring to class for distribution a 1-3 page typewritten response. These are due on the day of the Class Presentation. That schedule will be determined no later than the second week of the semester! The Rebuttal Group class response and written rebuttal will comprise 10 points toward your final grade.

The format of each Group Presentation and Group Rebuttal will follow this arrangement: Each presentation will be given a maximum of one hour to make its case. Each rebuttal will be given approximately 10-15 minutes. Afterwards, the class will engage the Group Presenters and the Group Responders until we see the white smoke from the Vatican ascending. ☺ Further details will be given for this entire assignment on the first day of class.

### Distribution of Student Learning Hours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Seminar Participation</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Textbook Reading—1,830 pages</td>
<td>73.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theological Research Group Paper (10 pages)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Home Final Exam (5 pages)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Digests (25 pages total)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>165</strong></td>
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### Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments will be uploaded for this course in Moodle: [https://moodle.nts.edu/login/index.php](https://moodle.nts.edu/login/index.php). Please use the assignments section of Moodle unless otherwise directed. Each assignment is to be submitted through its corresponding link in the Learning Unit. Assignments are **NOT** to be submitted as hard
copy, via e-mail. Students should keep electronic copies of all work done for the course just in case they (or the professor) accidentally delete an assignment from the Grade book.

**Form and Style Expectations**

All written work—the *Doctrinal Debate Paper* and the *Research Group Paper*—should be formatted (and will be evaluated) utilizing Turabian, Kate L. “A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers,” 7th edition, revised by Wayne C. Booth, et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

**Inclusive Language**

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

**Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams**

Late posts receive a 20% daily reduction the week of the assignment. Posting after the assigned week will not be graded. All research/project work is due 11:59 PM of the date assigned. Late work without a valid reason (illness or death in family) is reduced by 15% the first week and an additional 10% each week following. No coursework may be submitted after the last day of the regular semester.

**Policy on Incomplete Work**

Only under the rarest of circumstances will the professor approve an incomplete. Only 'Death in the family' or the 'prolonged illness' of the student will be considered as a justifiable cause for petition. For the most part, all other requests will not be considered. And yet, if the rarest of unforeseeable circumstances do arise, and those circumstances are the abovementioned ('death in the family' and 'prolonged illness'), then, and only then, may an incomplete be granted by the professor. And, if per chance the incomplete is to be granted for reasons other than 'death in the family' and 'prolonged illness,' it will be given with a letter grade penalty. For example, if the final grade earned in the class results in an A, and an incomplete was granted for other
reasons besides 'death and prolonged illness;' then the final grade to be submitted to the registrar will be a B.

**Course Grading**

A Word about Grading: Evaluation in this kind of course, by its very nature, involves an element of subjectivity. It involves someone who has expertise in the field making a judgment on the kind of work you produce. That is a part of what you are paying for in this class. The primary factors I take into account in assessing “good solid graduate work,” the sort of work to which I assign a “B” are (1) ability to demonstrate a breadth and depth of understanding of the material engaged; (2) ability to engage this material in a critical way; (3) ability to exhibit how the material is related to a larger theological and ecclesial context. If you demonstrate a consistent ability to do these things in all your coursework, you can expect to receive a B. If you demonstrate consistent ability to do them incisively and with excellence, you can expect to receive an A. If you demonstrate an ability to do these things often, but not consistently, you can expect to receive a C. (Hence, I assume that a C means “average,” or “satisfactory” work. It does not mean “bad” or “unsatisfactory.”) If you seldom demonstrate an ability to do these things, you can expect to receive a D. The final grade will be computed using the following point scale.

**Summary of Grading for Assignments:**

Book Digests will constitute 1/2 of the final grade.
Final Essay Exam will constitute 1/4 of the final grade.
Research Group Paper will constitute 1/4 of the final grade.

**Grade Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0</td>
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In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of
the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

**Class Attendance**

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance.

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

If a student is absent four or more weeks of the semester, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

**Audio and Video Recordings**

In order to foster a safe learning environment in which various viewpoints are respected, audio or video recordings or transcripts thereof by students is prohibited without the permission of the faculty member in charge of the course. If permission is granted, redistribution of these recordings or transcripts thereof outside the scope of the course is prohibited.

Students enrolling in videoconferencing courses or participating in certain synchronous Moodle activities should be aware that their images and voices will be transmitted digitally through the videoconferencing equipment and may be recorded. Continued enrollment in these courses constitutes willingness to participate in the class with these conditions. If you have privacy concerns, please discuss your enrollment with the Registrar.