

DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT COURSE OUTLINE

Revised 2.9.09

TH 740/TH 806
Talbot School of Theology
Spring 2009

PROFESSOR: Alan W. Gomes, Ph.D.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some students will be taking this class for 2 units while others will take the class for 3 units. Therefore, throughout this course description I shall refer to “2-unit students” and “3-unit students” to distinguish the differences in the course requirements. 3-unit students will do all of the work required of 2-unit students but will have additional assignments as well.

I. Catalog Description

“A study of the biblical meaning and significance of the atoning work of Christ including a survey of the significant historical interpretations of the doctrine. Elective.”

II. Disability Services

Students desiring accommodations on the basis of physical, learning, or psychological disability for this class are to contact The Learning Center, which houses both learning assistance and disability services. The Learning Center is located in the Biola Library, upper level, Room U-137, and the office can be reached by calling 562.906.4542. or extension 4542 from campus phones.

III. Class Resources/Textbooks

A. Required Texts (i.e., to be purchased by the student)

1. Bielby, James and Eddy, Paul, R. *The Nature of the Atonement*. With contributions by Gregory A. Boyd, Joel B. Green, Bruce R. Reichenbach, and Thomas R. Schreiner. Downer’s Grove: IVP, 2006. ISBN 0-8308-2570-3.
2. Jeffery, Steve, Ovey, Michael, and Sach, Andrew. *Pierced for Our Transgressions*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2007. ISBN 978-1-4335-0108-1.

B. Materials to be downloaded

1. Students should check the professor’s web site (<http://faculty.biola.edu/alang>) for various documents pertaining to this class. Not all of these documents will be available at the start of the semester. I’ll post some of them before the class begins while I’ll post others during the semester.

2. Materials to be downloaded by all students (i.e., both 2 and 3-unit students):
 - a. Exam study questions
 - b. Topics for class presentations
 - c. Study Questions for Jeffery, Ovey, and Sach, *Pierced for Our Transgressions*
 - d. Gomes, "De Jesu Christo Servatore: Faustus Socinus on the Satisfaction of Christ." (Westminster Theological Journal article)
 - e. Francis Turretin, Locus on the Satisfaction of Christ (from his *Institutio*)
3. Materials to be downloaded by 3-unit students only:
 - a. Taliaferro, "The Narnian Theory of the Atonement." (Scottish Journal of Theology article)
 - b. Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo?*
 - c. Worksheet for *Cur Deus Homo?* discussion
 - d. Faustus Socinus, *De Jesu Christo Servatore*, Part III. (Translated by Alan Gomes)
 - e. Worksheet for *De Jesu Christo Servatore* discussion
 - f. Gomes, "John Calvin and Faustus Socinus on the Merits of Christ." (Paper to be presented at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, May 28, 2009.)

IV. Course Requirements

A. Requirements both for 2-unit and for 3-unit students (i.e., assignments required of all students)

1. Class Presentations

- a. You will do a presentation to the class on a topic of contemporary interest related to the doctrine of the atonement. To do so you will be paired up with another student; that is, you will work in two-person teams.
- b. Toward the beginning of the semester I shall provide you with a list of topics from which you and your partner may choose.¹ These topics will focus on various contemporary challenges to the orthodox doctrine of the atonement.
- c. Two weeks before your presentation is due, you are to e-mail me a *general* outline of your presentation. This outline needs to have enough information in it so that I have a clear idea of what you are going to present at the class session. It also needs to include a bibliography of sources that you consulted. By sending this outline to me two weeks

¹Note: If more than one team wants the same topic we shall settle the matter biblically, i.e., by drawing lots!

- ahead of time, there will be enough time for you to make adjustments I might suggest.
- d. On the actual day of the presentation you are to furnish a *detailed* outline, which you will give both to me and to the students in the class.
 - (1) Each team member will provide a handout in outline form, 3 pages in length, that covers the portion to be presented by him/her (see details about how the presentation is to be divided below).
 - (2) Thus, between the two team members, the class and instructor will receive 6 pages of outline for this entire presentation.
 - e. The procedure for the in-class oral presentations is as follows:
 - (1) Pass out your detailed outline to the class.
 - (2) One team member will present the view under consideration and the arguments advanced in favor of the view. This part of the presentation will take approximately 30 minutes.
 - (3) The other team member will present a critique of the view. Likewise, this presentation will take about 30 minutes.
 - (4) After the second team member has presented we shall take our class break.
 - (5) After the class break the rest of the time will be spent on questions from the class and from the professor.
 - f. Note that you and your partner should work as a team on the research and in developing the overall outline, even though you will be responsible for presenting only a portion of it to the class. Note also that during the Q&A time, both team members will be involved in answering questions, including questions that may relate to the portion of the presentation given by your partner. This means that you must be conversant with all aspects of the topic, not just the portion you have presented.
2. Exam
- a. There will be one exam, which you will take on the date shown in the Class Schedule and Due Date Chart.
 - b. The exam will cover material from the lecture and from the collateral reading assignments for 2-unit students, as shown in the Class Schedule and Due Date Chart. (The collateral reading assignments should be downloaded from my web page.)
 - c. I shall provide you with study questions to aid in studying for the exam.
 - d. The exam will be objective, i.e., true/false and multiple choice.
 - e. Reporting on the collateral reading
 - (1) At the time of the exam you will indicate whether you have read the collateral

reading assignments for 2-unit students through questions on the exam. Thus, completion of the collateral reading will count toward your exam score.

- (2) In order to receive credit for having read a particular document you must have read *all* of the document in question; I shall not give partial credit for reading only part (even if it is most) of a document.
 3. Study Questions for Jeffery, Ovey, and Sach, *Pierced for Our Transgressions*
 - a. Study questions for this text are available for download from my web site.
 - b. These questions are furnished as a Word document, which will enable you to write your answers underneath each question.
 - c. In addition to answering the study questions you are to report on how much of this book you have read by the due date.
 - d. Most of these questions can be answered in a sentence or two, though in some cases it might take several sentences to answer a question.
 - e. The study questions themselves indicate the page(s) on which the answer to any given question may be found.
 - f. Note that you will read all of this book with the exception of Chapter 5 of Part One (pp. 161-203). You need not read these pages and there are no study questions connected with them.
 4. Reading report for *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*
 - a. You are to report on how much of this book you have read by the due date.
 - b. You are also to write a 1 page, single-spaced paper giving a brief summary of each of the four views covered in this book. In other words, you are to write roughly one paragraph for each view presented in this book.
- B. Additional Requirements for 3-unit Students *Only*
1. As already noted, 3-unit students will meet all of the requirements listed above for the 2-unit students. Additionally, 3-unit students will have extra assignments.
 2. The main focus for your extra work as a 3-unit student will be to read additional documents of a technical nature and then to discuss them with your instructor and your fellow 3-unit students. These extra meetings will be open to the 3-unit students only.
 3. Although the Schedule of Classes shows the 3-unit course as meeting one extra hour each week, we will not actually meet together each week. The 3-unit meetings will occur as shown in the Class Schedule and Due Date Chart (below).
 4. Before each of these additional one hour sessions you will read the selection due for discussion.

- a. You are to indicate whether you have read the assigned selection due for that session.
 - b. In some instances I shall provide you (in advance, via my web page) with a worksheet for that selection. If a worksheet is due along with the reading, you are to bring it with you and turn it in at the end of the class session.
5. I shall grade you on your preparedness for and participation in the class discussion.

V. Class Schedule and Due Date Chart

Date	Topic and Assignment for ALL Students	Topic and Assignment for 3-unit Students Only
1/29	Introduce Course Kinds of Atonement Theories	
2/5	Kinds of Atonement Theories (continued)	3-unit students will meet during the third hour with Dr. Gomes and Prof. Kevin Lewis. Reading Due: Taliaferro, "The Narnian Theory of the Atonement"
2/12	The atonement in Patristic theology	
2/19	The atonement in the middle ages	3-unit students will meet during the third hour to discuss the following document with Dr. Gomes: Reading Due: Anselm, <i>Cur Deus Homo?</i> Also, students are to have prepared answers in advance for the worksheet connected with this reading.
2/26	The atonement in the era of the Reformation	
3/5	The Socinian challenge to the doctrine of satisfaction Reading Due: Gomes, " <i>De Jesu Christo Servatore: Faustus Socinus on the Satisfaction of Christ.</i> "	
3/12	The atonement in Protestant Orthodoxy Reading Due: Turretin on the atonement	
3/19	Missions Conference: Class does not meet	
3/26	The atonement in 17 th -century Arminianism	3-unit students will meet during the third hour to discuss the following document with Dr. Gomes: Reading Due: Socinus, <i>De Jesu Christo Servatore</i> . Also, students are to have prepared answers in advance for the worksheet connected with this reading.

Date	Topic and Assignment for ALL Students	Topic and Assignment for 3-unit Students Only
4/2	We will finish up whatever we haven't covered from the material above (i.e., this will be a "catch up" class).	
4/9	Exam	
4/16	Easter Break	
4/23	Student Presentation Team #1: Brett Newman, Dennis Bray, Eric Oldenburg	Eastern Orthodox views on the atonement
4/30	Student Presentation Team #2: Andrew Kim, Matt House Assignment Due: Turn in study questions for <i>Pierced for Our Transgressions</i> .	Richard Swinburne on the atonement
5/7	Student Presentation Team #3: Mike McCoy, Peter Phillips	Emergent Church views on the atonement
5/14	Student Presentation Team #4: Jason Estopinal, Aaron Kaun	Mormon view of the atonement 3-unit students will meet during the third hour to discuss the following document with Dr. Gomes: Reading Due: "John Calvin and Faustus Socinus on the Merits of Christ." (Paper to be presented at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Geneva, Switzerland on May 28, 2009.)
5/21	Student Presentation Team #5: Rudi Niere, Moses Cho Assignment Due: <i>Four Views</i> critique	Gregory Boyd's <i>Christus Victor</i> view of the atonement

VI. Class Policies and Procedures

A. Attendance

1. Regular attendance of class lectures is required. I shall take roll. Excessive cuts can result in a lowering of the final grade.
2. A tardy counts as half of an absence.
3. Per University policy, if you miss more than 20% of the class sessions for a course you will not be able to receive credit for the course. For a class that meets once per week (15 times during the semester) you can miss no more than 3 class sessions and still receive credit for the course.

4. **A special note to students taking this as a 3-unit class:** Because we only meet 4 times during the semester for the third hour, it is imperative that you attend all four of these sessions. So my attendance policy relative to this third hour is as follows:
 - a. If you miss one of the third hour sessions, I shall drop your final grade in the class by one full letter grade.
 - b. If you miss two of the third hour sessions, you will receive an “F” for the class.
5. Please look over the class schedule and be absolutely certain that your other activities – such as work, ministry obligations, etc. – do not preclude you from attending the required number of sessions. If you think attendance may be an issue then you should not take this class.

B. Plagiarism

Talbot School of Theology sees any form of plagiarism as a serious problem with serious consequences. Please refer to the academic integrity statement and article on plagiarism in the Talbot Graduate Student Handbook.

C. Grading Standards for Written Work

Whereas Talbot School of Theology desires to maintain the highest standards with respect to the composition of all written work, any student paper exhibiting poor grammar, spelling errors, typographical errors, or other substandard academic expression shall have the overall grade for that paper reduced accordingly. Generally, a paper will be deemed substandard and ineligible to receive an “A” grade when it averages three or more compositional errors per page. Moreover, at the discretion of the professor, the substandard paper may be returned to the student for correction and resubmission with appropriate grade penalties. Graduate papers are expected to demonstrate a higher level of academic expression than undergraduate papers. Students deficient in writing skills may seek assistance at the Biola Writing Center.

VII. Learning Outcomes

A. Learning outcomes for *all students* (i.e., both 2 and 3-unit students)

1. All students will be able to label and describe the key features of the main types of atonement theories presented in the history of the church.
 - a. This will be accomplished through lectures given by the professor during the first eight weeks of the semester.
 - b. The professor will furnish study questions, which will help the student know whether he/she has gleaned the salient points from the professor’s lecture.
 - c. This will be tested by an objective test administered during the ninth week of the semester.
2. All students will learn the key details of the doctrine of the atonement as presented by certain key thinkers from the patristic era to the end of the seventeenth century.

- a. This will be covered in the course lectures.
 - b. The professor will furnish study questions, which will help the student know whether he/she has gleaned the salient points from the professor's lecture.
 - c. The objective test administered during the ninth week will test for this.
3. All students will cover the main biblical arguments in support of the doctrine of penal substitution.
- a. This will occur primarily through reading *Pierced for Our Transgressions* and providing answers to the study questions that go with this book.
 - b. This will also occur by reading Turretin on the atonement and answering questions related to this on the objective exam administered during the ninth session. (There will be study questions provided that will aid in this.)
 - c. It is important to note that students taking this elective class either have or will take Theology III, which is the required class in the curriculum responsible for presenting the biblical view of the atonement. Therefore, to avoid redundancy I have assumed that some (though certainly not all) of the burden for presenting the biblical case either has fallen or will fall to that class.
4. All students will be made conversant with contemporary challenges to the doctrine of penal substitution by modern theologians and philosophers and will be able to refute the fundamental error(s) underlying these positions.

This will occur in the following ways:

- a. Answering certain of the study questions in *Pierced for Our Transgressions* (i.e., the ones that deal with the second part of the book).
 - b. Through the research project/oral presentations done in two-person team, including the in-class discussion of these.
 - c. Through the short critique of the "Four Views" book on the atonement.
- B. In addition to the above learning outcomes, students taking the class for 3 units will have the following additional outcomes:
1. Students will identify at least two modern forms in which the "ransom to Satan" theory is found.
 - a. This will be accomplished through a guest lecture and by reading an article on the subject (i.e., by Taliaferro).
 - b. This will be evaluated by the quality of the student's participation in the class discussion related to this.
 2. Students will have a detailed familiarity with St. Anselm's classic work on the atonement,

Cur Deus Homo?, being able to state the pivotal assumptions on which his thesis rests.

- a. This will be accomplished by having the student read this document in preparation for a seminar-format discussion, and by answering questions in advance on a worksheet to be downloaded from the professor's web site.
 - b. This will be evaluated by the quality of the student's answers on the worksheet and by the quality/amount of the responses given during the seminar discussion time.
3. Students will have a detailed familiarity with the main arguments in Faustus Socinus's *De Jesu Christo Servatore*, which is one of the most significant attacks against the doctrine of penal substitution ever written.
- a. This will be accomplished by having the student read this document in preparation for a seminar-format discussion, and by answering questions in advance on a worksheet to be downloaded from the professor's web site.
 - b. This will be evaluated by the quality of the student's work on the worksheet and by the amount and quality of the responses given during the seminar discussion time.
4. Students will critique a paper written by the professor, which he is to present at an academic conference to take place after the semester has concluded.
- a. This will be accomplished by having the students read this document and by preparing questions and suggestions for improvement to the professor in advance of this meeting.
 - b. This will be evaluated by quality of the feedback received by the professor.

VIII. Grading

A. Percentage cut-offs for each grade level are calculated according to the current Talbot School of Theology graduate grading scale. Fractions of a percentage .5 or above are rounded up to the next percentage, while fractions .4 and below are rounded down.

B. Students taking the course for 2 units will be graded as follows:

Class Presentation.....	35%
Exam	35%
Study Questions for Jeffery, Ovey, and Sach.....	20%
Four Views book critique.....	10%

C. Students taking the course for 3-units will be graded as follows:

Class Presentation.....	30%
Exam	30%
Study Questions for Jeffery, Ovey, and Sach.....	15%
Four Views book critique.....	7%
Third hour participation	18%