

Paul Tillich

Wesley J. Wildman — Boston University — Fall 2012 — STH TT832/TT932

Course Description

The primary aim of this course is read and understand the theology of Paul Tillich. The course focuses on his *Systematic Theology (ST)* but also covers some other of his writings and some biographical material. The secondary aim is to help students develop their own theological ideas in detailed conversation with Tillich's, a purpose for which *ST* is particularly well suited.

The class has 800-level and 900-level designations to accommodate both advanced masters and doctoral students, respectively. Classes will meet once a week on Thursdays from 9:30-12:30. Each class will be conducted in the seminar discussion format with mini-lectures given by the instructor as needed or requested by the class.

Typically the class will read and discuss certain sections of *ST* extremely closely while lectures and student presentations will keep us oriented to the wider territory within the world of *ST*.

The main product of the course (60% of the grade) will be a research paper involving close reading and critique of one aspect of Tillich's *ST*. The paper should be about 3,000 words for TT832 students and 5,000 words for TT932 students. The remainder of the grade is based on quality of participation, reading responses, seminar contributions, and web site contributions (40%). Incompletes are not allowed—except when they are. Paperwork is necessary. Plagiarism is not allowed—ever. Know the rules.

Short Description

This seminar reads the Systematic Theology of Paul Tillich, interprets it against the background of his biography and context, analyzes it in relation to the history of modern theology, and encourages students to develop their own theological outlook in relation to Tillich's.

Learning Goals

By the end of this class, students should:

- know the basic concepts structuring Tillich's theological system,
- understand how the system relates to Tillich's biography and the history of theology, and
- be able to express their own theological outlook more clearly.

Special Considerations

The STH Academic Code of Conduct may be found on the STH website at: www.bu.edu/sth/academic/academic-conduct. All students are required to familiarize themselves with this code, its definitions of misconduct, and its sanctions. Students should especially familiarize themselves with the section on plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities—Any students who believe they have a disability should meet with BU Disability Services as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your successful completion of course requirements. That office is at 19 Deerfield Street and can be contacted at 617-353-3658. Request for accommodations are then sent by that office to the Academic Dean who forwards them to the Instructor.

Students taking the course for doctoral credit are required to do all work at a doctoral level. In addition, students should submit one review of a recent book related to the course content for publication in an appropriate journal. The length should be between 500-1000 words.

Proposed Seminar Schedule

Here is a proposed schedule of readings. This being a seminar, we will consider ourselves free to deviate from this timetable if it seems advisable. Students are to complete all seven sections of the Pauck biography, reading at the pace of one section per week. We will read short selections from *The Essential Tillich* from time to time, as they complement the readings from *ST* or deal with questions that arise in class discussion. We will also each read one biographical biographical work (provided by instructor) and report on that work to the class.

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Week 1 (9/3): Introduction to Paul Tillich and his theology; Pauck Section 1

Week 2 (9/10): *ST I*: Introduction [3-68] (close read 8-27); Pauck Section 2

Week 3 (9/17): *ST I*: Part I/I [71-105] (close read 71-81); Pauck Section 3; *Essential Tillich*, ch. 2; “Two Types”

Week 4 (9/24): *ST I*: Part I/II [106-159] (close read 132-147); Pauck Section 4; *Essential Tillich*, chs. 4,7

Week 5 (10/1) *ST I*: Part II/I [163-210] (close read 168-186); Pauck Section 5

Week 6 (10/8) *ST I*: Part II/II [211-289] (close read 271-289); Pauck Section 6

Week 7 (10/15) *ST II*: Part III/I [3-96] (close read 29-44, 66-75); Pauck Section 7; *Essential Tillich*, chs. 20,26-28

Week 8 (10/22): Presentation of biographical work; this day is the 50th anniversary of Tillich’s death; party!!

Week 9 (10/29) *ST II*: Part III/II [97-180] (close read 118-127, 150-158); *Essential Tillich*, ch. 13;

Week 10 (11/5) *ST III*: Part IV/I [3-161] (close read 138-161)

Week 11 (11/12): *ST III*: Part IV/II [162-294] (close read 245-265)

Week 12 (11/19): *ST III*: Part V/I [297-361] (close read 339-361)

Fall Recess (11/26)

Week 13 (12/3) *ST III*: Part V/II [362-423] (close read 394-419)

Week 14 (12/10): Presentation of final papers (**papers due on this day before class**)

Required Books

Tillich, Paul. *Systematic Theology*, vols. 1-3. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Vol. 1: 9780226803371 (1951); vol. 2: 9780226803388 (1957); vol. 3: 9780226803395 (1963)]

Church, F. Forrester. *The Essential Tillich*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [0000226803430; reprint of 1987 Collier edition]

Pauck, Wilhelm and Marion. *Paul Tillich: His Life and Thought*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989. [006066469X]

Note: The instructor will provide the Pauck volume, all biographical works, and most secondary works. You should purchase Tillich’s *Systematic Theology* and Church (ed.), *The Essential Tillich*.