

TR 224: Paul Tillich and Contemporary Challenges
Eleazar S. Fernandez, Professor
Phone: 651-255-6131
Email: efernandez@unitedseminary.edu

Course Description

This course explores the main themes and thrust of Paul Tillich's theology, examines his theological system, and critiques his ideas in relation to the challenges that the church and society are facing in our contemporary times. This course fulfills the systems of thought requirement of the curriculum.

Objectives

At the end of the course the students will be able to

1. Grasp the main themes of Paul Tillich's theology
2. Understand and articulate Tillich's theological method and theological system
3. Critique Tillich's theological system and ideas
4. Evaluate Tillich's ideas in light of our pressing contemporary concerns

Course Requirements

1. Attend class sessions regularly
2. Participate in class discussions
3. Lead a seminar
4. Careful reading of assigned texts
5. Submit papers in a timely manner
 - a. Seminar paper on one of the readings
 - b. Response paper to the seminar presentation
 - c. Fifteen page paper on any topic or issue encountered in the course in consultation with the professor

Each student is required to write at least one seminar paper and one response paper. Seminar paper should be about seven pages double-spaced. It should be distributed no later than Thursday afternoon (5:00 p.m.) the week before a student is scheduled to present his or her seminar paper. The seminar paper should include three aspects: (1) thesis or focus of the reading material and sub-issues, (2) explication of the author's development of his or her main points, (3) an appraisal of the text in terms of its relevance to you and the wider public.

The response paper is about five pages (double space) and distributed to the class members at the time of each session. As the name implies, this paper is a response to the seminar paper. The response paper should include a critique of the seminar paper (e.g., points of agreement and disagreement) and should indicate substantive points that you believe were not presented in the seminar paper.

In addition, students are required to submit a fifteen-page final paper (double space). This final paper should demonstrate serious engagement of materials and the ability to develop a chosen theme or topic. Selection of topic must be done in consultation with the professor.

Class Time: Tuesday 8:15 .a.m. - 11:30 .a.m.

Class Format

8:15 - 8:25 - Meditation, Housekeeping
8:25 - 9:45 - Seminar paper presentation and Response
9:45 - 10:00 - Break
10:00 - 11:00 - Discussion
11:00 - 11:30 - Professor's Time

Required Readings

1. Paul Tillich, Systematic Theology, vol. 1 (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1951)
2. Paul Tillich, Systematic Theology, vol. 2 (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1957).
3. Paul Tillich, Theology of Culture (Oxford/London/New York: Oxford University Press, 1959).
4. Paul Tillich, Dynamics of Faith (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1957).
5. Paul Tillich, Love, Power, and Justice (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1954).
6. Paul Tillich, The Protestant Era (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1957).

Schedule of Sessions

February 6: Introduction, Walk-through the Syllabus, and Introductory Lecture

February 13: Systematic Theology, vol. 1, pages 3-68

February 20: Systematic Theology, vol. 1, pages 71-159.

February 27: Systematic Theology, vol. 1, pages 163-289.

March 6: Systematic Theology, vol. 2, pages 19-96.

March 13: Systematic Theology, vol. 2, pages 97-180.

March 19-23---Reading Week (no class)

March 27: Dynamics of Faith, pages 1-127.

April 3: Theology of Culture, pages 3-111.

April 6-10 –Easter Recess (no class)

April 17: Theology of Culture, pages 112-213.

April 24: The Protestant Era, pages 3-112.

May 1: The Protestant Era, pages 115-233.

May 11: Coursework Due for Graduates

May 8: Love, Power, and Justice, pages 1-125.

May 15: End of the Semester, Course Evaluation

Policy on Extensions

The work for a course is terminated at the end of the final class session. Students' performance in the course is evaluated on the basis of work submitted by that time, unless an exception is made by the instructor, in which case a formal petition for extension must be approved by the instructor by the end of the final class session. Extensions of course work beyond the end of the semester will be approved only under extraordinary circumstances. Each instructor will include this policy on each course syllabus as well as the criteria by which she or he will grant such extraordinary exception.

In the event such an extension is approved, the instructor shall file the extension form with the Registrar by the date grades are due. The Student Review Committee shall monitor extensions. If no petition for extension is filed, a final grade will be submitted.

An extension may be granted for a period not to exceed six months from the end of the term. If the work is not completed by the date petitioned, a final grade will be submitted. Any renewal of an extension must be approved by the instructor and filed with the Registrar prior to the due date on the original petition. No extension or its renewal will exceed six months from the end of the term in question.