



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

Dr. Michael Edens
Dr. Page Brooks

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*
Welker, Michael, ed *The Depth of the Human Person: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2014.

Readings Required

Daniel Akin. *Theology for the Church, second edition*. (Nashville: B&H, 2014) pgs. 283-389.

Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology, Third edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013) pgs 423-599.

James Leo Garrett, *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*, vol. 1. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990) pgs.451-606.

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994) pgs 439-525.

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

Friday, 1/27, 8-12

Christian Anthropology in our Texts

8-9 Introduction to Anthropology Edens and Brooks

9-10 Humans Origins and Creation _____ Cortez: ch 2-4, Welker: Units I and II, Akin ch 7, Erickson, ch. 21, Garrett, ch. 24-25, Grudem ch 21.

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

Paper Ideas

1. *The Mind/Body Problem* — Using sources such as Laurence W. Wood, "Recent Brain Research and the Mind-Body Dilemma," in *The Best of Theology*, vol. 2, ed. J. I. Packer and Paul Fromer (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, 1988); Charles Taliaferro, "Philosophy of Mind and the Christian," *Christian Theism and the Problems of Philosophy*, ed. by Michael D. Beaty, 230-53 (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1990); Arthur C. Custance, *The Mysterious Matter of Mind* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980); and Wilder Penfield, *The Mystery of Mind* (Princeton: University Press, 1975); survey the recent findings regarding the mind/body problem. Make application to a Christian view of anthropology.

2. *Philosophy of Mind* — Utilizing the essays in Ned Block, ed., *Readings in the Philosophy of Psychology*, 2 vols. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980); Charles Taliaferro, "Philosophy of Mind and the Christian," *Christian Theism and the Problems of Philosophy*, ed. by Michael D. Beaty, 230-53 (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1990), and Peter Carruthers, *Introducing Persons: Theories and Arguments in the Philosophy of Mind* (New York: State University Press, 1986); distinguish behaviorist, physicalist, functionalist, and dualist philosophies of mind. Propose a Christian philosophy of mind.

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

The Journal of Philosophy 89 (Spring, 1989), 258-269; Peter Singer, "All Animals Are Equal," in *Applied Ethics*, ed. Peter Singer (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), 215-228; idem, *Animal Liberation* (New York: New York Review, 1975); idem, "Animals and the Value of Life," in *Matters of Life and Death*, ed. Tom Regan (New York: Random House, 1980); Andrew Linzey, *Animal Rights* (London: SCM Press, 1976); idem, *Christianity and the Rights of Animals* (New York: Crossroad, 1989); and Andrew Linzey and Tom Regan, eds., *Animals and Christianity* (New York: Crossroad, 1990). Evaluate the place of animals in creation and eschatology. Discuss the place of animals with reference to persons.

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.

5. Human Nature — Discuss the implications of Darwinian evolution on a biblical view of personhood using sources such as Phillip E. Johnson, *Darwin on Trial* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991); Carl Deigler, *In Search of Human Nature* (New York: Oxford, 1991); and Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution* (New York: Free Press, 1996).

6. The Anthropology of Process Theology — Summarize and evaluate the anthropology of process theology in such works as Alfred North Whitehead, *Process and Reality* (New York: Macmillan, 1929); idem, *Science and the Modern World* (New York: Macmillan, 1925); John B. Cobb, Jr., and David Ray Griffin, *Process Theology: An Introduction* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1976); and *John Cobb's Theology in Process*, ed. David Ray Griffin and Thomas J. J. Altizer (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1977); Charles Hartshorne, *The Divine Relativity* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1948); David Ray Griffin, *A Process Christology* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1973); D. Brown, R. E. James, and G. Reeves, eds., *Process Philosophy and Christian Thought* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merill, 1971).

7. Artificial Intelligence — Examine works such as Donald MacKay, *Brains, Machines, and Persons* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980); and Ned Block, ed., *Readings in Philosophy of Psychology*, 2 vols., (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980); survey recent work on artificial intelligence and Turing machines. Provide a Christian response to artificial intelligence. M. Marvin Jones' dissertation, "A Christian Analysis of Artificial Intelligence and Creativity Using Donald MacKay's Model of Comprehensive Realism" should be helpful.

8. Euthanasia — Survey recent works on euthanasia such as Robert N. Wennberg, *Terminal Choices: Euthanasia, Suicide, and the Right to Die* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989); and James Rachels, *The End of Life: Euthanasia and Morality* (Oxford: University Press, 1986); contrast the pros and cons of euthanasia. Provide a biblical/theological/philosophical response. Possible other related subjects *The Personal Nature of the Unborn, and Society, Capital Punishment*

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

9. Biblical and Theological Anthropology — Survey the anthropology (particularly in reference to views of trichotomy, dichotomy, psychosomatic unity) in works such as Rudolf Bultmann, *Theology of the New Testament* (New York: Scribners, 1951-55), John Cooper, *Body, Soul and Life Everlasting* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989), G. E. Ladd *Theology of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974), Carl F. H. Henry, *God, Revelation and Authority* (Waco: Word Books, 1979), J. Leo Garrett, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990), Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985).

10. The Intermediate State and Personhood — Study the implications of near death and out of body experiences for a Christian anthropology from medical, biblical, theological, and philosophical perspectives, using Gary Habermas and J. P. Moreland, *Immortality: The Other Side of Death* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992), John W. Cooper, *Body, Soul and Everlasting Life* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989), John Hick, *Death and Eternal Life* (New York: Harper & Row, 1976), Raymond Moody, *Life after Life* (New York: Bantam, 1977), Maurice Rawlings, *Beyond Death's Door* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1978). Discuss the implications of various views of personhood (particularly in reference to views of trichotomy, dichotomy, psychosomatic unity) for the intermediate state. Attempt to harmonize these views with the biblical material. Or **Personhood, Immortality and Eschatology** — Using sources such as Gary Habermas and J. P. Moreland, *Immortality: The Other Side of Death* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992), John W. Cooper, *Body, Soul and Everlasting Life* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989), Oscar Cullman, *Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection from the Dead?* (New York: MacMillan, 1958), discuss the biblical view of anthropology with reference to eternity.

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.

12. Psychological Models of Personhood — Using sources such as Larry A. Hjelle and Daniel Ziegler, *Personality Theories* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981), survey the anthropology presupposed by each of the eleven psychological models presented (particularly with reference to the nine polarities discussed on pages 13-22) and the psychological method consistent with it. Or **Personal Identity** — Examine Derek Parfit, *Reasons and Persons* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984). Analyze Parfit's views about what it means to be a person over time, and his "teletransportation" demonstration of personhood. Evaluate and critique Parfit's proposals.

13. Personhood in Non-Christian Religions — Using sources such as Christopher J. Johnson and Marsha G. McGee, *Encounters with Eternity: Religious Views of Death and Life After Death* (New York: Philosophical Library, 1986), John Hick, *Death and Eternal Life* (New York: Harper & Row, 1976), John Bowker, *Problems of Suffering in the Religions of the World* (Cambridge:

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

14. Freedom vs. Determinism — Discuss Christian perspectives on free will and determinism. You may want to use the categories in Larry A. Hjelle and Daniel Ziegler, *Personality Theories* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981) to compare biblical views to modern psychological perspectives. See also Gary Watson, ed., *Free Will*, Oxford Readings in Philosophy (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982). D.A. Carson's *How Long O Lord? Reflections on Suffering and Evil* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991) and William Lane Craig's *The Only Wise God: The Compatibility of Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987) are good starting discussions.

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 Nietzsche, 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).

Bibliography

Section 1: Biblical Perspectives on Personhood

Bultmann, Rudolf. *Theology of the New Testament*. New York: Scribners, 1951-55, reprint edition by Baylor University Press, 2007, (particularly chapter 4).

Ladd, G. E. *Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974. Especially note section 33 on “The Pauline Psychology,” supplemented by section 3 (“The Need of the Kingdom”), section 20 (“The Christian Life”), section 29 (“Man Outside of Christ”), section 34 (“The New Life in Christ”), and section 36 (“The Christian Life”).

Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology: Israel's Faith*, vol. 2. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2006. Especially note sections 6-8 on “Humanity” (particularly 6.4 on “The Person”), “The World,” and “The Nations.”

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Lawrence, Louise J., and Mario I. Aquilar, eds. *Anthropology and Biblical Studies: Avenues of Approach*. Leiden: Deo, 2004.

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Section 2: Theological Perspectives on Personhood

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Section 3: Bioethics, Definition of Life Issues

Beauchamp, Tom, and James F. Childress. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

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

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Section 5: Embodiment and Human Origins

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Section 6: Persons and Gender

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Section 7: Human Nature

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Section 8: Animals, Artificial Intelligence, and Chimeras

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Section 9: Cultural Anthropology and the Social/Societal/Governmental Dimension of Personhood

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