

ICS Calendar Title: The Divine (at) Risk? Open Theism, Classical Theism and Beyond
ICS Course Code: ICS 1823/2823 S10
Instructor: Dr. Nik Ansell
Term and Year: Fridays, 9:30-12:30, Spring 2010
Last updated: January 12, 2010

The Divine (at) Risk? Open Theism, Classical Theism and Beyond

Course Description:

Did God take a risk in creating the world? How are divine and human freedom related? Can we confess God's sovereignty in the face of evil? This course will explore the different ways in which the God of history is viewed by advocates and critics of "Open Theism." Our examination will stimulate our own reflections on how we might best understand and, indeed, image God's love, knowledge and power.

Course Learning Goals:

- a. to gain an understanding of the doctrine of providence
- b. to gain insight into contemporary evangelical theology in terms of a current area of controversy
- c. to explore the relationship between philosophy and theology with respect to "classical theism" and its alternatives

Course Requirements:

- a. Total reading: 1250 pages total, including research paper, of which approximately 60-70 pages per week is required to prepare for class
- b. In-seminar leadership: Written observations on two required readings, identifying key issues and questions, to aid class discussion; oral contribution to discussion
- c. Description of course papers: One paper, addressing a question or theme arising from the class readings and discussion, of 3000-4000 words (Master's students) or 5000-7000 words (Ph.D. students), due by relevant ICS/TST deadline.
- d. Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated: Paper: 60% Class presentations: 20% Oral contributions: 20%

Required Readings:

James K. Beilby and Paul Eddy R. Eddy, eds., *Divine Foreknowledge: Four Views* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT131 .D575 2002]
Terence E. Fretheim, "God And World: Foreknowledge" in *The Suffering of God: An Old Testament Perspective* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984), chap. 4 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1199 .S82 F74]
David Ray Griffin, "Process Theology and the Christian Good News: A Response to Classical Free Will Theism" in John B. Cobb Jr. and Clark H. Pinnock, eds., *Searching for an Adequate God: A Dialogue Between Process and Free Will Theists* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000), chap. 1 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.6 .S43 2000X]
William Hasker, "In Response to David Ray Griffin" in John B. Cobb Jr. and Clark H. Pinnock, eds., *Searching for an Adequate God: A Dialogue Between Process and Free Will Theists* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000), chap. 1 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.6 .S43 2000X]
H. P. Owen, *Concepts Of Deity* (London: Macmillan, 1971), chap. 1 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT98 .O9]
Clark Pinnock, *Most Moved Mover: A Theology of God's Openness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT140 .P5 2001]
John Sanders, "Historical Considerations" in Clark Pinnock *et al*, *The Openness of God: A Biblical Challenge to the Traditional Understanding of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994), chap. 2 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT102 .O64 1994]
Bruce Ware, ed., *Perspectives On The Doctrine Of God: Four Views* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT75.3 .P47 2008]

Recommended Readings:

Herman Bavinck, *The Doctrine of God*, trans. William Hendrickson (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1951) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: ON ORDER]

G. C. Berkouwer, *The Providence Of God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT135 .B4713]

_____, *Divine Election*, trans. Hugo Bekker (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT810 .B443]

Gregory A. Boyd, *God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000) [Robarts Library: BT131 .B69 2000X]

Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT130 .C51 1958]

Christopher Hall and John Sanders, *Does God Have a Future? A Debate on Divine Providence* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003) [Robarts Library: BT135 .H25 2003X]

Paul Helm, *The Providence of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994) [Robarts Library: BT135 .H35 1994X]

William Ockham, *Predestination, God's Foreknowledge and Future Contingents.*, trans. Marilyn McCord Adams and Norman Kretzmann. Second edition (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B765 .O33 T73 1983]

Thomas C. Oden, *The Living God*, Systematic Theology, Volume One (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987), chap. 7 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT102 .O32 1987]

John Piper, Justin Taylor and Paul Kjoss Helseth eds., *Beyond the Bounds: Open Theism and the Undermining of Biblical Christianity* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT131 .B49 2003]

John Sanders, *The God Who Risks: A Theology of Providence* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998) [Regis College Library: BT135 .S26 1998]

Thomas Schreiner and Bruce A. Ware, eds. *Still Sovereign: Contemporary Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge, and Grace* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000) [Knox College Library: BT761.2 .G694 2000]

Terrance Tiessen, *Providence and Prayer: How Does God Work in the World?* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT135 .T54 2000]

Bruce A. Ware, *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2000) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT131 .W27 2000]

Thomas G. Weinandy, *Does God Change? The Word's Becoming in the Incarnation* (Still River, MA: St. Bede's Publications, 1985) [Regis College Library: BT198 .W417]

Thomas G. Weinandy, *Does God Suffer?* (Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 2000) [St. Michael's College Library: BT453 .S8 W45 1999]

Proposed Schedule:

1. Introductions
2. Owen, Fretheim
3. Sanders
4. Beilby, Ware I
5. Beilby, Ware II
6. Beilby, Ware III
[Reading week]
7. Beilby, Ware IV
8. Pinnock I
9. Pinnock II
10. Pinnock III
11. Pinnock IV
12. Griffin, Hasker
13. Student presentations