

Religious Studies 763 Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity; 796
Topics in Modern Christian Thought: Theologians

Winter 2017

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The Invisible and the Visible: Scripture, Doctrine, and Art in the History of Christian Thought
An examination of the interpretation of Scripture, the development of doctrine, and visual representation from the Patristic Period to the Modern. In what ways and to what extent can it be said that the incarnation affected Christian conceptions of the artistic representation of the divine? Why have some in the Christian tradition favoured the use of images in worship, while others have resolutely rejected the practice?

Jan	4	Introduction
	11	Origen, <i>De Principiis</i> (Peter Smith) Preface; Bk I. I-IV
	18	Origen, <i>De Principiis</i> Bk IV. I-IV
	25	Athanasius, <i>De Incarnatione</i> (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
Feb	1	Augustine, <i>Teaching Christianity</i> (New City Press) Bks I-II
	8	Augustine, <i>Teaching Christianity</i> Bks III-IV
	15	Sermon 198, Coursepack pp. 1-29; Gregory the Great, <i>Epistles 1 and 2 to Serenus</i> , Bishop of Marseille, Coursepack, pp. 31-33
Mar	1	Pseudo-Dionysius, <i>The Divine Names</i> and <i>The Mystical Theology</i> , Classics of Western Spirituality (Paulist Press)
	8	St John of Damascus, Treatises I and II, pp. 19-80, and III, pp. 81-103 (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
	15	Calvin, <i>The Institutes</i> , Vol 1, Coursepack, pp. 37-48
	22	Barth, <i>Church Dogmatics</i> I.1 <i>The Doctrine of the Word of God</i> 1-7, pp. 85-159; <i>Church Dogmatics</i> I.1 <i>The Doctrine of the Word of God</i> 8-12, Coursepack, pp. 51-64
	29	Cyril of Alexandria, <i>Commentary on the Gospel of John</i> , Coursepack, pp 67-73; Luther, <i>A Meditation on Christ's Passion</i> , Coursepack, pp 75-79; Calvin, <i>Commentary Gospel According to John</i> , Coursepack, p. 81, <i>The Institutes</i> , Coursepack, p. 83; Aston, "Lollards and Images", Coursepack, pp. 85-99
April	5	Images of the Trinity, the Ascension, and the Wounds

III. Requirements

1. Seminar Participation: Each student is expected to read carefully the assigned text for each session and to be prepared to discuss it on the appropriate day.
2. Seminar Report: Depending on the number of participants, each student is asked to lead the discussion on two or more of the assigned texts and to write two short papers, of about 1200 words, on two of the assigned texts.

3. Seminar Paper: Each student is expected to submit a major paper, of about 3,500 words, on a topic appropriate to the seminar's theme and agreed upon in consultation with the instructor. The paper is to be submitted by 20 April. Late papers will be penalised a grade a day.

IV. Evaluation

Short Papers	25%
Seminar Participation	25%
Major Paper	50%