

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form.



Moody Distance Learning

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

TH4406 The Trinity and the Christian Life, 3 credit hours

Course Description

Analysis of the implications of God's life in Trinity for the life of the church and individual believers within it. Emphasis placed on evaluating the relationships between Father, Son, and Spirit.

Prerequisite: None

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify the significance of the Trinity for distinctly Christian thought
2. Recognize the significance of the Trinity for truly Christian life
3. Defend a Trinitarian conception of the Christian life
4. Formulate Christian ethics in terms of Trinitarian Theology

Content Expectations

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.

Assignments

See the Syllabus page in the Blackboard course for general assignment instructions.

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: discussion boards and reading. **Class Participation accounts for 20% of final course grade.**
 - a. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Resources section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Unless otherwise directed, post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at **least TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).
 - b. **Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video reviews, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly expectations prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.
2. **ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be several projects in this course requiring skills learned that include work with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The assignments in the course are:

Journal Assignments

Although journal entries are less formal than an essay or other types of writing assignments you'll encounter in your college career, make sure your journal entries are coherent, use complete sentences, and are grammatically correct. You do not need to include a formal thesis statement in a journal entry, but you do need to make sure your main ideas are coming through clearly and concisely. Include topic sentences for each paragraph and support your ideas with evidence from your experience and/or personal observations.

a. ASSIGNMENT 1-1: DRAMA, ACTING, AND HYPOCRISY JOURNAL

Some Christians fear that speaking of the Christian life in terms of drama and "acting" will lead to justifying hypocrisy. How might you value the drama model without encouraging hypocrisy? Name and explain some church and personal practices to this effect.

Remember, your response can be less formal than an essay but be sure your entry is coherent and uses complete sentences that are grammatically correct. Your response should be about **750-800 words** in length.

(Due Week 1)

****Begin working on Assignment 2-1 in Week 1****

b. ASSIGNMENT 2-1: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRINITY ESSAY

Week #1 presented a reading on the theatricality of theology and the Christian life, while Week #2 starts to orient our thinking about the Christian life toward the triune God, who is holy. In a three to four (3-4) page double-spaced essay, and in your own words, make an argument for how—at this early stage—you understand the doctrine of the Trinity and the triune relations making a difference to how we understand the posture and actions of the Christian life.

(Due Week 2)

c. ASSIGNMENT 3-1: THE TRINITY MOTIVATES US SPIRITUALLY JOURNAL

It is easy to identify ways in which the doctrine of the Trinity distinguish Christianity from other religions. Can you think of ways that the doctrine of the Trinity might motivate us to be better spiritually-formed members of our communities? Explain.

Remember, your response can be less formal than an essay but be sure your entry is coherent and uses complete sentences that are grammatically correct. Your response should be about **750-800 words** in length.

(Due Week 3)

****Begin working on Assignment 4-1 in Week 3****

d. ASSIGNMENT 4-1: THE TRINITY AND THE OTHER ESSAY

How does seeing all of creation and one's basic human identity in terms of the Trinity affect one's understanding of relationships: to God, to others, to Creation? Formulate your own essay responding to this question in three to four (3-4) page essay, double-spaced.

(Due Week 4)

e. **ASSIGNMENT 5-1: THE TRIUNE ECONOMY OF REDEMPTION JOURNAL**

In twentieth century America, two historical aspects of the Christian faith were radically severed: the fundamentalists championed the gospel while the liberals championed social justice. Thinking about the triune economy of redemption, what are ways that you and your church can be involved in reunited gospel proclamation and care for people in need?

Remember, your response can be less formal than an essay but be sure your entry is coherent and uses complete sentences that are grammatically correct. Your response should be about **750-800 words** in length.

(Due Week 5)

****Begin working on Assignment 6-1 in Week 5****

f. **ASSIGNMENT 6-1: PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY OF THE TRINITY ESSAY**

In Week #3 we began to think about Trinitarian identity in terms of Christ and Spirit. In four to five (4-5) pages double-spaced, write an essay that contends for a Christ-shaped life led into new places by Spirit-shaped expression. Be attentive to the connectedness of the economic missions of Christ and Spirit, not falling to some of the critiques leveled by Johnson in Week #3. Also, as with all essays, this should be in your words (thoroughly drawing from your readings) and should take the form of thesis/defense: take a stance and make a case for this stance.

(Due Week 6)

g. **ASSIGNMENT 7-1: CHURCH IDENTITY IS BOUND TO GOD AS TRINITY JOURNAL**

In Christianity, we confess that the church is the bride of Christ who enjoys fellowship with the Father, in Christ, by the Spirit. That is, we see the church's identity bound to God as Trinity. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul calls upon this identity for the church to contend that sexual immorality does not befit who believers are. Reflect upon this passage, and explain its Trinitarian contours for faithful Christian action.

Remember, your response can be less formal than an essay but be sure your entry is coherent and uses complete sentences that are grammatically correct. Your response should be about **750-800 words** in length.

(Due Week 7)

****Begin working on Assignment 8-1 in Week 7****

h. **ASSIGNMENT 8-1: TRINITY AND ETHICS ESSAY**

In the previous weeks, we alluded to the direct relationship between theology and Christian ethics by way of the metaphor of drama. This week we bring this relationship to the foreground. The Volf essay especially seeks to ground our practice of generosity in the generosity of the triune God. For your final essay **pick one** of the following classic virtues and make your own case for its Trinitarian root and subsequent Christian expression:



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- Humility,
- Wisdom,
- Justice, or
- Temperance

This essay should be four to five (4-5) pages, double-spaced. Your essay should also include reflection on the beauty and depth that come from a distinctly Christian, Trinitarian articulation of your chosen virtue.

(Due Week 8)

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Class Participation	20%
Essays (Assignments 2-1, 4-1, 6-1, & 8-1)	60%
Journals (Assignments 1-1, 3-1, 5-1 and 7-1)	20%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%