

## Course Outline: 2015-16



**MA9501A**

**Doctrine of Creation**

**Location:**

**Day(s):**

**Time:**

**Instructor(s): Darren Marks**

**Contact info: [dmarks@uwo.ca](mailto:dmarks@uwo.ca) or HUC X279 (office HUC theology 319B)**

**TA: none**

**Office hours: Tuesday 12-2 pm**

### **Prerequisites Required for this Course:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course, and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### **Course Syllabus:**

While being informed by other central doctrines, the doctrine of creation uniquely addresses a series of theological questions on identity, purpose and even relationship to other faiths placed into both a cosmological and anthropocentric context. This course will explore the doctrine of creation as it relates to its historical, theological and anthropological location with particular attention given to the relationship the doctrine has to more modern self understandings of origin as given in the scientific and archaeological worlds.

**Aims and Objectives:**

1. Critically engage with and articulate the 'classical' position on Creation in Christian and Jewish theology
2. Critically engage with and articulate the 'history' of development of the doctrine to the modern period
3. Assess the impact of the new human understandings (archeological, anthropological, biological, cosmological and neurological) on the doctrine of Creation
4. Critically engage with its cogent doctrines in light of the above – sin, salvation, human identity and Christology/Halakhic

## Course Materials:

All materials should be available through HUC or other libraries, and in many cases on line. The only exception is J Farris and C Taliaferro, *The Ashgate Research Companion to Theological Anthropology*, (Ashgate: Burlington Va, 2015). This can be purchased via Kindle or checked out of HUC-R.

## Assignments & Method of Evaluation of Assignments:

1. Reading and participation mark 60%
2. Short summary paper (due week 8) of 'classical shape' 15% (c2000 words).
3. Final research paper as agreed 25% (c 3000 words). Due after class ends.

## Additional Statements:

### 1. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices during Tests and Exams

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited, to laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

2. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

### 3. Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking

A) All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

### 4. Support Services:

- UWO Registrar's Office: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:  
[http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty\\_of\\_theology/info\\_for\\_current\\_students](http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students)
- Faculty of Theology office: [srice@uwo.ca](mailto:srice@uwo.ca), 519-438-7224, ext. 289
- Huron's Writing Skills Centre: [http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student\\_life/writing\\_services](http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services)

- UWO's Mental Health website: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to this website for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- UWO Student Support and Development Services:  
[http://communications.uwo.ca/current\\_students/student\\_services.htm](http://communications.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services.htm)

## 5. Accommodation for absences:

### a) Non-medical absences:

For non-medical grounds, the student must submit a request to the instructor in writing prior to the due date of an assignment, and immediately in the case of a test. (Or as soon as possible following a non-medical emergency) Students are protected under the Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy and so written requests need only include a broad and general explanation of the situation, and the approximate length of time required. At the discretion of the instructor, the granting of extensions and re-scheduled tests may require the student to submit supporting documentation to the Academic Counsel Office or Dean of Theology who will then make the determination as to whether accommodation is warranted.

- b) **Medical absences:** See also the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness —Undergraduate Students, at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

**For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course**, a student must present documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation must be submitted as soon as possible to your Faculty Dean's office (Huron Arts & Social Science students should take their documentation to the Academic Counsellor, through the Academic Services Centre at Huron), together with a Request for Relief specifying the nature of the accommodation requested. The request and documentation will be assessed and appropriate accommodation will be determined by the Dean's office in consultation with the instructor(s.) Academic accommodation will be granted ONLY where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities.

The UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) and Request for Relief are available at the Student Centre website (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>), Huron University College Academic Counselling website ([www.huronuc.on.ca](http://www.huronuc.on.ca)) or from the Dean's Office or Academic Services Centre at Huron.

## A. GENERAL ISSUES IN CREATION

### What is the Doctrine of Creation, and why is it important?

Biblical: Genesis 1-6

WEEK Two: Classical: Augustine, *The Literal Meaning of Genesis*

WEEK Three: Catholic: Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae, I-a, 44-109 (Creation to Government of Creatures)*

WEEK Four: Jewish: Maimonides, *A Guide to the Perplexed*, I, LXVII-XXVI; II, 1-XXXI

WEEK Five: Protestant Reformer: John Calvin, *Institutes* I: I-XVIII

WEEK Six: Protestant (Modern): FDE Schleiermacher, *The Christian Faith*, §36-84

WEEK Seven: Protestant (Near): Emil Brunner, *The Christian Doctrine of Creation and Redemption*

## B. THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE DOCTRINE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Weeks Eight to Twelve:

J Farris and C Taliaferro, *The Ashgate Research Companion to Theological Anthropology*, (Ashgate: Burlington Va, 2015). PP tbd by group.