Course Unit Outline

Unit Code

T7337

Unit Name

Christian Anthropology and Grace

Unit Weighting

9 cr pts

Type of Unit

Specialised

Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions

One 7200 series unit in Theology

Academic Staff

Rohan Curnow, BA (ANU, 1998); BTheol (ACU, 2004); MA (ACU, 2002); MTh (SCD, 2006); Dip. Lonergan Studies (Adv.) (Regis College, 2009); STL (Regis College, 2009).

Curriculum Objectives

This course unit seeks to provide students with a theological understanding of the human person and the ability to relate Christian anthropology to the theology of grace. It enables students to begin to integrate their prior theological learning into a coherent framework based on a Christian vision of human persons and their orientation to the divine life.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

- 1. Understand the key features of the debates on grace that have occurred in Christian history;
- 2. Comprehend the interdependency of Christian anthropology and the theology of divine grace particularly as it is manifest in attempts to reconcile understandings of grace and human free will;
- 3. Relate the theology and life of grace to the Holy Trinity;
- 4. Analyse and critique recent ecumenical dialogue on Christian anthropology and grace; and,
- 5. Apply the theology of the human person and grace to the dynamics of personal, cultural and social transformation.

Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit

The distinction between nature and grace

Content

- 1. Scriptural foundations of Christian anthropology and the theology of grace;
- 2. Augustine's theology of grace and the Pelagian controversy;
- 3. The Eastern tradition on grace and the notion of deification;
- 4. Medieval developments in the theology of grace;
- 5. Developments in the theology of grace in the Reformation and Counter-Reformation period;
- 6. Contemporary debates on grace, and their connection with ecumenism; and,
- 7. Personal, social, and cultural implications of the life of grace.

Learning Activities

Lecture, Tutorial, Student Presentations

Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment

Nil

Assessment Profile

Assessment tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, the required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:

- 1) Demonstrate a familiarity with the methodological issues/foundational concepts that underpin the study of Christian anthropology and grace (e.g., short essay) [Outcomes 1, 2]
- 2) Identify and critique current topics in Christian anthropology and the theology of grace (e.g., book review or presentation) [Outcomes 3, 4]
- 3) Creatively apply their theological understanding of the human person and the life of grace to their understanding of Christian praxis (e.g., long essay) [Outcomes: 3, 5]

Representative References

- 1. Bonner, Gerald. *Church and Faith in the Patristic Tradition: Augustine, Pelagianism and Early Christian Northumbria*. London: Variorum Reprints, 1996.
- 2. Coffey, David. Grace: The Gift of the Holy Spirit. Milwaukee: MUP, 2011.
- 3. Duffy, Stephen J. *The Graced Horizon: Nature and Grace in Modern Catholic Thought*. Collegeville: Glazier, 1992.
- 4. ———. *The Dynamics of Grace: Perspectives in Theological Anthropology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1993.
- 5. Fairbairn, Donald. Grace and Christology in the Early Church. Oxford: OUP, 2003.
- 6. Green, Joel B. *Body, Soul and Human Life: The Nature of Humanity in the Bible*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2008.
- 7. Grenz, Stanley J. *The Social God and the Relational Self: A Trinitarian Theology of the Imago Dei*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- 8. Keating, Daniel. Deification and Grace. Naples, FL: Sapientia Press, 2008.
- 9. Lubac, Henri de. *The Mystery of the Supernatural*. New York: Herder and Herder, 1967.
- 10. McGrath, Alister. *Iustitia Dei: A History of the Christian Doctrine of Justification*. Cambridge: CUP, 1998.
- 11. Ormerod, Neil. Creation, Grace, and Redemption. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2007.
- 12. Russell, Norman. *The Doctrine of Deification in the Greek Patristic Tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.