

STUFF TO KNOW FOR THE MID-TERM

THEO 331 – THE CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

Week 1

1. In the course slides you will find a diagram which pictorially represented the major classifications of all major Christian denominations. Be able to either reproduce this diagram or (if you prefer) to explain it in sentence form.
2. What is a creed?
3. Be able to briefly explain the three ways we can understand the term “understanding God”.
4. Be able to briefly explain the different “isms” concerning the understanding of God.

Week 2

5. Be able to briefly explain the two forms of atheism.
6. Be able to briefly explain the two forms of agnosticism.
7. Be able to define the principle of condescension.
8. Be able to briefly explain the two way of understanding and responding to the “mystery of God”.
9. Be able to name and briefly explain the five ways of Thomas Aquinas.

Week 3

10. What are the two key names of God in the Old Testament?
11. What does it mean when we say that God is the Creator?
12. What is a covenant, and how is it important in our understanding of God?
13. How can we reconcile the sometimes-wrathful image of God in the Old Testament with the Christian notion of an all-loving God?

Week 4

14. What does the word “incarnation”?
15. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in the Incarnation of the Word?
16. How does the Incarnation reveal God as a heavenly Father?
17. What is the connection between Incarnation and condescension?
18. Be able to explain Jesus’ statement “I am the way, the truth, and the life” in light of the Incarnation.
19. Be able to explain the connection between the concepts of covenant, Eucharist and the Incarnation.
20. Be able to explain the concept “capax Dei” and its connection to the Incarnation.

Week 5

21. Be able to provide a brief summary of classical theism.
22. Be able to briefly describe each of the Trinitarian heresies (including Arianism).
23. Be able to write out the creed of Nicea-Constantinople.
24. Be able to briefly describe each of the heresies regarding the Incarnation, starting from Adoptionism and ending with Iconoclasm.

Week 6

25. What does filioque mean? Be able to explain why this word is controversial in discussions between Eastern and Western Christians.
26. Be able to describe the theory of Berengarius of Tours regarding the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the response of the Church to this theory.
27. How are the processions of the Son and the Spirit different, according to the theory of Thomas Aquinas?