

PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**COURSE NO. TH408-OL**

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Supralapsarian Christology**TERM:** Fall 2025-2026**PROFESSOR:** Edwin van Driel**CREDIT HOURS:** 3**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: yesUNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Supralapsarian Christology holds that the incarnation is not contingent upon sin, but central to God's fundamental intentions for creation. The last fifteen years has seen a renaissance of this approach, with a variety of new studies exploring its implications not only for Christology, but also for Biblical studies, ethics, pastoral care, and missiology. In this course we will read some of these contributions, focused on the ways in which supralapsarian Christology offers a fresh way of telling the Biblical narrative in a new missional era.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To help student think through the larger narrative of Scripture in a Christological light.
2. To be able to narrate models of supralapsarian Christology, the arguments for and against them, and the impact they have on the way we imagine Christian doctrine and life.
3. To develop a convincing account of the Christian story for a new missional era.

PREREQUISITES: None.**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS:**

This year several new books on supralapsarian Christology will be published from a variety of disciplinary angles. This course gives students a chance to read these books together, discuss them with the authors over Zoom, and explore their impact for the life of the church. Students are to participate in a Continuing Education Study Day on supralapsarian Christology and the life of the church (November 19) with Sam Wells and Edwin van Driel.

The course will include the following books. If no paperback edition has been published yet by commencement of the course, students will receive an electronic version of the manuscript.

- Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*. New York: Convergent Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-0593238325, \$14.29
- Samuel Wells, *Constructing an Incarnational Theology: A Christocentric View of God's Purposes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025. (Hardcopy only at this time)
- Collin Cornell, *God Draws Near: Recentering Biblical Theology of Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics, 2025. (Not yet published)
- Edwin Chr. van Driel, *The Incarnation as God's First Intention: Supralapsarian Christology for Faith and Practice*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics, 2025. ISBN: 978-1540969477, \$37.99

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: TBD.**ATTENDANCE:** Required. This course will be offered synchronously online.