

Exploring Process Theology: Varieties of Open & Relational Theologies

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TPS-3023

Claremont School of Theology

Professors:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Open and relational theologies come in many forms. Process theology is one of the best known. But many who embrace beliefs common to open and relational theologies distance themselves from the "process" label. Why is that? What is at stake? What do words like "open," "relational," and "process" mean? And where does "love" fit in? This course explores ways God can be thought to be in process, relational, and open. It draws from progressive & conservative voices, the Bible & science, common experience & miracles, and more. Along the way, opportunities for new open and relational beliefs will likely emerge, as we explore and generate novel views of God and existence.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this class will be able to:

1. Describe the core features of open and relational theologies.
2. Write perceptively about the similarities and differences between process, open, and relational views on God and existence.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

1. **Final Paper:** A constructive theological essay exploring the ways God can be thought to be in process, relational, and open. (assesses SLO #1, 2)

COURSE TEXTS:

- **Beginners** - *Introduction to Relational Theology*, edited by Montgomery, Oord, and Winslow
- **Intermediate** - *The Uncontrolling Love of God*, Oord
- **Advanced** - *Reenchantment without Supernaturalism*, Griffin.