



THEO5301 Systematic Theology II

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Studies Division
Thursdays 2:00-4:50 p.m.

Dr. Rhyme Putman

Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture

Dodd 106

504-282-4455 ext. 3247

rputman@nobts.edu

Twitter: @rhyneputman

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **spiritual vitality**.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

Course Description

This second course in systematic theology introduces the student to the doctrines of the work of Christ, salvation and the Christian life, the Holy Spirit, the church, and last things. The biblical foundation and the relevant historical developments are considered in developing a comprehensive statement of Christian teaching concerning construction of a Christian understanding of each doctrine.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to understand theological method and the doctrines of the work of Christ, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the church, and last things biblically, historically, and systematically.
2. Be able to apply theology by integrating these doctrines into a coherent, comprehensive, and consistent Christian worldview.
3. Be able to communicate these doctrines in the particular ministry calling and context of the learner.

Biblical Authority

The instructor of this course operates under the assumption that the Bible is the inspired, totally true and trustworthy Word of God. While history, tradition, and reason play no small role in the theological task, the Bible holds ultimate authority in Christian doctrine and practice. *The Baptist Faith and Message* (2000) provides the structure of this course's content.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Lectures
- Online discussions
- Written assignments
- Assigned reading
- Ministry task

Required Textbooks

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation (10%)

Students are expected to participate in classroom discussion and to read all required materials prior to class attendance. The professor reserves the right to require of students a "pop" quiz to keep them accountable for required readings.

2. Theological Reflections (50%)

Every student will give **twelve** 2-3 page (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt.) answers to the following questions based on reading assignments in four sets of questions. In each of these assignments, students should demonstrate (1) reading comprehension of the assigned materials, (2) critical reflection on the ideas and content in the reading, and (3) the student's ability to apply the theological content to vocational ministry. **These questions are due in sets of four. Put all answers to a Question Set in a SINGLE document on Blackboard.**

Question Set #1 (due 9/14) — Work of Christ (cite Erickson page numbers parenthetically in each of your answers). Read Erickson, chs. 35-38.

1. Describe the three offices/roles of Christ's ongoing ministry. How do we as believers continue to reflect these aspects of Christ's work.
2. Describe the major views of the nature of the atonement. What position do you hold and why? Use Scripture and reasoning to justify your position.
3. Describe the different positions on the extent of the atonement. What position do you hold and why? Use Scripture and reasoning to justify your position.

Question Set #2 (due 10/5) — Salvation (cite Erickson parenthetically in each of your answers). Read Erickson chs. 42-48.

4. What are the elements of the *ordo salutis*? What order do you put the elements in and why?
5. Explain your understanding of the doctrine of election. Use Scripture and theological resources to explain your position.
6. Make a case for or against the doctrine of eternal security. Use Scripture and reasoning to justify your position.

Question Set #3 (due 11/9) — Pneumatology and Ecclesiology (cite Erickson page numbers parenthetically in each of your answers). Read Erickson chs. 39-41, 49-53.

7. Explain the doctrine of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. How do you explain the post-conversion receptions of the Spirit in the book of Acts?
8. Compare and contrast the arguments for and against cessationism and continuationism. Describe your own position.
9. Is believer's baptism necessary for church membership? Explain your position.

Question Set #4 (due 11/23) — Eschatology (cite Erickson page numbers parenthetically in each of your answers). Read Erickson 54-58.

10. Describe the basic millennial positions; then describe your own position.
11. Compare and contrast exclusivism, inclusivism, universalism, and pluralism.
12. Describe the various views on the doctrine of hell. Use Scripture to explain your own position.

The schedule below has the reading assignments and questions asked for each theological reflection.

3. Erickson Chapter Summaries (15%)

Students must read ALL chapters required in the schedule below and submit a one-paragraph summary of each chapter read the day it is due in Blackboard.

4. Doctrinal Sermon (25%)

Every student will write a 4-6-page single-spaced sermon manuscript for a doctrinal sermon. Students can write on any doctrine addressed in this section of Systematic Theology (the doctrines of revelation, God, creation, providence, humanity, sin, and Christ). Each sermon should contain an introduction, a main idea, explanations of the biblical text, illustrations, applications, and a conclusion/invitation. *Students who preach or teach their lesson*

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in a church context by the end of the semester and who provide a one-page summary of their feedback can get 25 extra-credit points on the grade of this assignment.

The sermon may be a straightforward exposition of a doctrine in a particular text (e.g., the providence of God in Rom. 9) or a topical, yet text-driven sermon that traces a doctrine through a book or multiple books of the Bible.

Evaluation of Grades

1. Attendance and Participation	10%
2. Theological Reflection Question Sets	50%
3. Chapter summaries	15%
4. Doctrinal Sermon	25%
Total	100%

All assignments must be submitted to pass the course. Students who fail to complete an assignment will not receive a passing grade.

Extra Credit Opportunities

1. In Defense of Doctrine Reading Report

Students who read or complete reading *In Defense of Doctrine* and list it in their reading report will earn one additional point on their final grade. (The kids have to eat.)

2. Book Review

Students may write one **(1)** critical book review of a book related to the course and **pre-approved by the professor**. Students can earn up to **five (5) points** on their final grade with a quality critical book review. Extra credit book reviews are due the week of the final exam.

3. ETS Report

Students attending the annual national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in Providence, RI on November 15-17, 2017 may write a 1000-word report on papers attended (at least three). Students can earn up to seven points on their final grade with submission. For registration information, please visit <http://www.etsjets.org>.

Class Behavior

As noted above, attendance and class participation are necessary for meeting the requirements of this class. Students are expected to be attentive and prepared for each class session. Students who are engaged in private conversations or doing work for other classes may be asked to leave the class; repeat violations may result in removal from the course. Rude or disruptive behavior is also not permitted.

Laptop Guidelines

Laptops are not permitted in this class.

Late Work

Because life and ministry happens, late work will be accepted—but not without penalty. For every day an assignment is late, five points will be taken off. *No assignment over two weeks late will be accepted.* Failure to submit every assignment will result in failure of the course.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Remember the words of the proverb: *“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out”* (Prov. 10:19).

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments
8/22	Introduction to the Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • READ the syllabus
8/29	Work of Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summaries: Erickson, chs. 35-36
9/5	Work of Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summaries: Erickson, chs. 37-38
9/12	Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summaries: Erickson, chs. 43 • Theological Reflection Question Set #1 Due 9/14 at 11:59 p.m.
9/19	Subjective Aspects of Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summaries: Erickson, chs. 44
9/26	Objective Aspects of Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summary: Erickson, ch. 45
10/3	Sanctification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summary: Erickson, chs. 46 • Theological Reflection Question Set #2 Due 10/5 at 11:59 p.m.
10/10	Perseverance and Apostasy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summaries: Erickson, chs. 47
10/14-10/18	FALL BREAK <i>“...give him rest from days of trouble...”</i> (Psalm 94:13)	
11/7	The Work of the Holy Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summaries: Erickson, chs. 39-41 • Theological Reflection Question Set #3 Due 11/9 at 11:59 p.m.
11/14	The Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter summaries: Erickson, chs. 49-53
11/21	Evangelical Theological Society Meeting (Library Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological Reflection Question Set #4 Due 11/23 at 11:59 p.m.

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Date	Topic	Assignments
11/28	THANKSGIVING WEEK	
12/5	Last Things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erickson, chs. 55-58
12/12	Last Things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erickson, chs. 32-34 • Doctrinal Sermon due

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