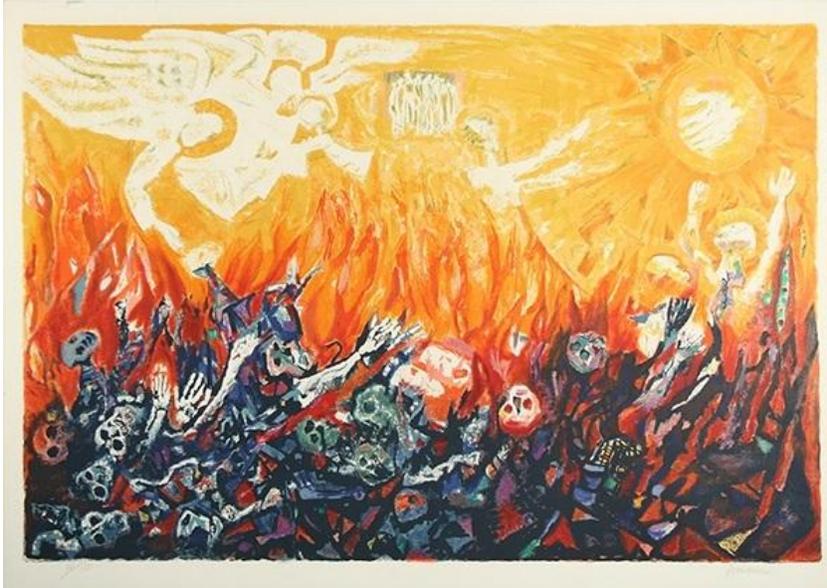




Systematic Theology 2 (THEO 5301)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Time: Thursdays, 6:00-8:50 PM, Fall 2022
Location: **TBD**



Abraham Rattner (1895-1978), *Untitled*

Tyler R. Wittman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Theology

Office: Dodd 208
Email: twittman@nobts.edu

Office hours/coffee/lunch by
appointment

Teaching Assistant:
Mr. Conner Hinton

I. MISSION STATEMENT

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

II. 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 (eschatology). 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. Prerequisite: It is highly suggested that students take THEO5300 Systematic Theology 1 before taking this course.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. *Understanding.* By the end of the course, the student should:

- Be able to understand theological method and the doctrines covered in their biblical foundations, historically significant moments, and systematic relations.
- Be able to communicate these doctrines in their particular ministry calling and context of the learner.

2. *Transferable skills*

- Students should show a capacity for attentive and reflective reading of ancient and modern texts.
- Students should demonstrate a capacity to analyze concepts and arguments.
- Students should demonstrate an ability to formulate arguments and articulate critical judgments, both orally and in writing.
- Students should demonstrate an ability to engage in and profit from group discussion.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

There are two Reading Tracks for this course, one more introductory and the other more intermediate. Using your discretion, choose one and stick with it. You may not change reading tracks or switch back and forth between them. Note: you are encouraged to have physical copies of the course texts; e-books are discouraged because they inhibit reading comprehension.

1. *Introductory.*

- i. Herman Bavinck, *The Wonderful Works of God* (Westminster Seminary Press, 2019).
- ii. Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation*. Popular Patristics Series 44B (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2012)
- iii. Stephen Westerholm, *Justification Reconsidered: Rethinking a Pauline Theme* (Eerdmans, 2013).
- iv. Anthony Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future* (Eerdmans, 1979).
- v. Select essays and chapters:
 1. Ivor Davidson, "Atonement and Incarnation," in *T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, ed. Adam J. Johnson (London: T&T Clark, 2017).¹ [[Library E-Book](#)]
 2. Stephen R. Holmes, "Penal Substitution," in *T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, ed. Adam J. Johnson (London: T&T Clark, 2017). [[Library E-Book](#)]
 3. Scott Swain, "Covenant of Redemption," in *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic*, ed. Michael Allen and Scott R. Swain (Baker Academic, 2015), 107-125. [[PDF on Canvas](#)]
 4. Ivor J. Davidson, "Salvation's Destiny: Heirs of God," in *God of Salvation: Soteriology in Theological Perspective*, ed. Ivor J. Davidson and Murray A. Rae (Routledge, 2011). [[PDF on Canvas](#)]

¹ This book is available in electronic format through the NOBTS library, with the option to download and print individual chapters (like this one and the Stephen Holmes essay). Search for it on EBSCOhost at <https://www.nobts.edu/research-links/ejournals-and-dissertations.html>.

5. Henri Blocher, "Old Covenant, New Covenant," in *Always Reforming: Explorations in Systematic Theology*, ed. A. T. B. McGowan (IVP Academic, 2007), 240-270. [\[PDF on Canvas\]](#)
6. John Webster, "On Evangelical Ecclesiology," *Ecclesiology* 1.1 (2004):9-35. [\[PDF on Canvas\]](#)
7. Paul K. Jewett, *Infant Baptism and the Covenant of Grace* (Eerdmans, 1978), 219-243. [\[PDF on Canvas\]](#)

2. *Intermediate*.²

- i. Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, vols. 1-3 (Baker Academic, 2003-2006).
- ii. Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation*. Popular Patristics Series 44B (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2012).
- iii. Select essays and chapters:
 1. Henri Blocher, "Old Covenant, New Covenant," in *Always Reforming: Explorations in Systematic Theology*, ed. A. T. B. McGowan (IVP Academic, 2007), 240-270. [\[PDF on Canvas\]](#)
 2. John Webster, "On Evangelical Ecclesiology," *Ecclesiology* 1.1 (2004):9-35. [\[PDF on Canvas\]](#)

V. COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

As an introductory course, class time will consist primarily of lectures, accompanied by short discussion of the day's assigned reading if and when applicable or necessary. Students are expected to arrive ready to engage the topics, listen attentively, and discuss the readings and topics if required.

VI. ASSESSMENT (COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION OF GRADE)

VI.1. Assignments

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Athanasius Précis Packet: 40 % | Due date: Sept 30 |
| 2. Research Project: 35% | Due date: Dec 2 |
| 3. Course Notes: 10% | Due date: Dec 2 |
| 4. Reading Report: 15% | Due date: Dec 2 |

1. **Athanasius Précis Packet.** Your principal task in this course is to discover and cultivate some of the virtues that enable you to learn with justice and charity. This assignment

² This track is more challenging, not in word count necessarily but in the density of the reading. Most students are capable of reading Bavinck's *Reformed Dogmatics* (because most students are more intellectually capable than they believe), but there is a learning curve to it. You will not understand everything he says, but you'll understand enough. Students who desire to pursue further studies, such as a Ph.D., should seriously consider this option - though it isn't necessary for pursuing further study.

instills these virtues by giving you the chance to read a classic of the Christian tradition carefully and slowly enough to reproduce its essential arguments. For this assignment, you will write a précis—an analytical outline—on Athanasius of Alexandria’s classic work concerning redemption, *On the Incarnation of the Word*. This book has been long regarded as a must-read, in which Athanasius carefully argues for the coherence of God’s creative and redemptive work in Jesus Christ. The précis packet is designed to have you engage this classic work in depth and then to interact with it through a critical response you write as a conclusion to your précis.

a. Instructions for Reading. Among other matters, ask yourself the following questions as you read:

i. Argument:

- What is the chief claim being made and how is it constructed as well as supported?
- What kind of arguments or people is the author responding to, from what you can gather in his writing?
- What are the main questions to which the author’s arguments are intended as answers?
- What are some of the secondary things the author wants the readers to pick up? How do those secondary things support or take away from the primary things in the argument?
- What are the highs and lows of the argument?
- What objections could be raised against the author and how might they respond?

ii. Interpretation

- Identify areas of the argument that are ambiguous or difficult; what are the most charitable and just ways of understanding these portions?
- Identify any the larger context(s) for the argument; how do these bear upon its intelligibility? What’s in the background? Who are the author’s interlocutors?

iii. Claims

- Where does the argument succeed and where does it fail?
- What are some unexplored/unarticulated consequences of the argument?

b. Instructions for Précis. You will write one large précis for the whole of Athanasius’ text, which is relatively short. The professor will post an example of what a précis should look like from the first chapter of Herman Bavinck’s *The Wonderful Works of God*, so you have an idea about expectations and formatting. For the précis:

i. Outline the author’s argument step-by-step, demonstrate your understanding of the lines of reasoning and how they contribute to the overall point being made (try not to quote the reading too much, use your own words, but quote the author or cite the text regularly enough that it’s clear where you are in the book). Please summarize what you take to be the author’s main thesis/point and how they support this. See *instructions for reading* above.

ii. Highlight how all the sections of the text flow together to form one coherent argument about the topic at hand.

iii. Use Times New Roman, 12pt font, with single spacing.

iv. The précis should be anywhere from 3,000 to 4,000 words (include word count at the beginning).

- c. **Instructions for Concluding Reflection.** In addition to your précis of Athanasius’s book, your packet will conclude with a deep, theological reflection on what you’ve read (2,000-3,000 words). This will require you to rope in your other course readings, as well as additional research (books and articles on Athanasius, for example, or the themes he talks about). Do not provide your mere impressions of the text (e.g. “I really enjoyed reading this” or “Athanasius was devout”), but interact with it critically and analytically, drawing out the significance and meaning of the themes and responding to them. Reflect on the following themes (though you don’t have to give each theme equal consideration):
- i. Reflect on how Athanasius appeals to the doctrine of God (the Trinity, the divine attributes) in the course of his argument. What role does the doctrine of God play in his account of redemption?
 - ii. Reflect on what Athanasius says about the cross and resurrection, the kinds of things they provide for and what their effects are.
 - iii. Reflect on the “apologetic” aspects of Athanasius’ argument and what lessons there might be for preaching, teaching, and evangelization.
- d. **Due Date.** Together, your précis and your concluding reflection constitute your “précis packet.” Combine them into one large document, which should come in anywhere from 5,000-7,000 words. This is due on Sept 30.
2. **Research Project.** Seminary is one of the few occasions you will have to explore any number of theological questions in some depth, both so that you understand the faith and arrive at some convictions (however open to improvement these may be). Your final assignment offers you the chance to do this through a research project, which you may possibly tailor to your own field of study. Every project must be approved by the professor, and all of them must be completely original, written this semester for this class alone (no recycling anything you’ve done or used elsewhere). Research projects can be proposed, but possible research projects include:
- a. **Theological research paper:** evaluate two to four different positions on a doctrine or aspect of a doctrine covered in class (lectures or reading), and then argue for one of those views, defending it against the strongest objections from the other view. You are responsible to describe the views you discuss carefully and charitably, interacting with *primary sources* (see *Writing a Paper* handout). Use 8-15 sources, 3500 words maximum, 12 point font Times New Roman, NOBTS Style.
 - b. **Sermon series:** write three expository sermons on a doctrine, showcasing how theology serves the teaching office within the local church, and how the doctrine applies to the life of discipleship. Each sermon should be no longer than 2,500 words, in manuscript form.
 - c. **Counseling paper:** show how theology informs a particular issue in psychology related to your counseling degree, or how it applies to a specific case study. In such papers, make sure the doctrine is clearly defined and described before putting it into conversation with counseling literature. Use 8-15 sources, 3500 words maximum, 12 point font Times New Roman, NOBTS Style.
 - d. **Song.** Worship students may wish to compose a song that displays deep consideration of a doctrine we covered in this class, and which sets it to words and music in an equally thoughtful manner. The song would need to have four to five verses and a chorus, minimally. It also needs to display some theological depth. Older hymns are a greater example than much of what gets sung in the 21st century. All songs should be recorded and submitted with a document containing lyrics and musical notation. Include a one-page reflection on the song’s theology, including its biblical foundations, any allusions it employs, and so forth.
 - e. **Due date:** Dec 2.

3. **Course Notes.** In lieu of a final exam testing comprehension of significant ideas and concepts that emerge in the course lectures, you will submit a scanned copy of the notes you have taken on the lectures. Typically, I will request your scanned notes for two or three dates of my choosing, *so you should write the date of the lecture on your notes*. This is chiefly a matter of accountability; I want to see that you have laid aside distractions, practiced attentiveness, engaged the material, and tried your best to take notes for future reference. Dates of lectures should be clearly designated.
 - a. **Due Date:** Dec 2.
4. **Reading Report.** At the end of the term, you will submit a statement detailing what reading track you chose and what reading from that track you have and have not finished attentively. Instructions will be available on Canvas.
 - a. **Due Date:** Dec 2.

VI.2. Grades

1. The grading scale will follow institutional guidelines.
2. Late submissions will be docked five percent every day they are late. Please submit assignments on time. Mysterious ‘problems’ with an internet connection, busyness with outside responsibilities and assignments in other courses, a penchant for perfectionism, and so on, are not excuses.
3. There will not be any extra credit. Neither will there be any extension of paper length/due date, save for truly extenuating circumstances.
4. Since this is an introductory course, your professor (and grader[s], if any there be) errs in your favor when assigning grades. If, nevertheless, you feel that I have erred entirely in assigning your grade, please take the following steps: (a) wait at least one week before taking action, and give your paper a careful re-read to see if you feel the same way; (b) keep in mind that if I reconsider your grade, that can cut both ways (I may discover that I, or the grader, was *too* generous the first time around); (c) as specifically as possible, set down an argument in writing as to why your grade merits reconsideration.

Attendance Policy

Traditional Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

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. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
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.

VII. ESTIMATED COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

Key

WW: Bavinck, *Wonderful Works of God* (WW 1 = chapter 1)

RD: Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics* (RD 3:7 = volume 3, chapter 7)

AA: Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation* (AA §3 = Athanasius, section 3).

SW: Westerholm, *Justification Reconsidered*

AH: Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future*

| Date | Topic | Readings: Option 1 | Readings: Option 2 |
|-------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| Week 1 Aug 18 | Introduction & Syllabus Recap of ST 1: Trinity and Christology ³ | Syllabus WW 17 Swain PDF | Syllabus RD 3:7 |
| Week 2 Aug 25 | IV.3. Christ's Two States | WW 18 Davidson, "Atonement and Incarnation" | RD 3:8 |
| Week 3 Sept 1 | IV.4 Christ's Mediatorial Work | AA §§1-32 | AA §§1-32 |
| Week 4 Sept 8 | IV.4. Christ's Mediatorial Work | AA §§33-57 | AA §§33-57 |
| Week 5 Sept 15 | V.1. Pneumatology | WW 19 | RD 3:9 (stop at page 512) |
| Week 6 Sept 22 | V.1. Pneumatology | WW 20-21 | RD 4:1 |
| Week 7 Sept 29 | V.1. Pneumatology | SW | RD 4:2 |

³ For review, your professor recommends the following: Gilles Emery, *The Trinity: An Introduction to Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God* (Catholic University of America Press, 2011); Bavinck, RD 3:6 (on Christology).

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Oct 6 | Fall Break – No Class | WW 22 Davidson, “Salvation’s Destiny” | RD 4:3 |
| Week 8 Oct 13 | V.2. Soteriology | WW 23 | RD 4:3 |
| Week 9 Oct 20 | V.2. Soteriology | Webster PDF | RD 4:4 |
| Week 10 Oct 27 | V.2. Soteriology | Blocher PDF Jewett PDF | RD 4:8 |
| Week 11 Nov 3 | V.2. Soteriology | AH 1-6 | Webster PDF Blocher PDF Jewett PDF |
| Week 12 Nov 10 | V.2. Soteriology | AH 7-13 | RD 4:11 |
| Week 13 Nov 17 | V.3. Ecclesiology | AH 16-20 | RD 4:12-14 |
| Nov 24 | Thanksgiving Break – No Class | | RD 4:15-16 |
| Week 14 Dec 1 | Finals Begin – No Class | WW 24 | RD 4:17-18 |

VIII. SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY

In addition to the required texts and readings listed above, the following are recommended sources.

Allen, Michael. *Sanctification*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Discipleship*. Fortress Press, 2003.

Ferguson, Sinclair B. *The Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

- Hall, Christopher A. *Living Wisely with the Church Fathers*. IVP, 2017.
- Hoekema, Anthony. *Saved by Grace*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Horton, Michael. *Justification*, 2 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
- Johnson, Adam. *Atonement: A Guide for the Perplexed*. Bloomsbury, 2015.
- Ladd, George Eldon. *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1959.
- Mapping Modern Theology: A Thematic and Historical Introduction*, edited by Kelly M. Kapic and Bruce L. McCormack. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Mouw, Richard. *When the Kings Come Marching In: Isaiah and the New Jerusalem*, rev. edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1955.
- New Dictionary of Theology: Historical and Systematic*, 2nd ed. Edited by Martine Davie, et al. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016.
- The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, edited by John Webster, Kathryn Tanner, and Iain Torrance. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Religion Past and Present*, edited by Hans Dieter Betz, Don Browning, Bernd Janowski, and Eberhard Jüngel. 14 volumes. Leiden: Brill, 2006-2013.
- Stott, John. *The Cross of Christ*. IVP, 2006.