



SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I

THEO5300

June 1-5, June 8-12, 2015
Mondays, 1-4 PM
Tuesdays-Fridays, 8:15-11:15 AM

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*“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them,
because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”*

1 Timothy 4:16

The Mission of the Seminary

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.

Course Description

This first course in systematic theology introduces the student to the methodology of theology (Prolegomena) and the doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ. The biblical foundations and the relevant historical developments are considered in construction of a Christian understanding of each doctrine.

Core Value Focus

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “mission focus” especially highlighted in this course. The core value focus for the 2014-15 academic year is spiritual vitality.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Be able to understand theological method and the doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ 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

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.

Required Texts

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

Putman, Rhyne R. *In Defense of Doctrine: Evangelicalism, Theology, and Scripture*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015.

Recommended Texts

Elwell, Walter A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Garrett, James Leo. *Systematic Theology*. Vols. 1-2. North Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 2006, 2007.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Course Participation (10%)

Students are expected to participate in classroom discussion and to read the required daily reading materials (from Grudem or Erickson) prior to the appropriate session.

2. Reading Report (10%)

Students **will be required to hand in a reading report at the end of the course**. Students are required to report the percentage read of the assignments from the Erickson on the schedule. This report is simply the percentage read.

3. Vocabulary Quizzes (30%)

Daily quizzes will be given on **Blackboard** covering the words from the lists included in the syllabus (e.g. Quiz #1 will be posted on **June 1** and will cover the words on Vocabulary List #1

below). The definitions may be found in the McKim dictionary. Each quiz will be “active” for 3 days beginning on Monday morning. The allotted time once started is fifteen (15) minutes. Never use the back button or the test will end and you will be graded on what you have completed. The quizzes are not open book. Each quiz is worth 50 points.

4. Theological Reflection Questions (5% each)—Due July 31

Every student will give **ten** 2-3 page (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt.) answers to the following questions based on reading assignments. Students must choose ten of the twelve questions. **Every student must complete question #7, which will be assessed by the rubric following this section.** Any additional questions answered will result in extra credit.

Questions about Theological Method

1. Read Putman 1-39. **Do we need some sort of systematic theological formulation of doctrine in addition to the interpretation of the Bible? Why or why not?**
2. Read Putman 175-207. **Describe Kevin Vanhoozer’s theological method. How does he relate *theology* and *the mission of the church*?**
3. Read Erickson, 210-32; Putman 209-55. **Describe some of the challenges made to biblical authority. Who or what should have final authority in the development of our doctrines?**
4. Read Putman 257-324. **How important is the notion of *truth* to Christian doctrine? To what theory of truth should evangelical Christians subscribe and why?**
5. Read Putman 325-73. **Suppose a skeptic were to tell you that many of the doctrines you hold dear—such as the doctrine of the Trinity or the doctrine of inerrancy—are not explicitly stated in the Bible and therefore not valid theological positions by our own standards. What would you say?**
6. Read Putman 374-401. **What stance should we as readers take toward Scripture in developing doctrine?**

Questions about Specific Doctrines

7. Read Erickson, 121-42. **Using the materials from your assigned systematic theology textbook and other theological resources (like commentaries, other theological textbooks or monographs), briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of general revelation, highlighting the differences between general and special revelation. What impact does the doctrine of general revelation have on your understanding of missions and evangelism? Describe how the doctrine of general revelation can affect your communication of the Gospel. This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.**

8. Read Erickson, 188-209; Putman, 4-12, 357-62. **Explain and defend the doctrine of biblical inerrancy.**
9. Read Erickson, 233-59. **Does God change his mind? How do you explain Scriptures that seem to indicate that he does?**
10. Read Erickson, 291-316. **Explain the doctrine of the Trinity as you would to a student in a youth group. Be careful to avoid bad analogies that implicitly reflect trinitarian heresies.**
11. Read Erickson, 337-57. **How do you make sense of the “days of creation” in Genesis 1. Explain your position.**
12. Read Erickson, 565-83. **How do you understand the “age of accountability” doctrine?**

Course Evaluation

Grades will be determined on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale—an A for 93-100, B for 85-92, C for 77-84, D for 70-76, and F for 69 or below. Borderline grades will normally be determined by the numerical grade received (I round up from .5), unless the student's promptness and faithfulness in class attendance, positive attitude and contribution in class discussions, and preparedness and attentiveness in class warrants special consideration. These factors only apply when the student is fractionally close to the next highest grade.

Blackboard

An important instrument in the implementation of this course is the Blackboard Learning System. *All assignments (book reviews, ministry projects) will be submitted using Blackboard SafeAssign technology.* Tests will also be conducted in Blackboard. Because this technology is accessible at home or office, there is a **trust policy** in place that the student will not compromise his or her integrity by looking at notes or books during the test. And as the proverb notes, “Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered” (Prov. 28:18).

Class Policies

1. Attendance and Class Participation

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.

2. Laptop Guidelines

Laptops are permitted in class as long as they are used for taking notes or accessing Blackboard materials related to this particular course. *Students using laptops are requested to sit in the front of the classroom for accountability purposes.* Gaming, e-mail, social networking, and web browsing of any kind are strictly prohibited. Failure to heed this policy may result in dismissal from the class session; repeat violations may result in removal from the course.

3. 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.

4. Plagiarism

The instructor calls attention to the policy on plagiarism found in the NOBTS Graduate Catalog and Student Handbook. 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).

Extra Credit

1. Book Review

Students may write one (1) critical book review of from the list of review monographs below for extra credit. Students can earn up to five points on their final grade with a quality critical book review.

Collins, C. John. *Did Adam and Eve Really Exist?: Who They Were and Why You Should Care*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011. **Anthropology / Hamartiology.**

Cooper, John W. *Body, Soul, and Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and the Monism-Dualism Debate*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. **Theological Anthropology**

Copan, Paul and William Lane Craig. *Creation out of Nothing: A Biblical, Philosophical, and Scientific Exploration*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. **Doctrine of Creation**

Dockery, David. *Christian Scripture: An Evangelical Perspective on Inspiration, Authority and Interpretation*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1995. **Bibliology.**

Erickson, Millard J. *What Does God Know and When Does He Know It?: The Current Controversy over Divine Foreknowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. **Theology Proper.**

Harwood, Adam. *The Spiritual Condition of Infants: A Biblical-Historical Survey and Systematic Proposal*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011. **Hamartiology**

Hurtado, Larry W. *How on Earth Did Jesus Become a God?: Historical Questions about Earliest Devotion to Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. **Christology**.

Jowers, Dennis, ed. *Four Views on Divine Providence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. **Doctrine of God**

Nash, Ronald H. *The Concept of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983. **Doctrine of God**

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. **Hamartiology**

Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. **Doctrine of God**.

Sanders, Fred and Klaus Issler. *Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2007. **Christology**.

Wright, N. T. *The Last Word: Scripture and the Authority of God—Getting Beyond the Bible Wars*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2001. **Bibliology**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT AND RUBRIC

Embedded Assignment

1. Using the materials from your assigned systematic theology textbook and other theological resources (like commentaries, other theological textbooks or monographs), briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of general revelation, highlighting the differences between general and special revelation.
2. What impact does the doctrine of general revelation have on your understanding of missions and evangelism?
3. Describe how the doctrine of general revelation can affect your communication of the Gospel.
4. This assignment should be 800-1200 words in length.

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INADEQUATE (0 PTS)	BASIC (1 PT)	COMPETENT (2 PTS)	GOOD (3 PTS)	EXCELLENT (4PTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to understand the doctrinal topic.					
APPLICATION	Able to apply knowledge by relating it to the broader Christian worldview.					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate the doctrine to a ministry audience.					

Vocabulary Terms
for Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes

<u>Vocabulary List 1</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 2</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 3</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 4</u>
Biblical theology Fundamentalism Historical theology Liberalism, Theological Modern theology Philosophical theology Reformed theology Relational theology Religion Systematic theology Theology of the Cross	Angelology Anthropology Bibliology Christology Demonology Doctrine Ecclesiology Eschatology Soteriology Theological tradition	Agnosticism Atheism Deism Monotheism Naturalism Paganism Panentheism Pantheism Theism Tritheism	Anthropomorphism Biblicism Creedalism Fideism Natural theology Orthodoxy Revelation Revelation, General Revelation, Natural Revelation, Progressive Revelation, Special
<u>Vocabulary List 5</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 6</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 7</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 8</u>
Authority Canon Christian experience Illumination Inerrancy Inerrancy, Absolute Inerrancy, Limited Inspiration Scripture Testament Tradition	“A posteriori” statements “A priori” statements God, Aseity of God, Omnipotence of God, Omnipresence of God, Omniscience of Hypostasis Immanence Imminence Impassibility, Divine Person, God as Transcendence of God	Modalism Patripassianism Perichoresis Sabellianism Subordinationism Trinity, Economic Trinity, Immanent Trinity, Ontological Tritheism Unitarianism	Angel Covenant theology <i>Creatio ex nihilio</i> Decrees of God Demons Exorcism Providence, Divine Satan Theodicy Theophany Theosophy
<u>Vocabulary List 9</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 10</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 11</u>	<u>Vocabulary List 12</u>
Concupiscence Creationism Image of God Imputation Imputation of Christ’s righteousness Imputation of guilt Original righteousness Original sin Preexistence of souls Righteousness, Human Sin, Imputation of	Depravity Depravity, total Elect Election Grace, Common Grace, Efficacious Grace, Prevenient Incarnation Sin Sin, Deliverance from Sin bearing	Apollinarianism Athanasius (293-373) Arianism Chalcedonian Christology Docetism Ecumenical councils Eutychianism Gnosticism Mary, Assumption of Nestorianism	Christ, Exaltation of Christ, Imitation of Christ, Impeccability of Christ, Office of Christ, Preexistence of Hypostatic union <i>Logos</i> Lord Son of God Son of Man Virgin(al) conception Virgin birth

Traducianism			
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THEO5300 Summer 2014			
Lecture, Reading, and Quiz Schedule			
Date	Class Topic	Assignments	Readings from Erickson
06/1	Introduction to the Course		
	Prolegomena and Theological Method, Pt. 1	Vocab Quiz #1	Erickson, chs. 1-3
06/2	Prolegomena and Theological Method, Pt. 2; General Revelation and Natural Theology	Vocab Quiz #2	Erickson, ch. 4-6
06/3	Special Revelation and Bibliology	Vocab Quiz #3	Erickson, ch. 7-10 BFM Article 1 (1925, 1963, 2000)
06/4	The Doctrine of God	Vocab Quiz #4	Erickson, chs. 11-13
06/5	The Trinity	Vocab Quiz #5	Erickson, ch. 14
Week #2			
06/8	Creation and Providence	Vocab Quiz #6	Erickson, ch. 14-19 BFM Article 2 (1925, 1963, 2000)
06/9	Theological Anthropology	Vocab Quiz #7	Erickson, chs. 20-24 BFM Article 3 (1925, 1963, 2000); Article 18 (1998, 2000)
06/10	Hamartiology	Vocab Quiz #8	Grudem, ch. 24 Erickson, chs. 25-29
06/11	Christology	Vocab Quiz #9	Erickson, ch. 30-34 BFM Article 21 (1925); Article 15 (1963, 2000); Article 16 (1963, 2000)
06/12	Christology	Vocab Quiz #10	

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- _____. *Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
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Systematic and General Theologies

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