

Systematic Theology II

Traditional On-Campus Course · Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:50 a.m.

Course Instructor
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“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Romans 10:9-10

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 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.

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 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

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.

Primary Texts

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

Additional Systematic Theology Texts

Students must choose one (1) of the following texts as a companion to the Erickson text. Students will use this textbook throughout the semester to complete their "theological reflection" assignments.

Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. 2d ed. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2014. This "systematic" theology is a collection of essays on different doctrinal topics written by some of the leading voices in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. Bird is an Anglican and Reformed NT scholar from Australia who has written a systematic theology that integrates the insights of contemporary biblical theology into a systematic textbook.

Forlines, F. Leroy. *The Quest for Truth: Theology for a Postmodern World*. Nashville: Randall House, 2001. Forlines writes a clear, compelling systematic theology from a Reformed Arminian or classical Arminian perspective. Forlines is one of the most significant voices in contemporary Free Will Baptist theology.

Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2013. Frame is a Presbyterian and Reformed theologian in the Westminster Tradition.

Garrett, James L. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*, vol. 2, 2d ed. North Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 2011. Dr. Garrett is a SBC theologian who offers an excellent historical examination of each of the doctrines discussed. Dr. Garrett is the go-to expert on Baptist doctrine.

- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.** Grudem, a Calvinistic Baptist with charismatic undertones, has written one of the most popular and accessible theology texts available today.
- Horton, Michael F. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.** Horton is a well-known Reformed theologian and apologist who engages many contemporary issues and important philosophical trends in his work.
- Lewis, Gordon and Bruce Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.** This evangelical theology—available in one-volume and three-volume editions—integrates biblical exegesis, historical research, apologetics, and pastoral application in its discussion of every doctrine.
- Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 2011.** Oden is a Methodist/Wesleyan evangelical theologian who utilizes the resources of patristic Christianity to make a case for Christian doctrines. This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the thought of early church fathers.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. 2d ed. Chicago: Moody, 1999.** This volume is a systematic theology written with lay persons in mind. Ryrie writes from a classic Dispensationalist perspective.
- Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.** Williams was a leading intellectual figure in the neo-charismatic movement called “renewal theology.” This is an excellent exposition of contemporary charismatic and Pentecostal theology.

Recommended Texts

- Elwell, Walter A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Rev. Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation

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. *Students will be required to hand in a reading report at the end of the semester.*

2. Theological Reflections

Students are required to write four (4) theological reflections across the semester based on assigned readings from Erickson and their selected theologian. Each of these papers should be 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt.) and should demonstrate (1) *reading and 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.

3. Greer-Heard Forum

All students in the course are required to attend or listen to the proceedings from the 2015 Greer-Heard Point Counterpoint Forum, to be held on the campus of NOBTS April 10-11, 2015. Students will attend the plenary sessions and all second-day speakers related to the Greer-Heard Forum and then write up an 800-1200 word summary and critique of the event.

3. Final Exam

Every student will complete a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester that covers all assigned readings and class lecture notes.

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.

• Attendance and Course Participation	15%
• Theological Reflections (x4)	40%
• Greer-Heard Report	20%
• Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Blackboard

An important instrument in the implementation of this course is the Blackboard Learning System. *All assignments 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 *will* result in dismissal from the class session; repeat violations may result in removal from the course. *Any student using Facebook during a class meeting may be asked to leave the class, repeat offenders for the remainder of the semester.*

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 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.

2. ETS Report

Students attending the Southwest Regional meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in New Orleans April 10-11 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>.

THEO5300 Fall 2014 // TTh 9:30-10:50am Lectures, Readings, and Assignments Schedule		
Date	Class Topic / Assignments	Readings
1.20	Introduction	
1.22	The Work of Christ	Erickson, ch. 35
1.27	The Work of Christ	Erickson, ch. 36
1.29	The Work of Christ	Erickson, ch. 37
2.3	The Work of Christ	
2.5	The Work of Christ	Erickson, ch. 38
2.10	Election and Predestination	
2.12	<p>Election and Predestination</p> <p>Theological Reflection #1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using the materials from your assigned systematic theology textbooks, briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of election. 2. Is the doctrine of election in the NT individual or corporate, conditional or unconditional? Defend your answers 3. This assignment should be 800-1200 words in length. <p>Due 2.14 at 11:59 p.m.</p>	<p>Erickson, ch. 43</p> <p><i>Akin (Keathley), ch. 12</i> <i>Bird, ch. 5.2-5.3</i> <i>Forlines, chs. 15-17</i> <i>Frame, ch. 11</i> <i>Garrett, ch. 70</i> <i>Grudem, ch. 32</i> <i>Horton, ch. 9</i> <i>Lewis & Demarest, vol. 1, ch. 8</i> <i>Oden, part 3, ch. 3</i> <i>Ryrie, ch. 54</i> <i>Williams, ch. 6</i></p>
2.17	Subjective Aspects of Salvation	Erickson, ch. 44
2.19	Subjective Aspects of Salvation	
2.24	Objective Aspects of Salvation	

THEO5300 Fall 2014 // TTh 9:30-10:50am Lectures, Readings, and Assignments Schedule		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic / Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
2.26	<p>Objective Aspects of Salvation</p> <p>Theological Reflection #2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Erickson and your selected theologian on the objective aspects of salvation. 2. Compare and contrast their respective understandings of justification. 3. Explain your understanding of justification. <p>Due 2.28 at 11:59 p.m.</p>	<p>Erickson, ch. 45</p> <p><i>Akin (Keathley), ch. 12</i> <i>Bird, ch. 5</i> <i>Forlines, ch. 11</i> <i>Frame, ch. 42</i> <i>Garrett, ch. 60</i> <i>Grudem, ch. 36-37</i> <i>Horton, ch. 19</i> <i>Lewis & Demarest, vol. 3, ch. 3</i> <i>Oden, part 3, ch. 4</i> <i>Ryrie, chs. 51-53</i> <i>Williams, ch.14</i></p>
3.3	Sanctification	Erickson, ch. 46
3.5	Sanctification	
3.10	Perseverance and Apostasy	
3.12	<p>Perseverance and Apostasy</p> <p>Theological Reflection #3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Erickson and your selected theologian on the doctrines of assurance, perseverance, and apostasy. 2. Compare and contrast their respective understandings of the issue. 3. Explain your understanding of perseverance. Can we lose our salvation? How do you biblically justify your position. <p>Due 3/14 at 11:59 p.m.</p>	<p>Erickson, ch. 47</p> <p><i>Akin (Keathley), ch. 12</i> <i>Bird, ch. 5.5</i> <i>Forlines, ch. 14</i> <i>Frame, ch. 44</i> <i>Garrett, ch. 60</i> <i>Grudem, ch. 40, 42</i> <i>Horton, ch. 20</i> <i>Lewis & Demarest, vol. 3, ch. 4</i> <i>Oden, part 3, ch. 6</i> <i>Ryrie, ch. 57</i> <i>Williams, ch.14</i></p>
3.17	The Work of the Holy Spirit	Erickson, ch. 39
3.19	The Work of the Holy Spirit	Erickson, ch. 40
3.22-28	<p>SPRING BREAK</p> <p>“...give him rest from days of trouble...” (Psalm 94:13)</p>	

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic / Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
3.31	The Work of the Holy Spirit	Erickson, ch. 41
4.2	The Work of the Holy Spirit	
4.7	The Nature and Government of the Church	Erickson, chs. 49-50
4.9	The Nature and Government of the Church	Erickson, ch. 51
	Greer-Heard/ETS April 10-11, 2014	
4.14	Ordinances of the Church	Erickson, ch. 52
4.16	Ordinances of the Church	Erickson, ch. 53
4.21	Eschatology	Erickson, ch. 54
4.23	Eschatology	Erickson, ch. 56
	Greer-Heard Report Due 4.25 at 11:59 p.m.	
4.28	Eschatology	Erickson, ch. 57
	<p>Discussion Question #4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare and contrast millennial views of Erickson and your selected theologian. 2. What view do you hold? Make a biblical case for your position. <p>Due 5.1 at 11:59 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Akin (Moore), ch. 14</i> <i>Bird, ch. 3.4</i> <i>Forlines (not applicable)</i> <i>Frame, ch. 51</i> <i>Garrett, ch. 84</i> <i>Grudem, ch. 55</i> <i>Horton, chs. 28-29</i> <i>Lewis & Demarest, vol. 1, ch. 8</i> <i>Oden, part 3, ch. 7</i> <i>Ryrie, chs. 77-92</i> <i>Williams, part 3</i></p>
4.30	Eschatology	Erickson, ch. 55
5.5	Eschatology	Erickson, ch. 58
5.7	Final Exam	

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- Eliade, Mircea, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. 16 vols. New York: MacMillan, 1986.
- Elwell, Walter, ed. *Dictionary of Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
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- _____. *Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
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- Harrison, Everett F., ed. *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1960.
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