

Systematic Theology II

Traditional On-Campus Course · Tuesday 8:00-10:50 a.m.

Course Instructor
Rhyne Putman, Ph.D.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

rputman@nobts.edu · Twitter @rhyneputman
Dodd 106 · 504.282.4455 ext. 3247

“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 2015-16 year is mission focus.

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 (Read for Extra Credit)

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

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 2/20) — Work of Christ (cite Erickson page numbers parenthetically in each of your answers)

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 3/12) — Salvation (cite Erickson page numbers parenthetically in each of your answers)

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 4/9) — Pneumatology and Ecclesiology (cite Erickson page numbers parenthetically in each of your answers)

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 5/10) — Eschatology

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. Greer-Heard Forum

All students in the course are required to attend or listen to the proceedings from the 2016 Greer-Heard Point Counterpoint Forum, to be held on the campus of NOBTS February 12-13, 2016. 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.

4. 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	10%
• Theological Reflections (4 sets)	60%
• Greer-Heard Report	20%
• Final Exam	10%
Total	100%

Extra Credit

1. Readings from Other Systematic Theologies

Students may earn up to ten points on their final grade simply by reading chapters parallel to Erickson reading assignments in evangelical systematic theology texts of their choice. The list of recommended texts above has helpful suggestions if students do choose this option.

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 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>.

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).

THEO5301 Spring 2016 // Tuesdays 8:00-10:50 Lectures, Readings, and Assignments Schedule		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic / Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1/19	Introduction	
1/26	The Work of Christ	Erickson, ch. 35-36
2/2	The Work of Christ	Erickson, ch. 37-38
2/9	MARDI GRAS No Class Greer-Heard 2/12-2/13 Register online at http://www.greer-heard.com	
2/16	Election and Predestination Theological Reflections Question Set #1 Due 2/20 at 11:59 p.m.	Erickson, ch. 43
2/23	Subjective Aspects of Salvation	Erickson, ch. 44
3/1	Objective Aspects of Salvation	Erickson, ch. 45
3/8	Sanctification Theological Reflections Question Set #2 Due 3/12 at 11:59 p.m.	Erickson, ch. 46

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic / Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
3/15	SPRING BREAK “...give him rest from days of trouble...” (Psalm 94:13)	
3/22	Perseverance and Apostasy	Erickson, ch. 47
3/29	The Work of the Holy Spirit	Erickson, chs. 39-40
4/5	The Work of the Holy Spirit	Erickson, ch. 41
4/12	The Nature and Government of the Church	Erickson, chs. 49-51
4/19	Baptism and the Lord’s Supper Theological Reflections Question Set #3 Due 4/23 at 11:59 p.m.	Erickson, ch. 52-53
4/26	Eschatology Greer-Heard Report Due	Erickson chs. 55-57
5/3	Eschatology	Erickson ch. 58
5/10	Final Exam Week Theological Reflections Question Set #4 Due 5/10 at 11:59 p.m.	

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- Cross, Frank L. and Elizabeth A. Livingstone. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Douglas, J.D., ed. *New 20th-Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
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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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