

**THEO5301, Systematic Theology II - ONLINE**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
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**Instructor**

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**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 and Curriculum Competencies**

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2015-2016 is Mission Focus. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

*Doctrinal Integrity:* Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the “Articles of Religious Belief” and the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”

*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.

*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.

*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.

*Servant Leadership:* We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

**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**

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to analyze the processes, methods, assumptions, and world views of historical, theological, and philosophical disciplines.
2. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the key Christian doctrines of the work of Christ, salvation and the Christian life, the Holy Spirit, the church, and last things (eschatology) to the process of interpreting Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. Organize a Christian understanding of doctrine into their decision making process.
4. Value the influence of various historical, theological, philosophical traditions, and worldviews.
5. Be able to practice prolegomena, the methodology of the study of theology.
6. Be able, with the help of resources, to articulate and defend evangelical and Baptist positions on specific theological issues.

### **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.

### **A Note about Web-Based Learning**

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

### **Primary Texts**

The Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee. "Comparison of 1925, 1963, and 2000 Baptist Faith and Message." Available at <http://sbc.net/bfm/bfmcomparison.asp>; Internet.

The Bible (preferably a contemporary translation such as the ESV, HCSB, NASB, NET, NKJV, NIV or NLT).

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.  
(You may substitute Erickson's 2<sup>nd</sup> edition or Grudem's *Systematic Theology*; a chart for converting the reading assignment is provided on page 7 of this syllabus.)

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*, rev. ed. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.

Stott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

### **Recommended Texts**

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

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

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 or 8th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007, 2013.

### **Course Requirements**

#### 1. Vocabulary Quizzes (15%)

Weekly quizzes will cover the words from the vocabulary lists included in the syllabus. Each quiz covers the words in the corresponding vocabulary list (e.g. Quiz #1 will cover the words on Vocabulary List #1). The definitions may be found in the Erickson dictionary. Each quiz will be "active" for 7 days beginning on the Sunday morning of that week. The allotted time is 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. **During the 8-week schedule, students will sometimes be expected to complete two quizzes per week.**

#### 2. Discussion Board Questions (20%)

Students will be required to answer discussion board questions. These discussion questions will be based on the assigned reading and additional resources located in Course Documents. Students are required to make at least three (3) substantive posts to each question. The first post will be your answer to the question posed. This post should be longer and more detailed than the remaining posts. The other two posts should be offered in response to other student posts. A substantive post is defined as a

post that both exhibits a thoughtful response based upon the class material and that, in the case of response posts (see above), furthers the discussion thread by posing new questions or thoughts to which other students may respond. To earn credit, students must post their first answer to the question by Thursday night in order to give classmates time to reply to the initial student posts.

### 3. Critical Book Review (20%)

All students are required to read and review John Stott's *The Cross of Christ*. The review should include:

- (1) a bibliography entry,
- (2) a brief biographical data about the author(s) (e.g., his position, degrees, research interests, and other works),
- (3) an assessment of the main purpose and/or thesis of the book,
- (4) a concise summary of the book's contents (No more than 1/3 of the total review should be summary),
- (5) a thorough critical analysis of the book,
- (6) a discussion of the relevance of the book to your particular ministry, and
- (7) a conclusion with a recommendation or dismissal.

The reviews should be between 2000-4000 words and should conform to Turabian or SBL style guides. Because book reviews are primarily about one source, use parenthetical citations for the primary text and footnotes only for external sources.

A few questions to consider when preparing for a critical book review: What is the main purpose or thesis of this book? To whom is this book written? Did the author(s) fulfill his or her purpose? What are some of the author's working assumptions (e.g., his or her denominational background, field of research, or view of Scripture)? Does the author provide strong biblical, philosophical, and historical support for his or her positions? Are there any points of contact between this book/writer and other texts read during the course of the semester? How might the content of this book affect ministry in the local church or ministry within your particular calling? Are there any ideas that changed your particular way of thinking on the subject matter at hand? Would you recommend this book to someone else?

- **A papers (93-100)** clearly state the book's thesis, successfully and succinctly outline its argument in its own terms, demonstrate advanced critical engagement with the argument and content of the book, make clear and well structured arguments, and exhibit a proficient grasp of grammar, spelling, and style.
- **B papers (85-92)** clearly state the book's thesis, show an attempt to understand the book on its own terms and critically reflect on the issues at hand, make arguments, and show sufficiency in grammar, spelling, and style.

- **C papers (77-84)** state the book's thesis, present the content of the book, raise preliminary critical questions for further evaluation, limit evaluation to approval or disapproval of the author's arguments, and make repeated mistakes in grammar, spelling, and style.

- **D (70-76) and F (0-69)** papers lack evidence of grasping the book's thesis and content, limit evaluation to preformed judgments without serious consideration of the book's ideas, contain major grammatical, spelling, and stylistic errors, and demonstrate little or no attempt to proofread.

#### 4. Cross of Christ Ministry Project (15%)

Theology done well should result in faithful Christian ministry. After reading the course materials on the doctrine of salvation and John Stott's *The Cross of Christ*, students will be required to do a ministry project related to the doctrine of the doctrine of salvation. Students may choose to do **one** of the following:

- (1) Write a full-length sermon or Bible study manuscript on the doctrine of salvation and present it in a church or Bible study group, and write a reflection paper after making the presentation.
- (2) Share the gospel with a non-believer and write a reflection on the witnessing encounter.
- (3) Write a counseling case study based on the contents in *The Cross of Christ* and a reflection on the case study.

Whatever option the student chooses, the student must write a brief reflection on the value of doctrinal study for completing these tasks. The reflection paper should be between 3-5 double-spaced pages. Please submit **both** the project and the reflection in the online classroom.

#### 5. Theological Research Paper (25%)

All students are required to write a brief research paper (12-15 double-spaced pages in length) on a particular doctrinal topic/question. Students may choose from the following topics or seek approval from the professor on another topic.

Students should read the available research paper resources in the "Paper Writing Resources" section before writing. This includes an essay by John Frame entitled "How to Write a Theological Research Paper" and a comprehensive grading rubric for the assignment.

A focused paper is usually better than a broad paper (e.g., like trying to cover the doctrine of Christ in ten pages). Students may select a doctrinal topic and seek to investigate how a particular theologian in history addressed that issue, or may begin with a particular theologian and investigate his or her unique theological perspective (e.g., Calvin's understanding of imputation or Karl Barth's doctrine of inspiration).

### Possible Paper Topics (or Mix and Match)

The Work of Christ	Anselm of Canterbury
Theories of the Atonement	Arminius, James
Election	Athanasius
Reprobation	Augustine
Conversion	Barth, Karl
Justification	Brunner, Emil
Regeneration	Bultmann, Rudolf
Sanctification	Calvin, John
Glorification	Cappadocian Fathers, The
Adoption (Soteriology)	Edwards, Jonathan
Eternal Security/Apostasy	Hodge, Charles
The Person of the Holy Spirit	Justin Martyr
Baptism in the Holy Spirit	Luther, Martin
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Mullins, E. Y.
Miracles	Origen
Speaking in Tongues	Schleiermacher, Friedrich
The Nature of the Church	Tertullian
Church Polity	Thomas Aquinas
Baptism	Wesley, John
Lord's Supper	Zwingli, Huldruch
Personal Eschatology	
The Millennium	
New Heaven and New Earth	
Hermeneutical Approaches to Revelation	

#### 6. Reading Report (5%)

At the end of the course, students will report in the online classroom the total percentage of the assigned readings which were completed.

#### **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.

## **Class Policies**

### 1. Late Work

Because life and ministry happens, late work will be accepted—but with a penalty. For every day an assignment is late, five points will be deducted. No assignment over two weeks late will be accepted. Failure to submit every assignment will result in failure of the course.

### 2. 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).

## **Lectures, Readings, and Assignments Schedule**

The schedule runs Sunday through Saturdays. Though materials will be available on Sunday, the course instructor encourages (but does not require) students to take a day of rest and worship on Sundays.

Book reviews, ministry projects, and research papers are due Saturday at 11:59 PM CST at the end of the unit week.

### **Chart for Converting Reading Assignments**

<b>Doctrine</b>	<b>Grudem</b>	<b>Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition</b>	<b>Erickson, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition</b>
The Work of Christ: Offices, Stages	28-29	37	35
The Work of Christ: Theories & Extent	27	38-40	36-38
Soteriology: Predestination	32	44	43
Soteriology: Order, Conversion, Regener.	33-35	45	44
Soteriology: Union, Justification, Adoption	36-37	46	45
Soteriology; Sanctification & Christian Life	38, 43	47	46
Soteriology: Perseverance & Glorification	40, 42	48	47
Pneumatology	30, 39, 52-53	41-42	39-41
Ecclesiology: The Nature of the Church	44-45	50	49
Ecclesiology: The Role of the Church	46	51	50

Ecclesiology: Government	47-48	52, 55	51
Ecclesiology: Baptism & Lord's Supper	49-50	53-54	52-53
Eschatology: Return of Christ; Mill. Views	54-55	56, 58-59	54, 56-57
Eschatology: Death, Hell, Heaven	41, 56-57	57, 60	55, 58

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
1a May 30- June 4	Introduction		Read Syllabus
1b May 30- June 4	The Work of Christ, pt. 1	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atonement</li> <li>• Atonement, Example theory of</li> <li>• Atonement, Governmental theory of the</li> <li>• Atonement, Limited</li> <li>• Atonement, Moral-influence theory of</li> <li>• Atonement, Penal-Substitution theory of</li> <li>• Atonement, Ransom theory of the</li> <li>• Atonement, Unlimited</li> <li>• Descent into Hell</li> <li>• Theology of the cross</li> </ul>	Erickson, ch. 35  Discussion Board Question #1

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
2a June 5-11	The Work of Christ, pt. 2	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascension of Christ</li> <li>• Christ, Exaltation of</li> <li>• Christ, Humiliation of</li> <li>• Expiation</li> <li>• Imputation</li> <li>• Propitiation</li> <li>• Recapitulation</li> <li>• Reconciliation</li> <li>• Resurrection</li> <li>• Session</li> </ul>	Erickson, chs. 36-38
2b June 5-11	Election	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #3</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determinism</li> <li>• Election</li> <li>• Fatalism</li> <li>• Foreknowledge</li> <li>• Grace, Common</li> <li>• Grace, Special</li> <li>• Predestination</li> <li>• Preterition</li> <li>• Reprobation</li> <li>• Total depravity</li> </ul>	Erickson, ch. 43  Eric Hankins, "Beyond Calvinism & Arminianism: Toward a Southern Baptist Soteriology," <i>JBTM</i> 8.1 (2011):87-100. <a href="http://www.baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_8-1_Spring_2011.pdf">http://www.baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_8-1_Spring_2011.pdf</a>  Discussion Board Question #2

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
3a June 12-18	Conversion, Regeneration	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #4</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arminianism</li> <li>• Augustinianism</li> <li>• Effectual calling</li> <li>• Grace</li> <li>• Irresistible grace</li> <li>• Pelagianism</li> <li>• Penance</li> <li>• Regeneration</li> <li>• Repentance</li> <li>• Semi-Pelagianism</li> </ul>	Erickson, ch. 44  Adam Harwood, "Is the Gospel for All People or Only Some People?" <i>JBTM</i> 11.2 (2014):16-33. <a href="http://baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_11-2_Fall_2014.pdf">http://baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_11-2_Fall_2014.pdf</a>
3b June 12-18	Justification, Adoption, Union with Christ	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #5</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption</li> <li>• Apostasy</li> <li>• Assurance of salvation</li> <li>• Communion of saints</li> <li>• Eternal security of the believer</li> <li>• Justification</li> <li>• Merit</li> <li>• Perfectionism</li> <li>• Perseverance, Doctrine of</li> <li>• Sanctification</li> </ul>	Erickson, ch. 45  Discussion Board Question #3
4a June 19-25	Sanctification		Erickson, ch. 46  Book Review Due

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
4b June 19-25	Perseverance and Apostasy	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #6</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body of Christ</li> <li>• Church discipline</li> <li>• Heresy</li> <li>• Invisible church, the</li> <li>• <i>Kerygma</i></li> <li>• <i>Koinonia</i></li> <li>• Laity</li> <li>• Missions</li> <li>• Schism</li> <li>• Sect</li> <li>• Spiritual warfare</li> <li>• Visible church</li> </ul>	Erickson, ch. 47  Discussion Board Question #4
5a June 26- July 2	The Work of the Holy Spirit	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #7</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affusion</li> <li>• Anathema</li> <li>• Consubstantiation</li> <li>• Ecumenism</li> <li>• Excommunication</li> <li>• Free churches</li> <li>• Immersion</li> <li>• Real presence of Christ</li> <li>• Separation of church and state</li> <li>• Spiritual presence</li> <li>• Transubstantiation</li> <li>• Worship</li> </ul>	Erickson, chs. 39-41  Discussion Board Question #5

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
5b June 26- July 2	The Nature and Government of the Church	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #8</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostolic succession</li> <li>• Baptism, believers'</li> <li>• Congregational form of church government</li> <li>• Episcopacy</li> <li>• Eucharist</li> <li>• <i>Ex cathedra</i></li> <li>• <i>Ex operer operato</i></li> <li>• Memorialism</li> <li>• Paedobaptism</li> <li>• Papacy</li> <li>• Presbyterianism</li> <li>• Sacrament</li> </ul>	Erickson, chs. 49, 51
6a July 3-9	Ordinances of the Church	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #9</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amillennialism</li> <li>• Annihilationism proper</li> <li>• Antichrist</li> <li>• Chiliasm</li> <li>• Dispensationalism</li> <li>• Eschatology</li> <li>• Immortality</li> <li>• Parousia</li> <li>• Postmillennialism</li> <li>• Premillennialism</li> <li>• Prophecy</li> <li>• Rapture, the</li> </ul>	Erickson, ch. 52-53  Discussion Board Question #6
6b July 3-9	Eschatology, Pt. 1		Erickson, chs. 54, 56-57  Cross of Christ Ministry Project Due

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
7 July 10-16	Eschatology, Pt. 2	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #10</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apokatastasis</li> <li>• Beatific vision</li> <li>• Conditional immortality</li> <li>• Filioque</li> <li>• Hades</li> <li>• Intermediate state</li> <li>• Limbo</li> <li>• Paraclete</li> <li>• Purgatory</li> <li>• Sheol</li> <li>• Universalism</li> </ul>	Erickson, chs. 55, 58
8 July 17-22			Research Paper Due

### Supplementary Bibliography

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Grillmeier, Aloys. *Christ in Christian Tradition*. 2 Vol. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1988.

Hill, Charles E. and Frank A. James. Ed., *The Glory of the Atonement*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

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Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God, vol. 3. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

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Allen, David L., Eric Hankins and Adam Harwood, ed. *Anyone Can Be Saved: A Defense of "Traditional" Southern Baptist Soteriology*. Alexandria, LA: Message Books, Forthcoming.

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