

THEO5300

Systematic Theology I

Internet Edition

Course Period: Aug 18, 2014 - Nov 30, 2014

Fall Break: 10/13-10/19(No Class, No Requirements)

Course Facilitator
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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

**New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary**

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The Mission of the Seminary

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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.

Course Objectives

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 apply their knowledge and understanding of the following concepts to interpreting Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church:

- The processes, methods, assumptions, and worldviews of historical, theological, and philosophical disciplines.
 - The key Christian doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ.
2. Value a Christian understanding of doctrine.
 3. Respond positively to the idea of respecting the influence of various historical, theological, philosophical traditions, and worldviews.
 4. Be able, with the help of resources, to practice prolegomena, the methodology of the study of theology.
 5. Be ready 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 based in the traditional classroom. 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 your own pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the course content. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more **reading and writing intensive** than traditional classroom settings. 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. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

Required Texts

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. Millard Erickson's text is one of the best contemporary Baptist treatments of Christian doctrine available presently. This textbook is slightly more challenging than Grudem's text because it includes more philosophical and apologetic content. Erickson writes from a modified Calvinistic perspective. The first edition of this book was translated into Korean, and there are two versions available.

밀라드 에릭슨. *복음주의 조직신학*. 상권.중권. 신경수역. 서울: 크리스찬다이제스트, 1995.(한국부 필수교재, 필히 구입요망)

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
Grudem's text is a very readable introduction to Christian doctrine. It is also practical and helpful in a number of ways. It includes devotional content, a glossary of terms, and a great bibliography for research papers. Grudem writes from a more traditional five-point Calvinistic perspective. This book is also translated into Korean. (한국부 부교재, 반드시 구입할 필요는 없으나 도움이 됨)

Wells, David. *No Place for Truth: Or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

데이비드 웰스. *신학실종*. 김재영역. 서울: 부흥과 개혁사, 2006. (서평교재)

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 ed. Rev. Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Course Requirements

1. Reading Quizzes (20%)

Students will take weekly quizzes based on the assigned readings from Erickson, Grudem, and Allison. The quizzes draw on key terms, the theological ideas of the authors, and significant figures and movements in the history of theology. Quizzes are essay questions. **Students are strongly encouraged to read ALL of the assigned reading materials before beginning the quiz.** These are **NOT** open-book quizzes.

2. Biweekly Discussion Board Questions (25%)

Students will be required to answer discussion board questions on a **biweekly basis**. 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 each week 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 comment no later than Thursday night to give classmates time to respond.

3. Critical Book Review (25%): Due on Oct 05, 2014

All students are required to read and review David F. Wells's *No Place for Truth*. 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 A THIRD 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. Theological Research Paper (25%): Due on Nov 23

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.

PLEASE READ THE DOCUMENTS IN THE “PAPER WRITING RESOURCES” SECTION BEFORE WRITING—particularly John Frame’s paper “How to Write a Theological Research Paper” and the research paper grading rubric.

A more focused paper is usually a better product than an overly broad paper (e.g., like trying to cover all 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 one may start with a particular theologian and investigate his or her unique theological perspectives (e.g., Calvin’s understanding of imputation or Karl Barth’s doctrine of inspiration). Students may also feel free to pick one of the doctrinal topics below and offer a biblical, philosophical, and historical analysis of the doctrine.

Possible Paper Topics (or Mix and Match)	
The Inspiration of Scripture	Anselm of Canterbury
The Authority of Scripture	Arminius, James
Biblical Inerrancy	Athanasius
General Revelation and World Religions	Augustine
Arguments for God’s Existence	Karl Barth
God’s Incommunicable Attributes	Emil Brunner
God’s Communicable Attributes	Rudolf Bultmann
The Trinity	John Calvin
Creation	The Cappadocian Fathers
Providence	Jonathan Edwards

God and Evil	Charles Hodge
The Image of God	Justin Martyr
The Imputation of Adam's Sin	Martin Luther
Total Depravity	E. Y. Mullins
The Age of Accountability	Origen
The Historical Jesus	Albert Schweitzer
The Humanity of Christ	Thomas Aquinas
The Peccability/Impeccability of Christ	John Wesley
The Hypostatic Union	Huldrych Zwingli

6. Reading Report (5%)

Students will complete the semester by giving a reading report of the total percentage of reading completed.

THEO5300 NOBTS Internet Edition Lectures, Readings, and Assignments Schedule			
<u>Unit</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Readings / Quiz Materials</u>
Unit 1 8/18-8/24	Studying God(I)/Prolegomena	Introduce yourself Read Syllabus	Erickson, chs. 1,2
Unit 2 8/25-8/31	Studying God(II)/Prolegomena	Discussion Board	Erickson, chs. 3, 4
Unit 3 9/1-9/7	Studying God(III)/Prolegomena		Erickson, chs. 5, 6
Unit 4 9/8-9/14	Knowing God(I): General & Special Revelation	Discussion Board	Erickson, chs. 7, 8
Unit 5 9/15-9/21	Knowing God(II): Scripture		Erickson, chs. 9, 10, 11
Unit 6 9/22-9/28	What God Is Like(I): God's Attributes, pt.1	Discussion Board	Erickson, chs. 12, 13
Unit 7 9/29-10/5	What God Is Like(II): God's Attributes, pt. 2	Book Review Due	Erickson, chs. 14, 15
Unit 8 10/6-10/12	Creation	Paper Topics Due Discussion Board	Erickson, chs. 16, 17

Unit 9 10/20-10/26	Providence		Erickson, chs. 18, 19
Unit 10 10/27-11/2	Theological Anthropology(I)	Discussion Board	Erickson, chs. 21, 23
Unit 11 11/3-11/9	Theological Anthropology(II)		Erickson, chs. 24, 25
Unit 12 11/10-11/16	Hamartiology(II)	Discussion Board	Erickson, chs. 26, 27, 28
Unit 13 11/17-11/23	Hamartiology(II)	Research Paper Due	Erickson, chs. 29, 30
Unit 14 11/24-11/30	Christology(I)	Reading Report Due Discussion Board	Erickson, ch. 31

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