

Spring 2012
THEO5301 - SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II – HYBRID
1/27, 2/24, 3/23 & 4/27 (Friday) 12:00-2:50 PM
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theology and History Division
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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.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies.

Annual NOBTS Core Value

During this class presentation the value of characteristic excellence will be our focus.

Core Competencies addressed:

Biblical Exposition—the importance of proper exposition of pertinent biblical texts will be modeled throughout the course

Christian Theological Heritage—the course will demonstrate how the development of doctrine through the centuries played a significant role in Christian history.

Disciple Making—a biblically-based, Christ-centered systematic theology provides the cognitive content for a discipleship regimen.

Spiritual and Character Formation—part of the Great Commandment is to love God with “all your mind” (Mark 12:30). A systematic study of Christian doctrine provides the framework by which the believer can pursue obedience to this aspect of the commandment.

Worship Leadership—contemplating God and his truth better equips the Church to worship properly.

Course Description

Theology II (hybrid) is a study of Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology in which the biblical, historical, systematic and philosophical views of these doctrines will be defined and surveyed. The scriptural foundations for these doctrines will be emphasized and arguments set forth in their defense. Alternate views will be surveyed and critiqued. The relevance of these doctrines to the Christian life and witness will also be demonstrated. Theology II is a continuation of Theology I, and as such is a comprehensive study of the major doctrines of the Christian faith from the point of view of those who are within the Christian church.

Class Attendance

This course will be delivered in the Hybrid format. The classroom portion of the course is conducted on the Main campus of NOBTS 12:00-2:50 on four Fridays (1/27, 2/24, 3/23 & 4/27). The seminary allows for only one absence during the semester.

Course Objectives

1. *Christology* *To demonstrate an understanding of Christology as it relates to His person and work as understood biblically, systematically, and historically.* We will identify the primary biblical texts relating to the person and work of Christ in Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment and expectancy. The four major Christological councils will be surveyed. The deity and humanity of Christ will be presented as understood from the evangelical perspective in the context of contemporary thought. The various theories of the nature and extent of the atonement will be covered. The question as to why the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is central for the Christian faith will be examined. There will be a general overview of Christ's offices of Prophet, Priest, and King.

2. *Pneumatology* *To demonstrate an understanding of the Holy Spirit as fully God and His work in biblical history.* Attention will be given to His work in the Old Testament in relation to creation, revelation, and salvation. In the New Testament, the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus, the soteriological work of the Holy Spirit, and His work in the Church and in individual believers will be examined. The extent and activity of spiritual gifts for today will be discussed.

3. *Soteriology* *To understand the nature, purpose, and plan of salvation, including the issues of grace, election and predestination, the nature of faith, conversion, and regeneration, the perseverance of the saints and the attendant issues of justification, sanctification, and glorification.* The various positions within evangelicalism concerning election will be surveyed.

4. *Ecclesiology* *To understand the doctrine of the church, including its nature, marks, purposes, purity and unity with its attendant issues of church government, worship, baptism and the Lord's Supper.* The historical development of the doctrine of the church will be examined along with the various models and metaphors of the church. The issues of church discipline, public worship, and the role of women will be covered.

5. *Eschatology* *To understand the doctrine of eschatology (last things), including personal eschatology (the intermediate state, resurrection, the nature of eternal life and punishment) with its various theories.* The discussions will survey the historical development of the doctrine of last things. We will also examine corporate eschatology, covering the various views of the Tribulation, the Millennium, and eternal judgment. Special attention will be given to the debates concerning Hell, annihilationism, and universalism.

Course Teaching Methodology (or Methods)

The primary teaching methodology employed in the Blackboard online "classroom" will be facilitated study. Students will listen to audio lectures, have reading assignments, and participate

in discussion questions. A research assignment will engage the student in formal theological research and increase their skill in the proper use of research methods.

Textbooks

The Bible, English Language

Erickson, Millard J. *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology revised edition*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2001.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Plagiarism is a very serious offense. It runs counter to everything that Christian discipleship and this institution represent. All counts of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the NOBTS policy. For details of this policy, see the student handbook.

Absence Policy: The NOBTS absence policy is found on pages 150-151 of the current catalog (Students who arrive within 15 minutes of class start are counted as late. Three late marks equals 1 hour of absence.) Fractional hours of absences will be computed and totaled.

Hurricanes, H1N1 virus, blizzards and most other disruptions to class meetings: We will continue to meet the class on blackboard should any disruptions to our campus occur. Please insure that your email address is current in blackboard. Keep it current through the semester. This is the virtual community we are creating and will maintain through the semester. You are expected to self-enroll in the Blackboard course.

Registration and Participation in Greer-Heard Point-Counter point Forum. The professor recognized that the topic of “Life After Death” is particularly germane in advancing awareness of issues in Systematic Theology. Therefore students who register, participate in the event, and write an excellent, or good (A or B letter grade) 6 page reflection paper on the event will be exempt from the final comprehensive exam.

Grading scale. The NOBTS grade scale is found on pages 152 or the current catalog.

The grading scale for the master’s programs is as follows:

A - 93-100

B - 85-92

C - 77-84

D - 70-76

E - Course in progress

F - Below 70

Assignments

- A. Readings from *Christian Theology*:** Each student is expected to read the portion of *Christian Theology* from page 678-1248. Classroom participation and completion of the “Reading Completion Form” will contribute to the final grade. **(5%)**
- B. Weekly Blackboard quizzes** on reading should be expected. The current weekly reading assignment will be the material from which the quiz is drawn. **(25%)**
- C. Critical book Review:** Students will select one of the “review text” books and conduct a written dialog with the author. The formal review will be no less than 6 pages nor more than 12 pages in length. The interview will have 4 parts.
- Part 1** Brief (less than one half of a page) biographical picture of the author and his work history.
- Part 2** Brief (one or one and one half page summary of the book).
- Part 3** The student’s identify the author’s purpose or thesis and the strategy by which she sought to fulfill it. Unique tools and tactics employed to this end should also be pointed out.
- Part 4** Finally the student will assess the weakness or strength of thesis and strategy. The critical review is due on March 30, 2012 at Midnight. It is to be submitted in the assignment folder of week 10 . **(20%)**
- D. Theological discussions and debates** help students to integrate biblical and historical data into systematic, contemporary, and practical expressions.

Research projects and debates. During three weeks of the semester the majority of the time will be spent in formal debate. Debate teams will be selected based upon the research which is submitted. All debate participants will receive extra points against the final grade. All students who submit their research projects on time and free of plagiarism will be eligible to be debate participants.

Student research: Each student will develop formal debate positions for both sides of each of the three debate topics. The result of the research will be debating notes for the following presentations: each student will prepare a debating resolution and argument for the proposition and against the proposition. The exam is open resource in nature. However, students must provide documentation of sources and avoid quotations of more than 25 words. Block quotes are not permitted in this course’s research work. Use of block quotes will result in a 0 credit for the portion of the debate involved.

The Paper will contain 6 parts:

Proposition For: (1 ½- 2 pages): Arguing for the proposed topic

Rebuttal to the For (¾ - 1 ¼ pages) The rebuttal will respond to the proposition (from the opposite side).

Summation of the Proposition For (½ - ¾ pages): Response to the rebuttal

Proposition Against: (1 ½ - 2 pages) Arguing Against the proposed topic

Rebuttal to the Against: (¾ - 1 ¼ pages): responds to the Proposition against

Summation of the Proposition Against (½ - ¾ pages) responds to the rebuttal against

It is expected that each student will present a documented (footnoted) three part paper for and against the proposition of at least six pages but not more than eight pages in length. These documented (footnoted) papers will be submitted by safeassign 2 weeks before the class room session. Late submissions will result in a 3% per day reduction of credit. Students failing to submit the assignment by 8 days prior to class room meeting will only receive late credit for their paper and will not be considered for debate team participation by the class. One week before the class meeting all submitted position papers will be posted on the Blackboard discussion board. Papers will be identified by a number (not the student's name). All class members will email their rankings to the professor. (The rank (the position paper which is best in the eyes of each student will be awarded #1, the second best #2, etc.) Students will of course identify their own work and may rank it as they see fit. The student ranking will close during the week prior to debate on Wednesday morning at 8AM. A composite ranking (the class member ranking will compose 50% of the value, the grader 25% and professor 25%) will be used to discover the best material. See the documents section of the course for a couple of documents on debating. **Each debate paper is 15% therefore the 2 are 30%.**

Student Debate: The top six students will be formed into two debating teams for the class session. One team will be students 1, 4 and 6 while the other team will be 2, 3 and 5. Before the break, the teams will be announced and teams will “huddle” by CIV during break. Each team will have 10 minutes to confer and determine which task each member will perform (presentation, rebuttal, summation). A coin toss before break will determine which team is for and which is opposed to the proposition.

Topics for research and debate

Topic for debate I. Resolved, that only ministers who adhere to limited atonement are adequately upholding the glory of God in ministry.

Topic for debate II. Resolved, that in Baptist Churches, the role of senior or preaching elder or pastor (for the purpose of this debate senior/teaching and preaching elder and pastor titles all refer to the role of proclamation in a local church) is a gender specific role restricted to male believers.

E. Comprehensive exam. During the semester 10 comprehensive questions will be posted. Students not exempted from the final exam will submit a 20-30 page single-spaced document giving a detailed response to all 10 questions. This document will be submitted through safe assign in the blackboard course. The exam is open resource in nature. However, students must provide documentation of sources and avoid quotations of more than 25 words. Block quotes are not permitted and will result in a 0 credit for the question involved.

Why and how to test are important decisions in a learning process. However different learning events should be tested accordingly. The Christian minister's knowledge and

application of sound doctrine is constantly tested within the context of ministry and community. Ideally the testing in this course should prepare students for that daily and lifelong test by ensuring that theological tools have been acquired for ministry. Therefore in addition to the unit on-line quizzes, students will be provided 10 comprehensive questions; the answer to these questions should involve the student in researching the field of Christian thought and assimilating the thinking of historic Christianity into personal reflection. **The exam (or reflection paper of GH Forum if exempt) is 20% of the final grade.**

Grading Scale

- A: 93–100
- B: 85–92
- C: 77–84
- D: 70–76
- F: Below 70

Note: Readings will not necessarily coincide with topics presented in powerpoint lectures.

Wk of	Class Topic	Event Schedule	Erickson:
Wk 1 1/17- 1/22	Introduction to Course The Person of Christ		677-778
Wk 2 1/23- 1/29	The Work of Christ	Quiz 1 1/27 Class meeting	779-860
Wk 3 1/30- 2/5	Doctrine of Salvation Regeneration and Conversion	Quiz 2	901-978
Wk 4 2/6- 2/12	Cont.	Quiz 3	

Wk 5 2/13- 2/19	Atonement		979-1034
Wk 6 2/20- 2/26		Quiz 4 2/24- Class meeting	
Wk7 2/27- 3/4			
Wk 8 3/5- 3/11		Materials for Debate 1 submitted 3/9 midnight	
3/12-3/18	Spring Break Workshops		
Wk 9 3/19- 3/25	Doctrine of the Church	Quiz 5 3/23 Class meeting Debate 1	1035-1154
Wk10 3/26- 4/1		Book Review submitted Quiz 6	
Wk11 4/2-4/8	Church ordinances	Quiz 7	
Wk12 4/9- 4/15	Church government	Quiz 8 Materials for second Debate are due Apr 13 at midnight	Greer-Heard April 13-14
Wk13 4/16- 4/22	Last Things	Quiz 9	

Wk 14 4/23- 4/29		Quiz 10 4/27 Class meeting Debate 2	1155-1248
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Wk15 4/30- 5/4	Final Week All Work Due by Friday May 4 at 1:00 PM.		
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Suggested Reading List for the Book Reviews

David Basinger, *The Case for Freewill Theism*

Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*

Craig Blaising and Darrell Bock, *Progressive Dispensationalism*

Gregory Boyd, *God of the Possible*

Harold O. J. Brown, *Heresies*

D. A. Carson, *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*

J. Knox Chamblin, *Paul and the Self: Apostolic Teaching for Personal Wholeness*

Daniel B. Clendenin, *Many Gods, Many Lords*

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*

Thomas Edgar, *Satisfied by the Promise of the Spirit*

Millard Erickson, *Postmodernizing the Faith*

_____. *God The Father Almighty*

_____. *God in Three Persons*

_____. *The Word Became Flesh: A Contemporary Incarnational Christology*

_____. *Contemporary Options in Eschatology*

_____. *How Shall They Be Saved? The Future State of Those Who Do Not Hear of Jesus*

Edward Fudge and Robert Peterson, *Two Views of Hell: A Biblical and Theological Dialogue*

Norman Geisler, *Chosen But Free*

Timothy George, *Theology of the Reformers*

Stanley Grenz and Roger Olson, *Twentieth-Century Theology*

Hank Hanegraaff, *Counterfeit Revival*

David Hunt, *What Love is This? Calvinism's Misrepresentation of God*

Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Real Jesus*

Richard Kyle, *The Last Days Are Here Again: A History of the End Times*

John MacArthur, *The Gospel According to Jesus*

_____. *Saved Without a Doubt*

_____. *Charismatic Chaos*

Ronald Nash, *The Concept of God.*

Dennis Okholm and Timothy Phillips, ed. *More Than One Way? Four Views on Salvation*

Mark Noll, *Turning Points*

_____. *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

_____. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*

David Peterson, *Possessed by God: A New Testament Theology of Sanctification and Holiness*

Clark Pinnock, *A Wideness in God's Mercy*
Clark Pinnock, et al. *The Openness of God*
Clark Pinnock, et al. *The Grace of God and the Will of Man*
Earl Radmacher, *Salvation*
Robert Saucy and Judith TenElshof, *Women and Men in Ministry: A Complementary Perspective*
Thomas Schreiner and Bruce Ware, *Still Sovereign*
R.C. Sproul, *Abortion: A Rational Look at an Emotional Issue*
R.C. Sproul, *Chosen by God*
John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*
Lee Strobel, *The Case For Christ*
Terrance Tiessen, *Providence and Prayer: How Does God Work in the World?*
Peter Toon, *Our Triune God: A Biblical Portrayal of the Trinity*
Laurence M. Vance, *The Other Side of Calvinism*
Bruce A. Ware, *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism*
Michael Wilkins and J.P. Moreland, *Jesus Under Fire: Modern Scholarship Reinvents the Historical Jesus*
Ben Witherington, *The Jesus Quest*
N. T. Wright, *Who Was Jesus?*
_____. *The Original Jesus*