



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Christian Doctrine: LCCF2340-65 Hybrid
(211)**

Fall 2020

Class Dates: 8/24, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will survey the doctrines of the Christian faith. Students are introduced to the biblical, historical, philosophical, and systematic aspects of theology. Special attention is given to Baptist doctrine.

Prerequisite: None.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Understand the biblical-theological elements of fundamental Christian doctrines.
2. Apply the principles of theological method to doctrinal positions.
3. Communicate a summary and critique of a theologian's doctrinal perspective.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

Holy Bible. You may bring any reliable, modern translation.

Erickson, Millard. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. 3rd ed. Edited by L. Arnold Hustad. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015. Print or digital.

Allen, David L., Eric Hankins, and Adam Harwood, eds. *Anyone Can Be Saved: A Defense of "Traditional" Southern Baptist Soteriology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2016. Print or digital.

The following textbooks are optional:

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Participation (10 points possible).** Each student will be required to attend class and to participate in class discussion. Class attendance is essential for effective learning.
2. **Reflective Essays (90 points possible). Due dates are listed in the course schedule below.** Each of nine (9) papers is worth a possible 10 points and is meant to be a creative, 1 page double-spaced; 250-300 words reflective essay. Avoid first person (“I, me, my”); simply state things as fact. You may cite names and Bible verses, but please do not include any quotations due to space constraints. This reflective essay is not meant to be a summary of a doctrine but your thoughts on the topic **after reviewing the textbook or videos**. Reflective essays will only be accepted by the due date.
3. **Book Review (80 points possible). Due by October 17th.** Students will review *Anyone Can Be Saved*. The review should be 4-5 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font and comprised of the following sections:

Summary (400-500 words)

Begin two or three sentences of biography summarizing the group of contributors. In the summary section, students should summarize and explain the thesis and supporting arguments. This section might include an outline of the book’s contents and definitions of key terms.

Critique (800-1,000 words)

The critique should address many of the following:

- Critique of the authors’ thesis, assumptions, supporting arguments, method, sources, logic, and style;
- Specific examples of strengths and weaknesses (such as any relevant areas not addressed) of the book
- Discussion of the book’s usefulness for the intended audience, how the book contributes to its field, other books which explore the issue;
- Closing sentence either recommending the book or not and explaining why.

The review should address issues such as: summary and critique of the author’s thesis, arguments, assumptions, method, sources, logic, and style; specific examples of strengths and weaknesses of the book; discussion of its usefulness for the intended audience, how the book contributes to its field, other books which explore the issue, and whether or not you would recommend the book and why. Cite page numbers parenthetically; no footnotes; use quotations sparingly.

4. **Research Paper (100 points total possible). Due dates are in stages listed below.** The paper will be (8-12 page double spaced plus bibliography) summary and critique of a particular doctrine of a selected theologian.

Guidelines for Research Papers- 2 parts

Students will submit a 5-7 page (plus bibliography), double-spaced research paper. You may choose the theologian and doctrine from the list below. The paper is to be a summary and critique of a selected theologian and doctrine. Please properly cite your sources and follow Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers*, 8th edition for the paper’s form (footnotes) and style. The grade will be comprised of these assignments:

I. First Part: Preliminary assignments in preparation for the Research Paper.

- **Choose a theologian and doctrine. (5 points) Due by September 19.** Select one theologian and **one** corresponding doctrine from the list below:

Tertullian (ca. 160–235) - Trinity

Athanasius (296–373) - Christ, salvation

Augustine (354–430) - Trinity, creation, man, sin, salvation, church

Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109) - existence of God

Thomas Aquinas (1224–1274) - existence of God, salvation

John Calvin (1509–1564) - revelation, God, man, salvation

Martin Luther (1483–1546) - salvation, church

Balthasar Hubmaier (d. 1528) - salvation, baptism

Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) - God, original sin, salvation

Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) – revelation, faith, history, sin

Karl Barth (1886–1968) - revelation, Christ

C. S. Lewis (1898–1963) - theodicy, salvation

Howard Thurman (1899–1981) - Christology

Karl Rahner (1904–1984) - Trinity, salvation

Jürgen Moltmann (b. 1926) - theodicy, last things

Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928–2014) - Christ

Gustavo Gutiérrez (b. 1928) - salvation

Clark Pinnock (1937–2010) - inerrancy, God, salvation, Holy Spirit, last things

James H. Cone (1938–2018) - theological method, God, salvation

Marilyn McCord Adams (1943–2017) – Christology

- **Reference Summary. (15 points possible) Due by September 26.** The Summary must demonstrate working knowledge of your theologian and topic. Be sure to include the theologian's theological perspective (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, etc.) as you summarize his understanding of the doctrine. Provide examples from **primary sources and interact with secondary sources.** Consult at least three different types of in-print reference works to learn about your topic. The different types of published reference works include: theological dictionaries, theological encyclopedias, historical or systematic theologies (not including your textbooks), and works of church history. After you have read the three sections or chapters about your topic, write a two-page, double-spaced summary of what you learned about the topic. No footnotes are necessary for this assignment. Mention the major issues, significant personalities, controversies (with dates

and places), writings, and theological questions (“Why does this matter?”) involved in your topic. List your sources on page three of your summary in Turabian format.

- **Bibliography. (10 points possible). Due by October 17.** Find and list at least four primary sources (written by the theologian) and six secondary sources (written about the theologian). Four of those ten sources must be from a peer-reviewed academic journal (*Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, not *Christianity Today*). The secondary sources must have been published in the last 25 years. Be sure to search ATLA through EBSCOHost; please contact the NOBTS library for the login information and passkey; check syllabus for due date; use Turabian format.
- **Two Article Summaries. (20 points possible-10 points each) First article is due by October 31; Second is due by November 14.**

Find and read two articles (6-page minimum) from a peer-reviewed academic journal from the last 25 years on your topic. Then, write a one-page, single-spaced summary for each article. You will find these through ATLA via EBSCOHost. Please provide **bibliographic information.**

TOTAL points possible for Preliminary Assignments: 50 Points.

II. Second Part: Completed Research Paper (Due by December 6). The paper must have the following three distinct sections:

- **Section One:** 2–3 pages of **biography** on your theologian. Be sure to include why he was remembered as a notable theologian. What were his most important works? Where did he teach or pastor?
- **Section Two:** 4–6 pages of **summary**. Be sure to include his theological perspective (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, etc.) as you summarize his understanding of the doctrine. Provide examples from primary sources and interact with secondary sources.
- **Section Three:** 3–4 pages of **critique**. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the views that you summarized? Be sure to interact with secondary sources at this point.

The Research Paper will be graded on its quality as follows:

- **Content:** The content must be clear, succinct yet thorough. It must be faithful to the position of the theologian and must present a clear summary of the selected doctrine. It must also include an astute theological critique of the theologian. **(25 points possible)**
- **Selection and use of sources:** Ten quality sources must be chosen that are relevant to the topic (four primary and six secondary with at least four from peer-reviewed academic journals). They must be used and cited properly. **(10 points possible)**
- **Form:** The paper must conform to Turabian format for title page, footnotes, and the works cited page. **(5 points possible)**
- **Style and Grammar:** Style refers to the ability to construct clear and meaningful sentences and paragraphs. Grammar refers to the proper use of English, including spelling, punctuation, and syntax. **(10 points possible)**

TOTAL points possible for Research Paper: 50 Points.

5. **Final Exam (120 points possible). Due by December 14.** The final will be comprehensive and will consist of various types of questions (multiple choice, short essay, T/F, etc.) based on class notes, discussions, and textbooks.
6. **Extra credit:** Students may present one of their Essays to the class for discussion and defense. The student must provide a paper copy for each student present and be prepared to defend their understanding of the Doctrine they choose. Also, a student may choose a current doctrinal controversy and present the BF&M statement of that doctrine as well as the counter points. After giving a fair assessment of the doctrine, differences etc., the student will discuss their findings in an open forum with the student body. A handout of points/counterpoints must be provided for every student. All Extra Credit opportunities must be cleared with the professor and scheduled to fit in the flow of the semester. **(25 points possible)**

GRADING:

Grading

Participation	10 points
Reflective Essays	90 points
Book Review	80 points
Research Paper	100 points
Final Exam	<u>120 points</u> 400 points

Grading Scale

A = 372 to 400 points
B = 340 to 371 points
C = 308 to 339 points
D = 280 to 307 points
F: 279 and below

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Dates	Topic	Completed Readings	Assignments Due
1	8/24 Classroom	Course Intro Theol. Sources & Methods	E 1-2	
2	Aug 31-Sept 5	Revelation- General & Special	E 3-4	Due on Blackboard by September 5: Essay 1: "Can a person know God without access to a Bible?"
3	Sept 7-Sept 12	Revelation-Insp. & Inerrancy	E 5-7	Watch Brunn Presentation

Week	Dates	Topic	Completed Readings	Assignments Due
4	Sept 14-19	God-Existence God-Trinity	E 8-10 E 11	Due on Blackboard by September 19: Essay 2: "Are we like or unlike God?" Theologian & Doctrine for Paper
5	Sept 21 Classroom	God-Creation	E 13, 16	Due on Blackboard by September 26: Essay 3: "Genesis 1. Days or ages? Does it matter?" Reference Summary
6	Sept 28-Oct. 3	God-Providence	E 12, 14 Read Craig/Helm article	Due on Blackboard by October 3: Essay 4: "Does God cause events, allow events, or both?"
7	October 5 Classroom	God-Evil & Suffering	E 15	Due on Blackboard by October 9: Essay 5: "What is the relationship between human freedom and the origin and persistence of sin and evil?"
8	Oct 12-Oct 17	Man Sin	E 17-19 E 20-22	Due on Blackboard by October 17: Bibliography Book Review
9	Oct 19 Classroom	Christ-Humanity Christ-Deity Christ-Union	E 23-25	Due on Blackboard by October 19: Essay 6: "In what ways does the humanity of Jesus inform our view of ourselves?"
9	Oct 20-24	Fall Break		
10	Oct 26- Oct 31	Christ-Death & Resurrection		Due on Blackboard by October 31: Article Summary # 1
11	Nov 2 Classroom	The Holy Spirit Election	E 28-30 E 31-34; Read Hankins article	Due on Blackboard by November 6: Essay 7: "Does the Holy Spirit gift some believers with miraculous gifts?"

Week	Dates	Topic	Completed Readings	Assignments Due
12	Nov 9-Nov. 14	Salvation Accomplished Salvation Applied	E-26-27; E 33-35 Read Newsom article	Due on Blackboard by November 14: Essay 8: "What is the gospel?" Article Summary # 2
13	Nov 16 Classroom	Church Nature, Polity, Ordinances	E 36-38	Due on Blackboard by November 21: Essay 9: "Is formal church membership biblically defensible?"
14	Nov 23-28	Thanksgiving Break		
15	Nov 30 Classroom	Last Things-Return of Christ & Millennium Heaven & Hell Review	E 39-41 E 42 a, b	Due on Blackboard by December 6: Research Paper
16	Dec 7-12	Study		
Final Exam	Dec 14 Classroom	Final Exam		Due on Blackboard by December 14:

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: All late assignments will be penalized five points for the first day and one point per day thereafter, with no assignments being accepted more than two weeks past the due date.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.

4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, David L., Eric Hankins, and Adam Harwood, ed. *Anyone Can Be Saved: A Defense of "Traditional" Southern Baptist Soteriology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2016. **Soteriology**.
- Allen, David L. *The Extent of the Atonement: A Historical and Critical Review*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016. **Soteriology**.
- Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 5. Edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997. **Anthropology**.
- Elwell, Walter, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. **Theological Dictionary**.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006. **Systematic Theology**.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, & Evangelical*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995. **Historical Theology**.
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- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: InterVarsity Press. 1994, 2000. **Systematic Theology**.
- Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation and Authority*. 6 Vols. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1999. **Revelation**.
- Keathley, Kenneth. *Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010. **Soteriology**.

Ladd, George E., Anthony Hoekema, Herman Hoyt, Loraine Boettner, *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views*, ed. Robert G. Clouse. Grand Rapids: InterVarsity Press. 1997. **Eschatology**.

Putman, Rhyne R. *In Defense of Doctrine: Evangelicalism, Theology, and Scripture*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015. **Theological Method**.

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

_____. *The Christian Doctrine of God: One Being Three Persons*. New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2016. **Theology/Christology**.

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