

THCM 2300-01 Christian Doctrine
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Leavell College – South Florida Center
First Baptist Church Hialeah
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Office Hours Mondays 5:00pm by appt. only
Fall 2013 Mondays 8:00-10:00pm Sept. 9 – Dec. 16

I. Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to 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.

II. Student Objectives:

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

1. Comprehend Christian doctrine.
2. Value the study of Christian doctrine.
3. Articulate their personal theological understanding.

More specifically:

Specific Learning Objectives

1. Be able to identify and discuss the four theological methodologies.
2. Be able to identify and discuss the motivations for studying theology.
3. Be able to identify and discuss the limitations of theological study.
4. Be able to identify and define Revelation, General Revelation, and Special Revelation.
5. Be able to identify and discuss the purpose and functions of General and Special Revelation.
6. Be able to identify and define inspiration, inerrancy, and infallibility.
7. Be able to identify and discuss the four models of inspiration of the Bible.
8. Be able to identify and discuss the four models of inerrancy.
9. Be able to identify and discuss the correlation between inspiration and inerrancy models.
10. Be able to identify and discuss types of transmission issues within the Biblical texts.
11. Be able to identify and discuss the attributes of God's nature and character.
12. Be able to identify and discuss Biblical affirmations of the trinity.
13. Be able to identify and discuss common trinitarian heresies.
14. Discuss the evolution of the Christological (Chalcedonian) formula (via "heretical" models).
15. Be able to identify and discuss the elements and implications of Christ's humanity.
16. Be able to identify and discuss the elements and implications of Christ's divinity.
17. Be able to identify basic concepts related to salvation such as salvation, justification, atonement, reconciliation, regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.
18. Be able to identify and discuss the five classic atonement models.
19. Be able to identify, discuss, compare, and contrast general atonement and particular atonement.
20. Be able to identify and discuss the basic operation of conversion.
21. Be able to identify and discuss the basic work and function of the Holy Spirit.
22. Be able to identify and discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

23. Be able to identify and discuss the arguments surrounding the continuation and cessation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
24. Be able to identify and discuss the concept, definition, effects, and cultural nature of sin.
25. Be able to identify, discuss, compare, and contrast the three models of original sin.
26. Be able to identify, discuss, compare, and contrast the three models of predestination.
27. Be able to identify, discuss, compare, and contrast the four models of death and the intermediary state.
28. Be able to identify, discuss, compare, and contrast the five models of the eternal destination of dead children.
29. Be able to identify, discuss, compare, and contrast the four eschatological models

III. Required Textbooks:

- *A Basic Christian Theology* by A. J. Conyers. (Broadman, 1995).

Other Suggested Textbooks:

- *The Trinity: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Paul M. Collins (T & T Clark, 2008)
- *Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Alan J. Spence (T & T Clark, 2009)
- *Sin: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Derek R. Nelson (T & T Clark, 2011)
- *Theological Anthropology* by Marc Cortez (T & T Clark, 2010)
- *A Faith for all Seasons: Historic Christian Belief in its Classical Expression* by Ted M. Dorman (B&H Academic, Second edition, 2001)

IV. Course Methodology:

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, Power Point presentations and group activities. Blackboard will be used as a resource and students will be required to have access to the course via Blackboard.

V. Course Requirements:

1. School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than one-fourth of the classroom hours (9 hours- 6 class sessions) will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be counted as one absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each period. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor if he/she is tardy and the roll has already been taken.

5% OF FINAL GRADE - 5 POINTS

2. Two take-home examinations will be given during the semester. Each test will cover both material discussed in class and material taken from the readings and may consist of objective sections (options: matching, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and multiple choice questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions). Each exam will only cover material from that particular section, including the final exam. **Exams dates are November 4 and December 16.**

30% OF FINAL GRADE – 15 POINTS FOR EACH EXAM

3. Each student will analytically review pieces of the following 3 out of 4 (short) books. The professor will provide these pieces (photocopies).

- *The Trinity: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Paul M. Collins
- *Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Alan J. Spence
- *Sin: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Derek R. Nelson
- *Theological Anthropology* by Marc Cortez (T & T Clark, 2010)

Write a 2-3 page (12 pt., double-spaced produced on a computer) book analysis. The analysis is to be written using a 12 pt. Times-Roman font and is to be double spaced. Due to the short length of the paper, neither a table of contents nor chapter divisions should be included in the paper. In addition, the blank page following the title page is to be omitted. The analysis will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the work. Special attention, discussion, and evaluation should be given to the book's presentation of key doctrines– such as the trinity, sin, humanity, judgment, and forgiveness. This analysis will be graded for both its content and its form. All papers must be submitted in hard-copy form. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. **The analysis must be turned in December 16, 2013.**

30% OF FINAL GRADE – 10 POINTS FOR EACH BOOK ANALYSIS REVIEW

4. Each student will participate in a group biographical project. The assignment will have three components: an in-class presentation, a 1-2 page biographical synopsis of the theological figure, and an annotated bibliography listing at least 25 resources. The professor will organize the groups and assign each group a historical figure. The group members will then work together to construct the three components. Groups are encouraged to be creative as they construct their presentations. Groups may use video, dramas, game-shows, etc., for the class presentation. The group will provide a copy of the synopsis and bibliography to everyone in the class. Each member of the group will grade their fellow group members– therefore the level of participation will be reflected in the final grade for the assignment. The assignment is intended to (1) help students gain an in-depth knowledge of an important theological thinker, (2) foster teamwork and interpersonal relations, and (3) develop presentation skills. Some class time will be dedicate for the groups to work, but most of their work will take place outside of the class meeting times. **The presentations will take place on December 9, 2013**

30% OF FINAL GRADE – 30 POINTS FOR THE GROUP BIOGRAPHICAL PROJECT

5. Each student is expected to read all of the assigned materials on the assigned dates. These readings are intended to augment and support the class discussions, and thus need to be read according to the time-line listed in the course schedule. Each student will provide evidence that they have read the material in a timely fashion by submitting the attached reading log. This log will be turned in at the end of the semester.

5% OF FINAL GRADE – 5 POINTS

NOTE: All assignments are to be computer generated in MSWord or Wordperfect and submitted with a coversheet. Assignments will be turned in on Blackboard via the Digital Drop Box. A penalty of 5 points per day will be assessed for all assignments submitted late.

VI. Attendance

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. See **COURSE REQUIREMENTS #1**. The student is allowed by NOBTS only 3 excused absences (9 class hours). Also three (3) tardies equals one absence. A grade of “F” will be assigned to students who fail to attend the class. This policy will be strictly enforced. See LC Catalog 08-09 page 51.

Grading Scale

The NOBTS grading scale (pg. 66 undergraduate college catalog) for the undergraduate programs is as follows:

A - 93-100

B - 85-92

C - 77-84

D - 70-76

F - Below 70

VII. Grading Rubric: After all the requirements of the course have been completed, the instructor will use the following rubric for the assignment of grades, based on the overall performance of the class. The grades assigned will represent the instructor’s interpretation of the following standard:

A = Outstanding mastery of the subject: excellence is evident in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; unusual ability to retain, analyze and synthesize the material; with a positive attitude making productive contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

B = Superior mastery of the subject: sincere effort in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; ability to master the essential aspects of the material; with a mostly consistent attitude in making contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

C = Basic mastery of the subject: inconsistent effort in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; engagement with the material but difficulty in grasping some of its aspects; with occasional contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

D = Inadequate mastery of the subject.

F = Failure: course must be repeated.

Warning on Plagiarism: Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found on the Indiana University website <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/plagiarism.html>. This document provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare for your assignments. If a student is caught

plagiarizing, the student will receive the consequences of this act according to the process established by the seminary.

Intellectual Property Rights: To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.

Internet Usage: Students are asked to refrain from accessing the Internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.

VIII. Course Schedule: Reading assignments should be completed by the date listed.

CECM4331 SUMMER 2013 MAY 28, 2013 – JULY 23, 2013				
CLASS/DATE	TOPIC	TOPIC & READING	ASSIGNMENTS	OTHER
1. SEPT 9	Introduction to the Study of Theology			
2. SEPT 16	<i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 1			
3. SEPT 23	Continued <i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 1			
4. SEPT 30	<i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 2			
5. OCT 7	Continued <i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 2			
6. OCT 14	<i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 3			
7. OCT 21	Continued <i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 3			
8. OCT 28	REVIEW FOR MIDTERN TAKE HOME EXAM covers chapters 1-3	REVIEW FOR MIDTERN TAKE HOME EXAM covers chapters 1-3		
9. NOV 4	MID TERM TAKE HOME	MID TERM TAKE HOME	TURN IN MIDTERM	

	EXAM covers chapters 1-3	EXAM covers chapters 1-3	TAKE HOME EXAM	
10. NOV 11	<i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 4			
11. NOV 18	<i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 5			
12 DEC 2	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING	
13. DEC 9	<i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 6 REVIEW FOR FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM covers chapters 4-6	<i>A Basic Christian Theology</i> CHAPTER 6 REVIEW FOR FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM covers chapters 4-6		
14. DEC 16	FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM Covers chapters 1-3		TURN IN FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM Analytical Reviews (pieces-photocopies) of 3 out of 4 (short) books: ❖ <i>The Trinity: A Guide for the Perplexed</i> ❖ <i>Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed</i> ❖ <i>Sin: A Guide for the Perplexed</i> ❖ <i>Theological Anthropology</i>	

**BIBLIOGRAPHY CLASSIFIED BY MAIN THEOLOGY HEADINGS
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR ADDITIONAL READING**

Prolegomena/ Theological Method

Clark, David K. *To Know and Love God, Method for Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2003.

Hart, Trevor. *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Lints, Richard. *The Fabric of Theology: A Prolegomena to Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Wells, David F. *God in the Wasteland: The Reality of Truth in a World of Fading Dreams*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

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

Concerning Theology Proper:

Bloesch, Donald G. *God the Almighty: Power Wisdom, Love*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: Doctrine of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001.

Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God*. New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reform, 2002.

Geisler, Norman. *Systematic Theology, Volume Two: God/ Creation*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Huffman, Douglas F. and Eric L. Johnson, eds. *God Under Fire: Modern Scholarship Reinvents God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Nash, Ronald. *The Concept of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downer Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973.

Pink, Arthur. *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1975.

Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. Oregon: Multnomah Books, 1996.

Toon, Peter. *Our Triune God: A Biblical Portrayal of the Trinity*. Vancouver, B.C.: Regent College Publishing, 1996.

Tozer, A. W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1961.

Ware, Bruce A. *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles and Relevance*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005.

_____. *God's Greater Glory: The Exalted God of Scripture and the Christian Faith*.

Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

_____. *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

White, James R. *The Forgotten Trinity: Recovering the Heart of Christian Belief*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1998.

Concerning Theological Anthropology and Sin:

Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Burns, J. Patout, translator. *Theological Anthropology, Sources of Early Christian Thought*.

Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981.

Cooper, John W. *Body, Soul and Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and Monism-Dualism Debate, Second Edition*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2000.

Gestrich, Christof. *The Return of Splendor in the World: The Christian Doctrine of Sin ad Forgiveness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Hoekema, Anthony A. *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Hughes, Philip Edgcumbe. *The True Image: The Origin and Destiny of Man in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Jewett, Paul K. *MAN as Male and Female*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.

Lints, Richard, Michael S. Horton, Mark R. Talbot. *Personal Identity in Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.

Menninger, Karl. *Whatever Became of Sin?* New York: Hawthorne Books, 1973.

Peters, Ted. *Sin: Radical Evil in Soul and Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Pyne, Robert. *Humanity and Sin: The Creation, Fall, and Redemption of Humanity*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 1999.

Sherlock, Charles. *The Doctrine of Humanity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Shults, F. Leron. *Reforming Theological Anthropology: After the Philosophical Turn to Relationality*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Shuster, Marguerite. *The Fall and Sin: What we Have Become as Sinners*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Smith, David L. *With Willful Intent: A Theology of Sin*. Wheaton: Bridgepoint/Victor Books, 1994.

Representative Systematic Theologies

Aquinas, St. Thomas. *The Summa Theologica of Thomas Aquinas*. Five volumes. English Dominicans, translators. Ave Maria Press, 1948. (Medieval Scholastic)

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley and others. Four volumes. T. & T. Clark, 1956–75. (Neo-Orthodox)

Bavink, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Four volumes. Baker Academic, 2003–08. (Dutch Reformed)

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. New edition containing the full text of *Systematic Theology* and the original *Introductory Volume to Systematic Theology*. Eerdmans, 1996. (Reformed)

Bloesch, Donald G. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. Hendrickson, 2005. (Evangelical)

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (The Library of Christian Classics, vols. XX–XXI). Ed. by John T. McNeill. Trans. by Ford Lewis Battles. Westminster Press, 1950 (Reformed)

Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Systematic Theology*. Eight Volumes. Dallas Seminary Press, 1947. *Abridged edition*. Ed. by John F. Walvoord, Donald K. Campbell, and Roy B. Zuck. 1988. (Dispensational)

Chan, Simon. *Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study of the Christian Life*. IVP, 1998. (Protestant Spiritual)

Christian Dogmatics. Two volumes. Edited by Carl E. Braaten and Robert W. Jenson. Fortress Press, 1984. (Lutheran)

Christian Theology: An Introduction to its Traditions and Tasks. Edited by Peter C. Hodgson and Robert H. King. Fortress Press, 1994. (Protestant Liberal)*

Finney, Charles G. *Finney's Lectures on Systematic Theology*. Edited by J. H. Fairchild. Eerdmans, 1953. Reprint of 1878 edition. (Revivalist)

The Fundamentals: A Testimony to the Truth. Edited by R. A. Torrey and A. C. Dixon. Baker Books (re-issue), 2003. (Christian Fundamentalist)*

Grenz, Stanley J. *A Theology for the Community of God*. Broadman/Holman, 1994. (Neo-Evangelical)*

Heppe, Heinrich. *Reformed Dogmatics: Set Out and Illustrated from the Sources*. Foreword by Karl Barth. Rev. and ed. by Ernst Bizer. Trans. by G. T. Thomson. Baker, 1978. (Reformed Scholastic)

Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. 3 volumes. n.p.: Charles Scribner, 1871; reprint, Eerdmans, 1952. (Old Princeton Reformed)

Horton, Stanley M. *Systematic Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective*. Logion Press, 1994. (Pentecostal)

Kuyper, Abraham. *Principles of Sacred Theology*. Baker, 1980. (Dutch Reformed)

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Blackwell, 1996. (Evangelical)*

Miley, John. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols., Hendriksen, 1989 (reprint). (Arminian)

Oden, Thomas C. *John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity: A Plain Exposition of His Teaching on Christian Doctrine*. Zondervan, 1994. (Wesleyan)

Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*. Three volumes. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Eerdmans, 1991. (Protestant Liberal)

Preus, Robert. *The Theology of Post-Reformation Lutheranism*. Concordia, 1972. (Lutheran Scholastic)

Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity*. Translated by William V. Dych. Crossroad Publishing, 1995. (Roman Catholic)*

Reconstructing Christian Theology. Edited by Rebecca S. Chopp and Mark Lewis Taylor. Fortress Press, 1994. (Revisionist)

Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *The Christian Faith*. English Translation from the Second German Ed. Edited by H. R. Mackintosh and J. S. Stewart. T. & T. Clark, 1989. (Classical Protestant Liberal)

Shedd, William G. T. *Dogmatic Theology*. Third edition. Edited by Alan W. Gomes. Presbyterian and Reformed, 2003. (Reformed)

Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives. Two volumes. Edited by Francis Schüssler Fiorenza and John P. Galvin. Fortress Press, 1991. (Roman Catholic)

Tillich, Paul. *Systematic Theology*. Three Volumes. University of Chicago Press, 1951, 1957, 1963. (Neo-Orthodox)