

**THCM 2300-01 Christian Doctrine**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Leavell College

Instructor: Dr. Mike Wetzel  
drmikewetzel@theislandchapel.org  
(727) 480-0846  
Term: Fall 2013/2014

**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.

**Course Objective**

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.

**Professor's Philosophy**

This professor believes education is a self-broadening process whereby the student's moral character, critical thinking skills, and base of knowledge are expanded resulting in greater fulfillment of the person's potential thereby increasing their usefulness within God's kingdom work.

**Textbook**

A. J. Conyers. A Basic Christian Theology. Nashville: Broadman, 1995.  
William P. Young. The Shack. Newbury Park, CA: Windblown Media, 2008.

**Course Methodology**

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, group activities, Power Point presentations, audio-visual Presentations, and group activities.

**Course Requirements**

1. School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than one-fourth of the classroom hours (4 hours- 1 class

session) 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.

2. Two examinations will be given during the semester. Each exam will cover both material discussed in class and material taken from the readings and may consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and multiple choice questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions). Each exam will cover material from that particular section, including the final exam. Any student who misses the mid-term exam is expected to schedule a make-up exam within one week of the missed exam. All make-up exams are assessed a 5 point penalty and are essay in form. Any exam not made-up within two weeks of the original exam date will be given the grade of zero. Both of these exams will count for 25% of the semester average. Exam schedule will be given out the first day of class.
3. Each student will read William P. Young’s *The Shack* and write a 5-6 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, judgement, 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 by 10:00 pm on September 23, 2013. Papers turned in after 10:00 pm will be considered late. The grade will be counted off five points for every hour that the paper is late. The book analysis will be combined with the additional paper and presentation to compose 25% of the final semester grade.
4. 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 completing a reading quiz on Blackboard prior to attending class. Each quiz will be posted on Blackboard (it will open on the Tuesday following class and remain open for two weeks). After a quiz closes, it will not be re-opened— thus students will not be allowed to take a reading quiz late. The reading quiz grades will compose 25% of the semester average.
5. Each student is expected to take one of the topics listed under **Specific Learning Objectives** contained in this syllabus and prepare a three page paper (12 pt., double-spaced produced on a computer) to include the following: Overview of the chosen concept, influence of differing views in denominational life today, and relevance for the church of today. Sources should be properly cited. This paper

should be submitted to the instructor via e-mail no later than 10:00 pm on October 7, 2013. Late submissions will not be accepted.

6. The class will be divided into groups for a discussion regarding predestination. Each group will be assigned a position to take. The group is expected to correspond with one another and come up with a presentation and possible rebuttal to anticipated questions. Each group will be expected to present the theological evidences for the assigned position, notwithstanding personal beliefs. The group members must understand that presenting a certain position for this assignment is not a statement of belief, but is instead of demonstration of understanding. Being able to explain objectively a varying opinion is one of the key factors in understanding. This discussion will be held during class on October 7, 2013. All work for the presentation must be completed prior to October 7. Any resources used by the group must be cited in a bibliography to be turned in prior to the presentations. There will be no time for preparation during class on October 7..

***The final grade for the course will consist of the following:***

Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Analyses and Presentations	25%
Reading Quizzes	25%
Final grade	100%

### **Additional Information**

Feel free to contact the instructor via telephone or e-mail. If you desire a personal appointment please contact the instructor to arrange a meeting prior to or after class times.

The professor is committed to providing an optimal environment for and accurate measures of adult learning for all students. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the professor regarding reasonable accommodations so as to allow their full participation in course activities and fulfillment of course requirements.

### **Course Schedule**

All classes will meet from 6-10 pm at First Baptist Church of Brandon, Florida. Please make note of the following dates for class and the reading that must be **completed prior to each class period. Students should be prepared to discuss any and all questions from the discussion section at the end of each chapter.**

August 26	
September 16	Conyers, Part 1 (Pages 9-84)
September 23	Conyers, Part 2 (Pages 85-152)

October 7

Book Analysis Due at 6:00 pm  
Conyers, Part 3 (Pages 153-241)  
Learning Objectives Paper Due at 6:00 pm  
Class Presentations/Discussions

### **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

## **Selected Bibliography**

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- Erickson, Millard. Christian Theology. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.
- Finger, Thomas N. CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY: AN ESCHATOLOGICAL APPROACH. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1985. BT 755.2 .F55 1985
- Garrett, James Leo. Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical and Evangelical. North Richland Hills, Texas: Bibal Press, 2000.
- Grenz, Stanley J. Theology for the Community of God. Nashville: Broadman, 1994.
- Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Moody, Dale. THE WORD OF TRUTH. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981. BT 75.2 .M59
- Mullins, Edgar Y. THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN ITS DOCTRINAL EXPRESSION. Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1917. BT 75 .M8 1917
- Stevens, William W. DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1967. BT 75.2 .S7 1967
- Strong, Augustus H. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY. New York: A.C. Armstrong, 1889. BT 75 .S83 1907