



THSR9301 – Supervised Reading Colloquium: Systematic Theology

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological & Historical Studies Division

Fall 2018 – Thursdays, 6:00–8:00 PM on 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13

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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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for the 2018–19 academic year is **Doctrinal Integrity**.

Course Description

This colloquium is designed for and led by Doctor of Philosophy and Masters of Theology students under the supervision of the faculty of the Theological and Historical Studies Division, with focused readings in Systematic Theology.

The primary basic competency in ministry addressed in this course is **Christian Theological Heritage**.

Course Policies

Attendance: Per the *NOBTS Graduate Catalog 2017–2018*, “PhD students are expected to attend all class sessions. . . . To drop a course, students must contact the Office of Research Doctoral Programs” (146).

Attire: Students should wear professional or business-casual attire (guidance for men: either a tie or a blazer or both; jeans are permitted with a blazer).

Grading: The performance of each student in this colloquium will be assessed by the professor as either pass or fail, based on the student completing all assigned work at a grade level of “B” or higher. Late work will not be accepted.

Style Guides: Current editions of Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers*, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, and *The SBL Handbook of Style*.

Course Requirements, Required Texts, and Schedule

Book Review Grading Rubric:

	10	9	8	7	5
Content	proper length robust explanation and critique of thesis all details accurate	proper length acceptable explanation and critique of thesis minimal inaccuracies	improper length provides some explanation and critique of thesis some inaccuracies	improper length provides little explanation and critique of thesis many inaccuracies	improper length neither explains nor critiques the thesis no accurate details
Organization	addresses topic directly highly organized structure	addresses topic directly organized structure	addresses topic somewhat organized structure	somewhat addresses topic highly unorganized structure	wanders significantly no organized structure
Logical Support	superior examples of the topic	examples of the topic	acceptable support of the topic	minimal support of the topic	no logical support of the topic
Communication	exceptionally clear meaning to the reader	clear meaning to the reader	somewhat clear meaning to the reader	unclear meaning to the reader	incoherent for the reader
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	no visible or significant errors	errors do not disturb the reading process	errors sometimes disturb the reading process	errors often disturb the reading process	errors make reading difficult

Guidance for all the reviews: Cite page numbers parenthetically. Footnote outside sources only. Use quotations sparingly. Avoid first person. No title page is required (Students should provide name, date, and title at the top of page one). Please format in single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. Each assignment should be emailed to the professor and other students by the beginning of the meeting when the assignment is due.

Meeting #1 on Sept. 13

Students will read the introduction and 37 chapters of *The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*, ed. Webster, Tanner, and Torrance (Oxford University Press, 2009). Students will write and submit a 1/2 single-spaced page **summary and critique** of each chapter. The total document should be approximately 20 single-spaced pages. Each portion of summary should begin with a one-sentence biography of the author and explanation of the author's thesis and supporting arguments as well as definitions of key terms. The critique portion should address issues such as the thesis, assumptions, supporting arguments, method, sources, logic, style, and specific examples of strengths and weaknesses. This assignment is due at the first meeting, and students will discuss the book.

Meeting #2 on Oct. 11

Students will read and review Robert Jenson's *The Triune God*, vol. 1 of *Systematic Theology* (Oxford University Press, 1997) and *The Works of God*, vol. 2 of *Systematic Theology* (Oxford University Press, 1999). Students will write and submit a 2,500–3,000 word **summary and critique** of each volume. Each submission should be approximately 1/3 summary and 2/3 critique, organized either as separate sections of summary and critique or by weaving the critique into the summary of the book. Each portion of summary should begin with a couple of sentences of biography of the author as well as mentioning his contribution and key works (this section does not need to be repeated for volume 2). Also, the summary should include an explanation of the organization and treatment of the doctrines as well as the use of any key terms. The critique portion should address issues such as the organization and treatment of doctrines, assumptions, supporting arguments, method, sources, logic, style, and specific examples of the unique contribution, strengths, and weaknesses of the volume. These two reviews are due at the second meeting, and students will discuss the books.

Meeting #3 on Nov. 8

Students will read and review volumes 1 and 2 of Wolfhart Pannenberg's *Systematic Theology*, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Eerdmans, 1991, 1994). Please follow the guidelines provided for Meeting #2. These two reviews are due at the third meeting, and students will discuss the books.

Meeting #4 on Dec. 13

Students will read and review volume 3 of Wolfhart Pannenberg's *Systematic Theology*, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Eerdmans, 1997). Please follow the guidelines provided for Meeting #2. The review is due at the fourth meeting, and students will discuss the book.