

**THSR9302 Historical Theology**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Theological & Historical Studies**  
**Spring 2021**



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### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Each student will read from various historical theology texts, including some significant primary sources.
2. Students will demonstrate their understanding of readings in classroom presentations.
3. Students will demonstrate their ability to offer creative critique and synthesis of the material in classroom discussions.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### **Statement on Biblical Authority**

In order to develop competent theological researchers for the twenty-first century church and academy, students in this course will be exposed to seminal works in Christian theology from a wide array of theological perspectives, including the influential works of many prominent non-evangelical theologians. Students are expected to become familiar with and demonstrate advanced, biblically guided critical engagement with the works of these thinkers.

The course instructor operates under the assumption that the Bible is the inspired, totally true and trustworthy Word of God which is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) provides the confessional framework in which I lead the course.

### **Reading Assignments (100%)**

All students will read the secondary text, McGrath, *Historical Theology*, 2d edition (2012). Each student will be assigned primary sources and will lead a discussion of those books. For each class meeting, students will prepare and present a critical book review based on the text assigned to them. These book reviews should be 4-6 single-spaced pages in length and should include a bibliographic entry, brief biographical data about the author (including dates, theological tradition, historical significance, research interests, and significant works), a brief summary, critical analysis, and discussion questions. Students are recommended but not required to read every primary source included in the colloquium. See the bibliography below for the recommended editions of the primary sources.

## Course Schedule

### Meeting #1— Ancient Theology (1/26)

McGrath, <i>Historical Theology</i> pp. 1-76	Joshua Lay
Irenaeus, <i>Against Heresies</i> , Book 1	Brian Dedmon
Origen, <i>On First Principles</i> , Books 1-2	Will Collins
Origen, <i>On First Principles</i> , Books 3-4	Bryan Shuler
Athanasius, <i>On The Incarnation</i>	Nick Holder
Augustine, <i>Confessions</i>	Nick Maricle

### Meeting #2—Medieval & Reformation Theology (2/23)

McGrath, <i>Historical Theology</i> pp. 77-123	Casey Evans
Anselm, <i>Why God Became Man</i>	Joshua Lay
Aquinas, <i>Summa Contra Gentiles: Book One: God</i>	Brian Dedmon
Erasmus, <i>On the Freedom of the Will</i>	Will Collins
Luther, <i>Bondage of the Will</i>	Bryan Shuler
Luther, 95 Theses, <i>Babylonian Captivity of the Church</i>	Nick Holder

### Meeting #3—Reformation Theology (4/6)

McGrath, <i>Historical Theology</i> pp. 124-181	Nick Maricle
Calvin, <i>Institutes</i> Books 2-3	Casey Evans
Arminius, "Analysis of the Ninth Chapter of the Epistles to the Romans," "The Apology or Defense," "Declaration of Sentiments," and "Public Disputations"	Joshua Lay
Hubmaier, "Statements at the Second Zurich Disputation," "Eighteen Theses Concerning the Christian Life," "On Heretics and Those Who Burn Them," "On the Christian Baptism of Believers," "Dialogue with Zwingli's Baptism Book," "On the Christian Ban," "Freedom of the Will 1," "Freedom of the Will II," "On Infant Baptism against Oecolampad," "A Form of Water Baptism," "A Form of the Lord's Supper" "Old and New Teachers on Believers' Baptism," "On the Sword Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, c1999"	Brian Dedmon
Spener, <i>Pia Desideria</i>	Will Collins
Jonathan Edwards, <i>The Religious Affections</i>	Bryan Shuler

### Meeting #4—Modern Theology (5/4)

McGrath, <i>Historical Theology</i> pp. 182-270	Nick Holder
Schleiermacher, <i>The Christian Faith</i>	Nick Maricle
Newman, <i>An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine</i>	Casey Evans
Warfield, <i>The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible</i>	Joshua Lay
Rauschenbush, <i>The Theology of the Social Gospel</i>	Brian Dedmon
Carl F.H. Henry, <i>God, Revelation, and Authority: God Who Speaks and Shows</i> , vol. 1	Will Collins

### Historical Theology: Primary Sources

- Anselm. *Why God Became a Man*. Ed. and trans. Jasper Hopkins and Herbert W. Richardson. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1980.
- Arminius, James. *The Works of James Arminius*. Trans. James Nichols and William Nichols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986.
- Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. Intro. C. S. Lewis. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1944.
- Augustine, *Confessions*. Trans. Henry Chadwick. Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Ed. John T. McNeill. Trans. Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960.
- Edwards, Jonathan. *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*. Rev. Edward Hickman. 2 vols. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1990.
- Erasmus, Desiderius. "On the Freedom of the Will." In *Luther and Erasmus: Free Will and Salvation*. The Library of Christian Classics: Ichthus Edition. Ed. and trans. E. Gordon Rupp, 35-97. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969.
- Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation, and Authority*, vol. 1. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999.
- Hubmaier, Balthasar. *Balthasar Hubmaier: Theologian of Anabaptism*. Ed. and trans. H. Wayne Pipkin and John Howard Yoder. Classics of the Radical Reformation, ed. Cornelius J. Dyck, no. 5. Scottsdale, PA: Herald, 1989.
- Irenaeus. *Against Heresies: Book One*. New York: Paulist, 1992.
- Luther, Martin. "On the Bondage of the Will." In *Luther and Erasmus: Free Will and Salvation*. The Library of Christian Classics: Ichthus ed. Ed. and trans. Philip S. Watson, 101-334. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969.
- Newman, John Henry. *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*. Edited by Charles Frederick Harrold. New York: Longmans, Green, 1949.
- Origen. *On First Principles*. Trans. G. W. Butterworth. New York: Harper and Row, 1966.
- Rauschenbusch, Walter. *A Theology for the Social Gospel*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1945.
- Ritschl, Albrecht. *Three Essays*. Trans. Philip Hefner. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1972.
- Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *The Christian Faith*. Ed. H. R. Mackintosh and J. S. Stewart. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1948.
- Spener, Philip Jacob. *Pia Desideria*. Ed. and trans. Theodore G. Tappert. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1964.
- Tillich, Paul. *Systematic Theology*, vol. 1. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951.
- Thomas Aquinas. *On the Truth of the Catholic Faith: Summa Contra Gentiles*. Book One, *God*. Trans. Anton G. Pegis. Garden City, NY: Image, 1955
- Warfield, Benjamin Breckenridge. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. Edited by Samuel G. Craig. Intro. Cornelius Van Til. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1948.

Reading List: **Historical Theology**

- Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1978.
- Burkill, T. A. *The Evolution of Christian Thought*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1971.
- Evans, G. R. *The Medieval Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Medieval Period*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 2001.
- Ferm, Robert L. *Readings in the History of Christian Thought*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*. Rev. ed. 3 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1987.
- Hardy, Edward R., ed. *Christology of the Later Fathers*, The Library of Christian Classics. Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox, 1995.
- Harnack, Adolf. *History of Dogma*. London: Williams & Norgate, 1896-99.
- Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. Rev. ed. Philadelphia: Harper, 1988.
- Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Reformation Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Early Modern Period* (The Great Theologians). Oxford/Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 2002.
- McGiffert, A. C. *A History of Christian Thought*, 2 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1946.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*, 2d edition. Cambridge, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.
- Norris, Richard A., ed. *The Christological Controversy*, Sources of Early Christian Thought, Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.
- Workman, Herbert. *Christian Thought to Reformation*. London: Duckworth and Company, 1947.

Reading List: **Encyclopedia and Dictionary Articles**

- Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Richardson, Alan and John Bowden, eds. *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.
- Buttrick, George A., ed. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. Vols. 1-4.
- Bromiley, Geoffrey W., ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Rev. ed. Vols. 1-4.