

Systematic Theology 1
Birmingham Theological Seminary
Dothan Campus-Westwood Presbyterian
Professor: Rev. Dr. Todd Baucum, D.Min.

Spring 2012
ST3526 Systematic Theology I
Professor: Todd D. Baucum, D.Min.
Class Hours: 2

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Course Purpose:

The Purpose of this course is to provide the student with an overview of Systematic Theology I. The class will include a study of the following: theological prolegomena, the doctrines of general and special revelation, and theology proper.

Objectives:

1. To understand the necessity of the theology proper and the importance of connecting the history of doctrine with biblical theology.
2. To see how the doctrine of Scripture is foundational to all knowledge about God.
3. To appreciate the wonder and majesty of a Sovereign God who has revealed Himself in redemptive history.
4. To define and describe how the study of the nature and works of God is the greatest occupation and benefit of the Christian believer. 1 Tim.4:15

Required Texts:

Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology. Eerdmans, one volume ed., 1996.

Douglas Kelly, Systematic Theology (Vol.1) Christian Focus Publications, 2008

Suggested Texts: (NOT REQUIRED)

Louis Berkhof, Summary of Christian Doctrine

Joel Beeke and Sinclair Ferguson. *Reformed Confessions Harmonized*.

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*

Stanley Grenz, The Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms, IVP (\$8.00) A handy tool to have as you read Kelly.

John Calvin, *Institutes of Christian Religion* (on the web)

Westminster Confession of Faith (on the web)

The Savoy Confession, 1658 (on the web)

The Second London Confession, 1689 (on the web)

J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*, (IVP)

Course Requirements:

1. Class Attendance – there are no makeups. For unavoidable absences, students will be required to get class lecture notes from other students. (no video of the lectures are allowed by BTS).
2. Completion of the reading assignments on time. (see below)
3. One book report (2 -3 pages, double space, 12 pt) on one of the assigned readings, giving a summation of the author's ideas and interacting with personal evaluations, critiques or assessment.
4. A major research paper (10- 15 pages) showing the student 's interaction with the history of doctrine and biblical exegesis on the following topics: The doctrine of Scripture, Revelation, Inerrancy and the Authority of Scripture; The Doctrine of God, The Trinity, The Doctrine of God modern challenges in Process Theology, Open Theism, Liberalism or Neo-orthodoxy. The Doctrine of Sovereign Election, Eternal Decrees. The paper will follow the format of Turabian Chicago standards, double spaced with 12 pt font. Each day late will receive a letter grade drop.
5. Class participation is encouraged through the interaction with lectures and reading assignments. Students will be expected to be familiar with the readings prior to the class lectures.

Course Grading

1. Assigned Reading completed on time, 15%
2. Book Report, 15%
3. Theological Research paper, 40%
4. Final Exam, 30%

Course Assignments

BTS Format and Style Standards

Note: All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

1. Book Report Due
2. Theological Paper Due
3. Spring Break – Mar. 14-18
4. Final Exam –May

Week One – Jan. 27: Introduction to Systematic Theology

Read: Berkhof, Introduction & pg. 15-34, Kelly, pg. 13-37; 46-62

Week Two – Feb. 3: Doctrine Revelation

Read: Berkhof, Introduction, pg. 116-143; Kelly, pg. 129-163

Week Three- Feb. 10: Inspiration and Authority of the Scriptures – Inerrancy & the Battle for the Bible

Read: Berkhof, Introduction pg. 144 -169; Kelly, pg. 163-180

Week Four – Feb. 17: The Doctrine of God

Read: Berkhof pg. 19-51; Kelly pg. 273-294

Week Five- Feb. 24: The Attributes of God - His Transcendence

Read: Berkhof pg. 52-63; Kelly pg. 315-352

Week Six – Mar. 3: The God of the Covenant: Introducing Covenantal Theology

Read: Kelly pg. 387-444 (all of chapter 6)

Week Seven- Mar. 10: The Doctrine of the Trinity – God’s Communicable Attributes

Read: Berkhof pg. 64-99, Kelly, pg. 447-471

Spring Break – Mar. 14-18

Week Eight – Mar. 24 : The Eternal Decrees – Election & Predestination

Read: Berkhof, pg. 100-123; Calvin’s Institutes (Book 3, ch. XXI –XXII) On Election; Calvin’s Commentary, Romans Ch. 9

Week Nine – April 7: The Doctrine of Creation

Read: Berkhof, pg. 126-140; Calvin’s Institutes, Book 1:14,16

Week Ten – April 14: The Challenges to the Doctrine of Creation

Read: Berkhof, pg. 141-164; Kelly, pg. 223-262;353-362

Week Eleven- April 21 : The Doctrine of Providence

Read: Berkhof, pg. 165-178; Calvin’s Institutes, Book 1:17-18.

Week Twelve – April 28: The History of the Doctrine of The Triune God

Read: Kelly, pg. 485-518

Week Thirteen- May 5: Book Report Due and Final Exam

Selected Bibliography (some annotations)

Systematic Theology

Bavinck, Herman. Reformed Dogmatics. 3 vols. translated thus far. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003-2006.

Berkhof, Louis. Systematic Theology. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. This edition includes his Introduction to Systematic Theology.

Calvin, John. Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1559. 2 vols. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960. Although there are many aspects of Systematic Theology that Calvin does not address, this is the oldest and most classic statement of Reformed theology.

Dabney, Robert Lewis. Lectures in Systematic Theology, 1878. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1972. Southern Presbyterian

Erickson, Millard. Christian Theology, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1983.

Moderately Calvinistic Baptist

Gill, John. Body of Divinity, 1769. Reprint, Atlanta, GA: Turner Lassetter, 1965.

Strict (Particular) Calvinistic Baptist

Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

Hodge, Charles. Systematic Theology, 1887. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997 reprint. Hodge was one of the preeminent Princeton Presbyterian theologians.

Oden, Thomas. Systematic Theology. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1998. A compilation of classical theologies from various perspectives—Reformed, Lutheran, and Arminian

Pieper, Francis. Christian Dogmatics. 4 vols. Saint Louis: Concordia, 1950. Classical Lutheran theology

Reymond, Robert. A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith. Nashville: Nelson, 1998. Reformed

Shedd, William G. T. Dogmatic Theology, 1894, ed. Alan W. Gomes. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 2003. An excellent but often overlooked Presbyterian theology

Strong, Augustus Hopkins. *Systematic Theology*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1907. Moderately Calvinistic Baptist

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, 1685. 3 vols. Translated by George Musgrave Giger, ed. James T. Dennison, Jr. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 1992. Reformed, from the era of “Protestant Scholasticism”

Watson, Thomas, *Body of Divinity*. Banner of Truth.

The Inspiration of Scripture

Custer, Stewart. *Does Inspiration Demand Inerrancy?* Nutley, New Jersey: The Craig Press, 1968.

Lindsell, Harold. *The Battle for the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976.

Montgomery, John Warwick, ed. *God’s Inerrant Word*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, Inc. 1974.

Packer, J. I. “*Fundamentalism*” and the Word of God. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1958.

Stonehouse, N. B., and Paul Woolley, ed. *The Infallible Word*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1946.

Tenney, Merrill C., ed. *The Bible-The Living Word of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1968.

Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1948.

_____. *Limited Inspiration*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, n.d.

White, James. *The King James Only Controversy*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1995.

Young, Edward J. *Thy Word Is Truth*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1957.

The Doctrine of God

Bavinck, Herman. *The Doctrine of God*. Translated by William Hendriksen. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1977. A classic and thorough treatment from a Reformed perspective

Boettner, Lorraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*. Philadelphia: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1966.

Charnock, Stephen. *The Existence and Attributes of God*, 1682. Reprint, Wilmington: Sovereign Grace Book Club, 1969.

Erickson, Millard J. *God the Father Almighty*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. “A contemporary exploration of the divine attributes”

Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 2002.

Letham, Robert. *The Holy Trinity*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 2004. A deep theological study of the doctrine of the Trinity, with emphasis on the classical ecumenical creeds

Storms, Samuel C. *The Grandeur of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984. “A theological and devotional study of the divine attributes”

Ware, Bruce A. *God’s Lesser Glory*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2000. A critique of Open Theism

Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Plan of Salvation, Revised Edition*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, no date. A summary of the various lapsarian positions on the decrees of God

Applied Theology – Spiritual Theology

Scougal, Henry. *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*. Christian Focus Books.

Augustine. *Confessions*.

Bunyan, John. *Pilgrim’s Progress*

Edwards, Jonathan. *Religious Affections*. A Classic of the highest order from America’s premier philosopher/theologian who championed a thoughtful engagement of speculative theology with practical piety.