

***TH501 – SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I***  
**SHEPHERDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Cary, NC**

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**SYLLABUS**  
**Fall 2011**

**Course Description**

(Catalog Description) “A survey of a prolegomena to systematic theology as well as the doctrines of revelation (bibliology) and God (theology proper). Introduces, defines, and supports each doctrine using pertinent passages of Scripture.”

**General Course Goals**

This course partially fulfills a number of the Seminary and Student Objectives:

1. Seminary Objective #1: “Teach and integrated body of knowledge based on the Bible, as expressed in the Seminary’s doctrinal statement.”  
This course is an exposition of the doctrines of Scripture and God, as expressed in the doctrinal statement.
2. Seminary Objective #2: “Train students to discern and clarify the theology and mission of the church in their generation.”  
This course helps the student clarify his/her theology in the major doctrines of Scripture and God.
3. Seminary Objective #3: “Provide a learning environment which will extol the supremacy of God and encourage a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”  
This course explains in detail the supremacy of God in decreeing, creation, preservation, and providential direction of the universe, and specifically in supremacy over our individual lives.
4. Student Objective #2: “To develop and clearly articulate theological beliefs in language that is consistent with Scripture.”

This course is designed to help the student develop and articulate with competence his/her theological beliefs in the doctrines of Scripture and GOd.

### **Specific Course Objectives and Student Outcomes**

Since this course proposes to introduce the student to the task of systematic theology and to the specific topics of prolegomena, bibliology, and theology proper, the student will be able to:

1. Define important theological terms and identify significant theologians.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with selected theological literature addressing issues in prolegomena, bibliology, and theology proper.
3. Develop basic skills in theological research, specifically, in the use of standard references works.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of key Scripture passages and gain the ability to use that knowledge in theological thinking and argumentation.
5. Explain and defend the important teachings in the Bible about the Bible. Specifically,
  - a. Define and explain “inspiration,” “inerrancy,” “illumination,” and other key terms in the doctrine of Scripture.
  - b. Identify contemporary attacks on Scripture and give appropriate responses.
6. Exercise critical creative thinking and expression, especially in the areas of prolegomena, bibliology, and theology proper. This thinking particularly involves the ability to formulate comprehensive theological description, definition, and argumentation, based on accurate analysis and scholarly synthesis of:
  - a. Revelation (Scripture)
  - b. Christian Tradition (theology and practice)
  - c. Culture (philosophy, psychology, arts, media, etc.)
7. Know God better, and thus, begin the habit of continually responding to theology in character development and worship. This results as one is able to:
  - a. Explain how we should prove the existence of God.
  - b. Describe how God has revealed Himself.
  - c. Define the key attributes of God.
  - d. Explain the unity and trinity of God.
  - e. Explain God’s work in the universe (“decree,” “creation,” “providence”) and in one’s life.

## Course Requirements

### 1. To Fulfill the First Two Specific Course Objectives

- a. The student must attend the lectures given at the times indicated on the Seminary Fall Schedule. Attendance is required and will be reflected in the course grade in accord with the Seminary policy in the *Student Handbook*.
- b. The student must complete the required **reading assignments**:
  - 1) The Reading assignments are listed on the "Course Schedule" of the class syllabus. Reading assignments must be completed before the class hour on which they are due. The due dates are listed in the course schedule. The student will indicate the fulfillment of this assignment by using a "Reading Accountability Form" distributed by the professor. Then, at the mid-term exam and at the end of the course you will turn in your "Reading Accountability Form."
  - 2) Reading Assignments are made from the following works. A total of at least **1200 pages from books and articles** is due final exam week.

### Textbooks (required reading)

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Zondervan, 1994 (The basic text for the course.)

Gerald R. McDermott. *The Great Theologians: A Brief Guide*. IVP Academic, 2010.

Nichols, Stephen J. and Eric T. Brandt. *Ancient Word, Changing Worlds: the Doctrine of Scripture in a Modern Age*. Crossway, 2009.

Ryrie, Charles C. *Dispensationalism*. Moody, 2007 (reprint of 1995 edition).

Ware, Bruce, editor. *Perspectives on the Doctrine of God: 4 Views*. Broadman and Holman, 2008.

### Additional Reading (recommended books and articles for TH501)

Black, David Alan. "Textual Criticism of the New Testament" in *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*, ed. by D. Dockery, K. Matthews, and R. Sloan (1994), pp. 396-413.

Bruce, F. F. "Criticism," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, rev. ed., by G. Bromily, 4 vols., 1:pp. 817-25.

Bruce, F. F. "Transmission and Translation of the Bible" in *Expositor's Bible Commentary* 12 v.

1:39-60.

Clarke, David K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology* (2003): pp. 33-294.

Dockery, David S. *Christian Scripture: An Evangelical Perspective on Inspiration, Authority and Interpretation* (1995): 1-176. Recommended, wonderfully 'readable.' \*\*\*

Erickson, M. *Christianity Theology*, 3 vols., 1:chs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10.

Feinberg, John. *No One Like Him*

Frame, John. *The Doctrine of God*. P&R Publ., 2002.

Geisler, Norman and William E. Nix. *From God to Us: How We Got Our Bible*. Moody Press, 1994. Former required text, recommended for history of the Bible.\*\*\*

Henry, C. F. H. "The Authority and Inspiration of the Bible," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 12 vols., 1:pp. 3-35.

Hodges, Louis Igou. "Evangelical Definitions of Inspiration: Critiques and a Suggested Definition" in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 37/1 (March 1994): 99-114.

House, Paul R. "Canon of the Old Testament" in *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*, ed. by D. Dockery, K. Matthews, and R. Sloan (1994), pp. 134-155.

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. Dutton (the Penguin Group), 2008. A popular apologetic book, but arguments for understanding God are helpful reading.

McGrath, Alister. *The Dawkins Delusion? Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine*. IVP Books, 2007. Brief, but helpful understnading the issue today.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The Bible in Translation: Ancient and English Versions* (2001): 13-190.

Mohler, R. Albert. *Atheism Remix: A Christian Confronts the New Atheism*. Crossway, 2008.

Osborne, G. R. "Biblical Theology" and "Systematic Theology" in *The Hermeneutical Spiral* (1991): 263-317.

Spencer, S. "Is Natural Theology Biblical?" *Grace Theological Journal* 9, 1 (1988):59-72.

Stackhouse, John G. *Evangelical Futures: A Conversation on Theological Method*. Baker Books, 2000. Recommended read, helpful on theological method.\*\*\*

- Strong, A. H. *Systematic Theology*, pp. 1-51, 196-242.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *First Theology: God, Scripture & Hermeneutics* (2002): 9-44,127-336.
- Walls, A. "The Canon of the New Testament," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 631-43.
- Waltke, Bruce K. "Old Testament Textual Criticism" in *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*, ed. by D. Dockery, K. Matthews, and R. Sloan (1994), pp. 156-186.
- Ware, Bruce A. *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism*. Crossway, 2000.
- Warfield, B. B. "Inspiration," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, rev. ed. by G. Bromiley, 4 vols., 2:pp. 839-49.
- White, James E. "Inspiration and Authority of Scripture" in *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*, ed. by D. Dockery, K. Matthews, and R. Sloan (1994), pp. 19-35.
- White, James R. *The King James Controversy: Can You Trust the Modern Translations?* Bethany House, 1995. Helpful for historical background.\*\*\*
- Young, Edward J. *Thy Word is Truth*. Eerdmans, 1974. Older, but one of the best to read.\*\*\*

## 2. To Fulfill the Third Specific Course Objective

- a. The student should complete a *Research Project*. A summary reading report indicating entrees (for each subject) must be submitted for the Research Project.
- b. The project consists of reading the entries on several theologians, theologies, philosophers, philosophies, or religious-cultural movements given in various standard reference works in the library. The Research Reading Project is credited toward your overall reading and is computed into the course grade along with the other reading units.
- c. **Research Project: Instructions**
  - 1). The purpose of this project is for you to increase your understanding of certain Theologies, Theological Movements and Theologians through reading in standard works. Look up the names and terms listed below in reference works prescribed in your bibliography (see Syllabus) under the categories: *Dictionaries of Theology and Religion, Dictionaries of Church*

*History, Dictionaries of Churches and Denominations and Other Helpful Reference Works.*

- 2). To receive credit, each term listed below must have been looked up in at least one prescribed reference work and the entry therein must have been read in its entirety. Also, at least three different reference works must have been consulted during the process of looking up the entire list. Furthermore, at least half these terms must be looked up in at least *one additional* reference work and read in their entirety the corresponding entries. (In other words, for half of the list below you will have consulted at least two reference works per term, reading their entries in their entirety.) Spend a maximum of 4 hours on this assignment.

List of Theologies, Theological Movements and Theologians.

1. Roman Catholicism or Roman Catholic Theology
2. Vatican Council II
3. Lutheranism (or Lutheran Theology)
4. Calvinism (or Reformed Theology)
5. Arminianism and Wesleyanism (or Wesleyan Theology)
6. Evangelicalism
7. Fundamentalism
8. Liberalism (Theological or Protestant)
9. Neo-orthodoxy (not in *Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*)
10. Liberation Theology
11. Thomas Aquinas or Thomism
12. Rationalism
13. Existentialism
14. Postmodernism
15. Process Philosophy (or Theology)
16. Platonism; Neoplatonism

### 3. To Fulfill the Fourth Specific Course Objective

Students are required to demonstrate the successful *memorization of twenty passages of Scripture* crucial to the doctrines of bibliology and theology proper. A list of passages is given below. You must recite to another individual all of a passage *word perfect* (including conjunctions, articles, and prepositions!). The listener may not offer any hints or corrections although he/she may tell you that you have or have not recited a verse correctly. Credit will be given as follows: The percentage of passages recited word perfectly at both sittings will be the grade for this assignment. A sitting is defined as one occasion in which you try to cite as many passages as you can without receiving hints, helps or otherwise checking yourself by looking up the passage, checking verse cards, or hearing it read or recited to you. You can try as many "sittings" as you wish in order to correctly recite the highest percentage of passages as is possible for you, but only that percentage cited word perfectly in *one* sitting will be credited. (No cumulative amount compiled over several sittings). The individual who hears you must verify your results by marking an "accountability form" that will be provided and signing his/her name to it. This score sheet will then be turned in.

During the semester you will turn in two accountability forms: one will be for the "Revelation" passages and the other for the rest of the passages. You must turn in an accountability form for the revelation passages by the time of the first exam. The date for the second accountability form is the last day of classes. You will find that memorizing these passages will help you in your study in the course, especially in preparation for exams.

Scripture Passages to be Memorized:

<u>Revelation</u>	<u>Progress of Revelation</u>	<u>Attributes of God</u>
1. Deut. 18:18-19	10. Eph. 2:14-15	12. Ps. 139:7-10 (omnipresence)
2. John 1:14, 18	11. Rom. 7:6	13. Isa. 14:27 (omnipotence)
3. Heb. 1:1-2		14. Mark 10:27 (omniscience)
4. John 16:13		15. Isa. 6:3 (holiness)
5. Rom. 1:18-21		16. Jer. 31:3 or Rom. 5:8 (love)
6. Deut. 29:29	17. Mal. 3:6 (grace and mercy)	18. Ps. 89:14 (justice)
<u>Inspiration</u>		19. John 14:6; 17:17 (truthfulness)
7. II Tim. 3:16-17		20. Lam. 3:22-23 (faithfulness)
8. II Peter 1:19-21		
9. Matt. 5:17-18		

#### **4. To Fulfill the Fifth Specific Course Objective Two Exams will be Given**

Midterm exam – 20% of grade (objective and essay; study guide will be provided)

Final exam – 20% (objective and essay; study guide will be provided)

#### **5. To Fulfill the Sixth and Seventh Specific Course Objectives: Research Paper**

- a. Length – about 10-12 pages of text, plus bibliography – double spaced.
- b. Form – must follow proper research form, as found in Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, and professor's additional instructions.
- c. Bibliography – at least 15 sources (books and articles)
  - 1). General references (ISBE, Bible Dictionaries, etc.)
  - 2). At least five standard theology books – Erickson, McCune, Hodge, Strong, Berkhof, etc.
  - 3). Journal articles – at least five articles (this is critical as important since the cutting edge of scholarship is usually found in the current journal articles).
  - 4). Exegetical commentaries, Lexicons, etc.
  - 5). Specific books on the subject.
- d. Topic – Select a topic from the suggested list below, or receive approval for another topic from the professor.
- e. Grade – The grade is based on the following criteria. [Note: The following criteria have been suggested at STS by Dr. Pettigrew for the Systematic Theology courses, and will be observed for this class as well.]
  - 1). FORM:
    - a). Grammatical and literary excellence.
    - b). Agreement with Turabian's guidelines and professor's instructions.
    - c). Style – written in the third person (no "we," "I," "you," "us," etc.)
    - d). Page numbering form.
  - 2). CONTENT:
    - a). Scholarly theological content.
    - b). Logical organization and procedure (appropriate headings, correctly inserted, is helpful).
    - c). Evidence of thorough research in the paper and bibliography.
    - d). Specific, "tough," well-thought-out interaction with opposing views.
    - e). Support and proof for your arguments.
  - 3). GENERAL PROCEDURE:

- a). Title page
- b). Table of Contents, following Turabian. Since this paper is only 10-12 pages, do not use “chapters,” but use appropriate headings.
- c). Introductory matters such as “The Reason for the Study,” and “The Procedure of the Study.” Be sure to state the problem clearly in the Introduction.
- d). Explain various possible solutions to the problem if there are such.
- e). Cite authorities where necessary. A research paper should have numerous footnotes. Single space the footnotes, but double space between footnotes. Indent first line of each footnote. Punctuate correctly. See Turabian.
- f). Investigate carefully the Scriptural teaching on the problem, include appropriate exegesis.
- g). Be sure to interact with opposing views.
- h). Come to a conclusion with your support of your view.
- i). Bibliography, according to Turabian.

f. Suggested topics:

About anything in the areas of prolegomena, bibliology, or theology proper would be a possible topic. It should be a systematic theology paper, however, and not primarily an exegesis paper. Since this is a brief research paper, please try to narrow your topic down as much as possible. Some suggested topics:

Are Copies of the Autographs Inspired?  
 Gender Translations of the Bible?  
 The Emerging Church and Biblical Authority  
 God and Time  
 What Does God Know, and When Does He Know It?  
 Does the Decree of God Make God the Author of Sin?  
 Does God Suffer (or Grieve)?  
 The Relationship of the Ontological Trinity to the Economic Trinity  
 An Analysis of Open Theism  
 The Trinity in Postmodern Theology  
 The Trinity in the Emerging Church  
 Is There Such a Thing as Middle Knowledge?  
 What is the Identity of the Angel of the Lord?  
 Is the Trinity in the OT?  
 An Analysis of Neo Atheism (the New Atheism)

## Course Grade

### Factors determining the Course Grade

The overall course grade is a composite of several factors. It is not a measure of personal worth. And although it is hoped that you will learn many things in this class, the grade is not necessarily a measure of how much you may feel that you have learned. Rather, the course grade is a cumulative figure that bears a relationship to a student's successful completion of the course requirements. This figure is determined in the following manner:

1.     **Reading and Research Project – 25%**  
Report the reading total (1200 pages) on two Reading Forms (15%).  
Report the Reading Research Project on the form distributed in class (10%).
2.     **Exams – 40%**  
The two exams (20% each) will be assigned a letter and number grade.
3.     **Scripture Memory – 10%**  
The percentage of passages cited correctly in accordance with the above instructions will be the grade of this assignment. A verification or score sheet must be turned in and signed by the one who hears you. Two forms will be distributed and one must be turned in at midterm, the second at the final exam.
4.     **Research Paper – 25%**
5.     Class Attendance - See *Student Handbook*  
Each absence in excess of the prescribed limit will result in a reduction of the final grade. Any student contemplating an absence should consult the professor.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Assignment
Aug. 22	Course Introduction Theo and Related Fields	
Aug. 29	Doctrinal Development	RA1
Sept. 5	Labor Day – No Class	RA2
Sept. 12	Theological Methodology	RA3
Sept. 19	Revelation	RA4
Sept. 26	Inspiration & Inerrancy	RA5
Oct. 3	Reading Week – No Class	RA6
Oct. 10	Canonicity & Transmission	RA7
Oct. 17	Biblical Criticism Illumination	RA8
Oct. 24	Knowledge & Existence of God Anti-Theistic Theories	RA9
Oct. 31	Attributes of God	RA10
Nov. 7	Attributes (cont.) Names of God	RA11
Nov. 14	Trinitarianism	RA12
Nov. 21	Thanksgiving Recess	
Nov. 28	Trinitarianism (cont.)	RA13
Dec. 5	Decrees of God	RA14
Dec. 12	Work of God (creation, providence, etc.)	