ST 5101 Syllabus

Introduction to Systematic Theology

DISTANCE EDUCATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to theological formulation and consideration of the doctrines of revelation, inspiration, God and creation. *Three hours.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Help the student understand and appreciate the nature, need, and method of systematic theology

2. Present the biblical position on the nature of Scripture. The hope is that the student will not only know the position but be able to defend it as well

3. Help the student understand the contemporary evangelical and non-evangelical discussions concerning God better, and articulate an alternate position which is superior biblically, theologically, and philosophically to contemporary positions

4. Articulate a variety of models of providence and evaluate their handling of the relation of divine sovereignty to human freedom and moral responsibility

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS

David K. Clark, *To Know and Love God: Method For Theology.*

John S. Feinberg, *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God.*

Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*. This classic systematic theology text will serve well as a reference and provide further reading when needed. It also provides an excellent companion through the entire systematic theology sequence at TEDS. (ISBN-10: 0801021820; ISBN-13: 978-0801021824)

**COURSE FORMAT and EXPECTATIONS**

**CDs/DVDs/Downloads**
This course requires the use of a CD or DVD set available from the Distance Education office. A materials cost is automatically assessed upon enrollment. The CD material works on both Macintosh and Windows computers and may also work in other environments using a web browser. The CD/DVD serves as a guide through the course, combining lesson outlines, audio and video content and readings. Once installed or downloaded onto your computer, the ST 5101 content behaves like a website, though you do not need to be connected to the Internet in order to use it. While you are enrolled as a student in the course, you will be eligible to receive updates and new versions of the course at no additional charge as they are made available.

**NOTE:** This is the only syllabus the student is expected to follow. The syllabus posted on the CD/DVD is no longer used.

**Course Tutors**
In addition to the course material (texts and CD/DVD), you will be assigned to a course tutor who will receive and evaluate your work and generally interact with you online and via email during your course. Course tutors are approved by the Systematic Theology department and are either professors or PhD students working at a high level in their field. Whatever the case, you may assume that your course tutor is highly competent with the material and able to interact with you. Each course tutor has a unique style and frequency of interaction, however, and you are encouraged to contact your course tutor early in your course to inquire about his/her expectations for interaction.

**How can I do well in DE?**
Students who are self-motivated and disciplined tend to excel in distance education courses because they do not require continual encouragement to make progress through the material. Knowing this, students who are not as self-disciplined are encouraged to find ways to motivate themselves throughout the course. Some planning tools are available on the CD/DVD to help you plan your course of study. Outside accountability partners may also prove helpful for some students. For this reason, we also encourage students to register together as a group. Contact Distance Education for further details, or if you need help thinking about how to structure your time.

**Learning Assignment Explanations**

*Reading Report*
You are responsible for reading all of the required readings for this course. Progress will be assessed by including a report of your readings with each of your exams. Ultimately, your grade for this assignment will be based upon the reading report included with the final exam. You may choose to prepare and submit a reading report via email to your course tutor apart from the exams.

**Exams**

There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Each will be primarily essay, though there may be a short section of objective questions. Essays will emphasize ability to understand concepts and integrate ideas, not ability to rote memorize.

Exams are proctored by prior arrangement with the DE office. If you are able to visit the Deerfield campus, you may schedule times to take your exams with the DE office. If you are not able to visit the campus, you may designate a proctor using our online proctor arrangement form. The DE staff will mail exams once your proctor is approved and you may make arrangements with them to take the exam. Your proctor will then send your exams back to the DE office with a signed statement.

**Critical Conversations (online discussions)**

Since this ST 5101 is designed as an asynchronous course, there are no preset times to enter into conversation about the learning material. However, it important that you demonstrate a willingness and ability to think deeply and articulate questions and responses revolving around the theological material. You are expected to engage what you are learning with your course tutor and other students at a critical level using online forums. Access to the ST 5101 Forum will be provided by the DE office. You are expected to contribute a minimum of one question and one response for each of the three main sections of the course. This is a great opportunity to reflect upon how these theological matters impact or affect your context, and to learn how this is similar or different for others.

**Submitting Assignments**

All assignments should be submitted via TriNet directly to your Course Tutor. You may send your CT an email to their course drop-box located in the course forum area.

**Academic Integrity**

The Trinity community is committed to integrity in all areas of life, including academic integrity, which we believe is essential in the search for and promotion of truth. The pursuit of truth is integrally connected with values of the Trinity community, which include respect for individual intellectual contributions, the development of God-given talents, and the building of relationships in community in a spirit of trust. Therefore, academic integrity is upheld in the Trinity community and any form of cheating and plagiarism is not permitted. Additional information and details are available in the Academic Handbook.
Assessment and Final Course Grading

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<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>Basic Competency Assignments</td>
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Grade Scale

98 or above = A+  
93  = A  
90  = A-  
87 = B+ 77 = C+ 67 = D+  
83 = B 73 = C 63 = D  
80 = B- 70 = C- 60 = D-

Readings

* The readings below are in addition to the presentations and multimedia content available for each session from the Distance Education office.

Prolegomena

Session 1  
Clark, To Know and Love God, chapters 1-3 and Conclusion

Session 2  
John Montgomery, "The Theologian's Craft" in The Suicide of Christian Theology * available through Rolfing Library.

Bibliology

Session 3  
Erickson, pp. 178-180 and Chapters 9-11

Session 4  
Paul D. Feinberg, "The Meaning of Inerrancy," in Geisler

Session 5  
Greg L. Bahnsen, "The Inerrancy of the Autographs," in Geisler

Session 6  
Gleason Archer, "Alleged Errors and Discrepancies in the Original Manuscripts of the Bible," in Geisler

Session 7  
Clark, Chapter 11

Theology Proper
Session 8
John Feinberg, *No One Like Him*, chapters 1-2, pp. 204-231, and chapters 6-8, and 10

Session 9
John Feinberg, *No One Like Him*, chapter 12, then pp. 501-531, and chapters 13-14, 16-17

Extra Credit — If, after completing 100% of the above 9 assignments, you also read Feinberg, chapters 3 and 15, and submit a half page summary of each chapter, your final grade may be raised by 1/3 of a grade. For example if your final grade is a B+ and you do all the required reading plus the extra credit reading, I'll raise your final grade to an A-.