Systematic Theology II (ST 5102)
Christ, Humanity, Sin and Salvation

Thomas H. McCall, ed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the study of the person and work of Christ. It treats the nature of man both as a creature and a sinner, including original sin, and the nature and consequences of individual acts of sin. Discussion focuses on both the atoning work of Christ and on the application of the work of Christ by the Holy Spirit that runs from election through conversion and justification all the way to glorification. Three hours.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this course, students should:

• Be encouraged to think theologically about the Word of God, his church and the world in which we live each day, in order to discern how the Gospel may be brought to bear on all areas of life and thought.

• Be encouraged to gain an integrated Christian theological perspective and methodology that introduces students to the discussion and biblical material related to the final issues of systematic theology: anthropology (humanity), and hamartiology (sin), Christology (the person of Christ), and soteriology (salvation).

• Be challenged to develop an appreciation for the historic contributions of faithful Christians on these topics throughout history. Develop constructive positions on perennial theological questions with respect to such doctrinal loci as the nature and extent of the atonement, body and soul issues, etc.

• Be challenged to develop an approach to doctrine that emphasizes wisdom and lived theology through the development of theological humility and charity.
REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS


For a list of recommended texts that may be of further assistance in completing the assignments see Appendix 3 on Additional Recommended Resources below.

COURSE FORMAT

Digital Media - CD/DVD/Internet

This course requires access to digital media via the Internet (in Course Forum) or a CD/DVD available from the Distance Education office. The digital material works on both Macintosh and Windows computers and may also work in other environments using a web browser. The electronic material serves as a guide through the course, combining lesson outlines, audio and video content and readings. For those using the CD/DVD, once installed or downloaded onto your computer, the ST 5102 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 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 (textbooks and digital media), 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 TEDS departments 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 excell 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.

**LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS**

What you're required to do, and why. This section describes what you must do in this course and why these assignments have been selected and designed to help you learn the material.

**What —**

Read assigned material and submit a reading report (Comes with final exam).
Engage with audio/video components of the course.
Write three (3) position papers.
Take one (1) final exam.
Contribute to three (3) critical conversations online.
Why —

Through reading the textbooks and interacting with material on the course CD/DVD/Website students have the opportunity to acquire basic competencies. Reading will be reported on the Final Exam.

Writing three position papers affords the student an opportunity to demonstrate that critical theological competencies are being developed through readings, lessons and reflection.

A final exam at the end of the course demonstrates the achievement of basic competencies in each area.

Contributions to critical conversations in each of the three major sections of the course give students the opportunity to develop critical theological competencies. Interaction with other students and course tutors is designed to further deepen and enrich the student’s understanding of the course material and its relevance to life and practice. Students should be able to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the diversity of views encountered in each area, relevant biblical material, and an ability to articulate their own substantive theological position/conviction.

Final Grading —

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Position Papers</td>
<td>45% (each 15%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Critical Conversations in TriNet</td>
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<td>Reading Report</td>
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EXPECTATIONS for ASSIGNMENTS

Readings

Texts have been selected for each major section of the course that appropriately introduce basic concepts, terminology, persons and movements essential to understanding the respective area. Students struggling with the required readings in a given area are encouraged to consult the Additional Recommended Resources in Appendix 3,
which often include helpful preliminary resources. All assigned readings (unless otherwise noted) should be completed at a level of competency which will allow the reader to interact with concepts at a critical level. This may require reading materials more than once. Readings are reported on the Final Exam.

**Position Papers**

The three position papers are designed to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to formulate and articulate theological positions on a set of predetermined questions. Specifically, you will complete one position paper for each of the three major sections of the course (Theological Anthropology & Hamartiology/Christology/Soteriology). Each position paper should be approximately 5-7 pages, double-spaced. You should demonstrate your understanding and interaction with a key issue in each section of the course. See Appendix 1 on Position Paper Guidelines for more detail.

**Final Exam**

A final exam will be given at the completion of the course. You will have three (3) hours to take the exam. You will be presented with a series of questions, of which you will choose to answer seven (7) in essay form. You may use an unmarked Bible, but no other books, notes or materials are permitted. The exam will be proctored by someone approved or a representative of the DE office. You may designate a proctor directly or by requesting exams within your course forum area in TriNet, or by contacting the DE office in advance of your availability for the exam.

**Critical Conversations** *(Online Discussions)*

Critical conversations are centered around each of the three major sections of the course. You will find each discussion area in the TriNet forum for your course. You are expected to post an extended contribution (approximately 1-3 pages in length) in response to the topic listed under "Position Paper Guidelines" which you did not choose for your Position Paper. You may alternatively choose a topic from among the "Study Guide Questions" for that section of the course (see Appendix 2 on Study Guide Questions). This post should seek to demonstrate your awareness and understanding of the diversity of views encountered in your study of that topic. Include relevant biblical material and write a sustained reflection on how your life, theology
and study have changed or incorporated your learning on that topic. Your course tutor will evaluate your contribution in light of the following:

- demonstrates awareness of diversity of views
- demonstrates understanding of others' views
- demonstrates critical reflection and evaluation of views
- demonstrates progress toward arriving at personal views/convictions
- reflects on the impact of this study on personal life & ministry

Additionally, each student should post at least one thoughtful response to another student in each discussion area. This might be a response to a question posed by another student or a reaction to another student's extended contribution.

Lastly, you are expected to submit a thoughtful question that relates to the area of study for which other students can interact.

**Critical Conversation Summary**

For each major section of the course:

1 extended post dealing with a different topic from the "Position Paper Guidelines" or a topic from the "Study Guide Questions" (See Appendix 2)
1 response to another student
1 thoughtful question relating to the course

**GRADE SCALE**

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Course Outline

Part 1 - Theological Anthropology and Hamartiology

Session 1 - The Image of God
READ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 479-536.

Session 2 - The Body-Soul Debate in Theological Perspective
READ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 537-575.

Session 3 - Sin: Original and Actual

Session 4 - Sin: The Ugly Truth
READ Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., *Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be*, pp. ix-xiii, 1-199.
RESPOND to study questions.

Part 2 - Christology

Session 5 - The Humanity and Divinity of Christ
READ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 677-775.

Session 6 - The Incarnation of the Son of God
READ Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*.

Session 7 - The Atoning Work of Christ
READ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 779-858.

Session 8 - The Atoning Work of Christ: Engagement with Contemporary Challenges
RESPOND to study questions.

Part 3 - Soteriology

Session 9 - Election and Predestination
READ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 920-940.

Session 10 - Regeneration and Justification

Session 11 - Sanctification
READ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 979-995.
READ John Oswalt, *Called to Be Holy*, pp. 1-199.

Session 12 - Perseverance and Assurance
READ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 996-1032.
RESPOND to study questions.
Appendix 1 - Position Paper Guidelines

These papers are designed to challenge you to organize and formulate your thoughts on perennial theological issues. These papers are not, therefore, intended to be research papers. In these papers, you should work toward a clear and informed statement of your position on these important doctrines. While not research papers, they should be informed by Scripture and relevant works in theology (you should use a minimum of four (4) pertinent sources in each paper), but these papers should state what you believe on these issues.

As such, the papers should have a clear thesis statement, one that stakes out a position and promises an argument for a specific conclusion.

The paper should take a definite position (even if it is still somewhat tentative), it should show evidence of opposing views, it should show why the view defended is seen as superior to the other option(s), and it should show awareness of points of weakness as well as areas that await further exploration.

In articulating your position you should be self-critically aware of your reliance upon the traditional fourfold theological sources of Scripture, tradition, reason, experience.

You will choose three (3) topics from among the followings - one (1) from Section One, one (1) from Section Two, and one (1) from Section Three:

**Section One**
*Anthropology/Hamartiology*
choose one:
(1a) "The Mind-Body Issue in Theological Perspective;"
or (1b) "Understanding Original Sin"

**Section Two**
*Christology*
choose one:
(2a) "The Nature of the Atonement;"
or (2b) "The Extent of the Atonement"

**Section Three**
*Soteriology*
choose one:
(3a) "Understanding Sanctification;"
or (3b) "Perseverance and Assurance in the Christian Life"
Appendix 2 - Study Guide Questions

These Study Guide Questions are intended to help you focus your learning and inquiry into the material. These questions also (1) assist your preparation for the final exam and (2) provide alternative topics for contributing to the online discussion in TriNet. You are not required to submit these for a grade.

**Section One (Theological Anthropology & Hamartiology)**

Study Guide Questions:

1. What does it mean to be made in the "image of God?" Interacting with some of the major positions, offer a statement of your view of this.

2. Provide a biblically-informed theological evaluation of Plantinga's contention that sin is the "vandalism of shalom."

3. Summarize the biblical teaching on sin. What is its "essence" or "nature," and what are its consequences?

4. Describe and evaluate the debates over Pelagianism (and "Semi-Pelagianism").

5. How are we related to - and affected by - the Fall? What is "original sin?"

**Section Two (Christology)**

Study Guide Questions:

1. Describe the Arian understanding of the divinity of Christ. What are the core tenets of Arianism? What were the biblical and theological arguments of Athanasius and the pro-Nicenes that were made in response to the Arians?

2. The Chalcedonian Formula says that Jesus is "one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only-begotten, made known in two natures without confusion, without change, without division, without separation, the differences of the natures being by no means removed because of the union. . ." Explain this statement. What views are excluded by this statement? How does it exclude them? Why does it exclude them?

3. What is the meaning and theological significance of the statement that Jesus Christ is "homoousios with the Father"?

4. In what ways does Scripture attest to both the humanity and the divinity of Christ?

5. Write an article for a theological dictionary on "Penal Substitution." After outlining the biblical basis for the doctrine, respond to contemporary criticisms and defenses of it.

6. Discuss and evaluate the biblical basis for the Christus Victor view of the Atonement.
7. Evaluate the debate over the extent of the Atonement, defending one position against the criticisms of another.


**Section Three (Soteriology)**

**Study Guide Questions:**

1. Taking into account the relevant biblical (be sure to include discussion of such passages as Romans 9:1-23 and Ephesians 1:1-11 as well as John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4, 6; 4:10; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:; 4:14), theological, and philosophical concerns, offer a statement and defense of either a Reformed or Arminian view of election and predestination.

2. What is the traditional (Protestant) doctrine of justification? What is meant by the claim that we are justified by "grace alone" through "faith alone?" How is faith related to the law? And what is the place of good works in the Christian life?

3. With respect to its teachings on justification, describe and evaluate the "New Perspective on Paul." What are potential strengths, weaknesses, and liabilities?

4. What is Sanctification? Comparing your view with either a Lutheran, Reformed, or Wesleyan model, offer a reasoned commendation and defense of your position.

5. Provide a comparison and evaluation of the interpretations of Romans 7:14-25 and 1 John 1:8-10, 3:4-9 offered by Millard Erickson and John Oswalt.

6. Compare, contrast and evaluate two positions on Perseverance and Assurance (making sure to deal with the important biblical passages, e.g., John 10:27-30; Matthew 24:3-14; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-27).
Appendix 3 - Additional Recommended Resources

NB: Those texts marked with an asterisk (*) may be especially helpful for your Position Papers.

General Resources


Resources for Theological Anthropology and Hamartiology


Edwards, Jonathan. Original Sin. *


Resources for Christology


**Resources for Soteriology**


Wesley, John. Predestination Calmly Considered. *