STUDENT SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Theology I: Introduction to Theology.
Course number: ST 5101
Credit hours: Three
Course dates/times: TBA.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rev. Dr. Henry M. Knapp
252 College Ave
Beaver, PA 15009
724/774-6398 x13
pastorknapp@hotmail.com

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

2. JI Packer, Knowing God.
4. RC Sproul and Norman Geisler, Explaining Biblical Inerrancy. {available as pdf online}
5. Choose ONE of the following:
   a. Gerald Bray, The Doctrine of God.
6. Choose ONE of the following:
   b. Craig Bartholomew, The Drama of Scripture.
   c. Daniel Doriani, et. al., Four View on Moving Beyond the Bible.

COURSE DESCRIPTION  (from TEDS catalog)

This course begins by clarifying the nature, method, and necessity of theology. Discussion then moves to the doctrine of Scripture, including revelation, inspiration, illumination, and inerrancy. This course concludes with the study of the existence and nature of God (including the Trinity) and God’s works of creation (including angels) and providence.  Three hours.
**COURSE OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course students will

1. Grow in the ability to think critically about theological issues and to relate them to other areas of doctrine.
2. Learn the major issues, arguments, and biblical texts involved in the doctrines of the Holy Scripture, Theology Proper, and Creation.
3. Understand the necessity for, and reliance upon, a proper understanding of the nature, authority and interpretation of Scripture for Christian living and ministry.
4. Discuss the foundations, development, and implications of the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity.
5. Grow in confidence in the ability to coherently articulate the evangelical doctrine of the nature and authority of Scripture.
6. Be able to formulate their own biblical convictions about controversial issues and to relate lovingly and kindly to those who hold to differing convictions.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

**Overall assessment**

The final grade for this course will be based upon the following elements:

1. Four reflection papers (25%)
2. Class attendance and participation (10%)
3. Reading report (15%)
4. Packer reflection paper (10%)
5. Final assessment essays (40%)

NOTE: because of the accessibility of email, late papers for any reason will be automatically docked the equivalent of one letter grade.

**Reflection papers.** There are four (4) reflection papers.

After each weekend, reflect on what we have discussed so far in the course. These notes should be worked on as soon after the class times as possible (e-mailed to me within seven days). They can easily take the form of random thoughts about the subject covered in class—bullet points, phrases, questions, comments, objections. Simply fill two to four pages (single-spaced) with your thoughts concerning the topics we have covered in class. DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE CLASS! Rather, I’m looking especially for your interaction with the topic—what did you see new? What didn’t make sense? What objections could you, or someone else, have? Where might the teaching of the Bible here be helpful in ministry? Do not overthink these papers! They are simply to help you reflect (and to give me insight into your reflections) on the material. These papers can be very, very rough—I just want to be able to read them.
**Reading report.**  Students will be asked to hand in a self-assessment concerning the amount of the assigned material actually read. The Reading Report is attached. Readings should be done in anticipation of the material covered in class. Following the Course Outline below will guide you.

**Packer Reflection paper.** Due the last day of class together, this 3-4 page (single-spaced) reflection paper should focus on JI Packer’s book, Knowing God. Just like the reflection papers above, DO NOT SUMMARIZE the work, but interact with it—what did you like, not like, find helpful, challenging? Your work should reflect that this is worth more points than a regular reflection paper.

**Final Assessment essays.** Due two weeks after our last class. Do either (a) or (b):
(a) Choose a topic relevant to the class—check with me first! A list of possible paper topics will be available on request. The topics will correspond to those touched on during the class, however, necessary research will extend beyond classroom content. These papers must cover the material from a biblical perspective, though other extra-biblical insights, include the views of the author, are permissible and expected.
(b) Answer, in short essays, eight-ten questions which will largely cover the topics touched on by the class. Questions will be handed out at the end of the last class. While not as much research is required here, much more personal interaction and argumentation is expected.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance and Lateness**
There is a clear minimum attendance requirement—missing two or more days will result in no credit. Missing any class will require extensive make-up work appropriate to course outcomes.

**Academic Integrity**
Deliberate infraction of Trinity’s policy and guidelines regarding academic dishonest will not be tolerated. For details about these general guidelines, you may see the student handbook. Failure to adhere to these guidelines, will result in failing the class. The handbook also spells out a grievance procedure to which you may refer as necessary.
OVERVIEW OF COURSE CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

Date: TBA. Session One: PROLEGOMENA
I. The Importance of Prolegomena
II. The Nature of Theology
   A. The object, purpose, and genus of theology
   B. The parts of theology
III. The Method of Systematic Theology
   A. Sources
   B. The function of reason & philosophy
IV. The principia of Theology

Date: TBA. Session Two: THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE
I. Revelation – General and Special
   - The question of natural theology
II. The Nature of Scripture
III. The Character of Scripture
   - Inspiration; Inerrancy; Infallibility; Clarity; Necessity
IV. The Authority of Scripture
V. The Canon of Scripture
VI. The Interpretation of Scripture
   A. Authorial Intent
   B. The role of the Spirit
   C. The analogies of faith and Scripture
   D. “Keys” to interpretation

Date: TBA. Session Three: THEOLOGY PROPER: THE DOCTRINE OF GOD
I. The Nature, Existence, and Essence of God
   A. The question of God’s existence
   B. The unity of God
   C. The name(s) of God
II. The Character of God
   A. Communicable attributes (justice, love, mercy, goodness)
   B. Incommunicable attributes (infinity, immensity, eternity, immutability, simplicity)
   C. The holiness of God
III. The Holy Trinity
   A. The biblical basis and historical development of the doctrine
   B. The deity of the Son and Spirit
   C. Essence, substance, subsistence, person, and homoousion

Date: TBA. Session Four: THE WORK OF GOD
I. The God Who Wills: the decrees of God
II. The God Who Acts
   A. In Creation
      - material and spiritual worlds
   B. In Providence
Name ____________________________

Please, honestly, give the percentage of the reading requirements you have read for the term (100% means that you have read all the particular work, 50% means that you read half of it, etc.).


_________ JI Packer, *Knowing God*.


_________ Sproul & Geisler, *Explaining Biblical Inerrancy*.

_________ Choose ONE (circle which one you read):

_________ Choose ONE (circle which one you read):
   b. Craig Bartholomew, *The Drama of Scripture*.
   c. Daniel Doriani, *et. al.*, *Four View on Moving Beyond the Bible*.

Email to pastorknapp@hotmail.com

Or

Mail to:
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