

ST 5201: Syllabus
Fall, 2018
Time: Tuesdays 6:30-9:15 pm

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ST 5201 – THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL - INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course establishes the foundations for systematic theology, reflecting upon the triune God and the God-world relation. It introduces theological methodology and treats the doctrines of general and special revelation, particularly that of Holy Scripture. The course also engages theology proper (the divine perfections and personal attributes of the Holy Trinity) and the works of God in creating and providentially caring for the cosmos, including humans

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand the meaning, and appreciate the significance of the biblical grounds, historical development, and contemporary relevance of the doctrine of God, systematic theology, and the nature of Scripture.
2. Enrich their understanding of the nature and foundations of theological method thus enabling you to do theology within the context of sympathetic apprehension of the evangelical heritage.
3. Develop their ability to articulate clearly the biblical position regarding Scripture while carefully analyzing their cultural context.
4. Develop the skill of theological synthesis, learning how to apply theology to Christian experience and ministry.
5. Sense a deepening appreciation for systematic theology and a desire to include the study of theology along with a deepening personal relationship with God in a life-long process of spiritual growth and ministry.

COURSE READINGS:

Required Readings:

Erickson, Millard. **Christian Theology**. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013, 3rd addition. **ISBN-10:** 0801036437; **ISBN-13:** 978-0801036439

Feinberg, John S. **No One Like Him**. Crossway Books, 2001, 2004, 2006. **ISBN-10:** 1-58134-811-8; **ISBN-13:** 978-1-58134-811-8

Suggested Readings:

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. **The Doctrine of God: A Global Introduction**. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004. **ISBN-10:** 0801027527; **ISBN-13:** 978-0801027529

Clark, David. To Know and Love God: Method for Theology. Crossway Books, 2010. **ISBN-10: 143352189X; ISBN-13: 978-1433521898**

Erickson, Millard. Making Sense of the Trinity: Three Crucial Questions. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000. **ISBN-10: 080106287X; ISBN-13: 978-0801062872**

Packer, J. I. Knowing God: 20th Anniversary Edition. Inter-Varsity Press, 1993. **ISBN-10: 0-8308-1651-8; ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-1651-4**

Helpful online resources:

www.ccel.org
www.newadvent.org
www.questia.com

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Readings: Read Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pp. 3-510, and Feinberg, *No One Like Him*, pp. 31-81; 183-375; 437-501; 537-799.

Reading Report: 35% of grade

I expect you to read all assigned texts in their entirety, carefully, and with attention. During the last class session you will submit your Reading Report on a 3X5 card indicating the percentage of reading done. Handing in your Reading Report Card means you're declaring that you have read the textbook in this manner.

Exams: 50% of grade (25% each)

You'll be responsible for two take-home exams, which you will work on at your convenience according to the instructions, and bring them back for the next class session.

Online Interaction: 15% of grade

As part of your course work each week you will be expected to participate in a threaded discussion on line with your professor and your peers. Each week the instructor will post one question in the class discussion area on line. Each student will be expected to respond to the instructor's question, and engage with her peers by responding on line to at least one other comment posted by a fellow student.

Attendance:

Each student is expected to attend 100% of the class sessions. If unforeseen circumstances necessitate an absence you have the responsibility of notifying the professor ahead of time and making arrangements with colleagues to get the class notes. If you should miss more than one weekly session you will be in danger of having points deducted from your final grade.

COURSE INFORMATION:

Grading: Your final grade will be made up of exams (50%; 25% each), on line discussion (15%), and reading report (35%).

A	93-100	B-	80-82.9	D+	67-69.9
A-	90-92.9	C+	77-79.9	D	63-66.9
B+	87-89.9	C	73-76.9	D-	60-62.9
B	83-86.9	C-	70-72.9	F	0-59.9

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT	WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT
8-28	The Christian mind	Introduction	
9-4	The contemporary world	Erickson 2nd, chs. 1-3 Erickson 3rd, chs. 1-2	
9-11	Method in theology	Erickson 2nd, chs. 4-7 Erickson 3rd, chs. 3-5	
9-18	Revelation	Erickson 2nd, chs. 8-9 Erickson 3rd, chs. 6-7	
9-25	Inspiration	Erickson 2nd, ch. 10 Erickson 3rd, ch. 8	
10-2	Inerrancy/infallibility	Erickson 2nd, ch. 11 Erickson 3rd, ch. 9	
10-9	Authority	Erickson 2nd, ch. 12 Erickson 3rd, ch. 10	
10-16	Existence of God	Erickson 2nd, chs. 13-14; Erickson 3rd, chs. 11-12 Feinberg, chs. 1-2; 5	Take home Exam 1
10-23	Attributes of God	Erickson 2nd, ch. 15; Erickson 3rd, ch. 13 Feinberg, chs. 6-8	
10-30	Trinity	Erickson 2nd, ch. 16; Erickson 3rd, ch.14 Feinberg, ch.10	
11-6	God's works	Erickson 2nd, chs 18; Erickson 3rd, ch. 16 Feinberg, ch. 12	
11-13	No class	No class (ETS ann. meet)	
11-20	God's will	Erickson 2nd, ch. 17; Erickson 3rd, ch. 15 Feinberg, chs. 11, 13-14	

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT	WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT
11-27	Providence and evil	Erickson 2nd, chs. 19-20 Erickson 3rd, chs. 17-18 Feinberg, chs. 15-16	
12-4	Creation of humanity	Erickson 2nd, ch. 21-26 Erickson 3rd, ch.20-24	
12-11	Conclusion		Reading Report Due Take home Exam 2