

## Systematic Theology II Online ST 602Z

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Required. *Three credit hours.*

### Course Description

The course continues a systematic presentation of the Christian faith. Using Biblical constructs, historical developments, and confessional statements, students explore the Doctrine of God, the Doctrine of Humanity, and the Doctrine of Christ.

### Course Objectives

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is that graduates write and speak using theological language that is clear, well-considered, disciplined, and meaningful for those to whom they minister. Another goal is that graduates be prepared to communicate the Bible's message through preaching and evangelism, so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today. Specific objectives for this course are that, by the end of the course, students will:

1. **Know** the nature and constructs of systematic theology needed in order to identify significant doctrinal issues
2. **Know** the various options proposed for resolving doctrinal issues and develop a methodology for handling theological tensions
3. Be able to **explain** the major doctrines of the church and **illustrate** them in light of the student's own theological commitment
4. Be able to **relate** the major doctrines of the church to current discussions and **apply** them in authentic ministry opportunities
5. Be able to **develop** and to **formulate** biblical and theological constructs that reflect the student's faith tradition and theological commitments

6. Be able to **critique** systematic theological formulations and to **determine their degree of conformity** to biblical, theological, and historical criteria

## Required Texts

Students continue to be responsible for securing their own required textbooks. As a convenience, there is a bookstore on the seminary's home page. To access this site and its information, locate textbooks, and compare prices, go to <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

The online bookstore will be a portal with links to Amazon, CBD, Barnes & Noble, the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and perhaps others. A limited number of copies of each textbook may be available from the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and copies may be ordered through that Bookstore.

Calvin, John. *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. Book 2:1 through Book 3:19 (pages 241-849 in volume 1).

Carson, D.A. *How Long, O Lord?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Edgar, William. *The Face of Truth*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2001.

Gore, R. J. *Outline of Systematic Theology*, Available on-line. The Outline of Systematic Theology via internet is found in the individual links, e.g., Doctrine of God Notes 1, Doctrine of Christ Notes 2.

Walker, Constance K. *The Heart and Hand of God*. Durham, 2004. Available from Dr. Gore. Send check for \$4.00 (payable to Erskine Seminary) to Dr. Gore at ETS, PO Box 668, Due West, SC 29639.

## Recommended Texts

House, Wayne. *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Leith, John. *Creeds of the Churches*, 3rd ed. Atlanta: John Knox, 1982.

## Course Resources

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS:

[http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/powerpoint\\_presentations.htm](http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/powerpoint_presentations.htm)

DOCTRINE OF GOD NOTES 1

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Doctrine%20of%20God%20Notes.pdf>

## DOCTRINE OF GOD NOTES 2

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Doctrine%20of%20God%20Notes2.pdf>

## DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY NOTES 1

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Humanity%20Notes.pdf>

## DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY NOTES 2

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Humanity%20Notes2.pdf>

## DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 1

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Doctrine of Christ 1av2 2007.doc>

## DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 2

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Doctrine of Christ 1bv2 2007.doc>

## DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 3

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Doctrine of Christ 1cv2 2007.doc>

## DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 4

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Doctrine%20of%20Christ%202%202007.pdf>

## SAMPLE PAPER

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/SAMPLE%20PAPER.pdf>

## SAMPLE FOOTNOTES

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Sample%20footnotes.pdf>

## INTERNET RESOURCES

[http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Internet\\_Resources.pdf](http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/Internet_Resources.pdf)

## Grading Criteria

The following grading scale, from the Seminary catalog is used to assign a numeric value to each completed assignment. All scores are weighted equally. Your final grade is the average of each grade received. A letter grade will be computed on the basis of your average raw score using the following grade scale recently adopted by the Seminary faculty:

- A Level Work = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.

C Level Work = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.

D Level Work = Inadequate mastery of basic facts and information presented in the course; insufficient or inappropriate use of common terms and language indicating an inadequate grasp of the material; and an inferior ability to analyze and judge proposals, ideas or concepts.

### Erskine Seminary Grading Scale:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

## Course Components

### FAQ's

1. All assignments must be submitted via e-mail attachments unless otherwise notified.
2. Please use Microsoft Word when submitting assignments electronically.
3. All assignments should be clearly marked on the e-mail subject line with the student's last name and assignment number. Failure to include this information will result in a returned assignment.

### COURSE PLATFORM

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, "Institutions shall ensure that distance education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program." It is with this stipulation that EDEN has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences. The learning platform is Moodle and according to their website, "Moodle is a course management system designed to help educators who want to create quality online courses . . . and create effective online learning communities." You will be provided with additional information concerning Moodle tutorials, site information, and the peer mentoring program. In order to meet the online discussion component of this course, you will need:

- A computer (or access to a computer)
- High speed access to the Internet

## Course Assignments

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through three learning components.

The first is the **Content Component**, the student's own mastery of material, including e-lectures, accomplished by completing the required readings and measured objectively by a Final Examination. The ability to do theological study is determined directly by the student's competency in using conventional theological language and contextualizing theological discussion.

The second is the **Discussion Component**. The student will participate in guided online discussions. Each student is expected to actively participate in weekly class discussions in the online classroom for this course located on the EDEN web page. A vital exchange of ideas is essential to the process of exploration. Students will build on their classroom preparation (the Content Component) by participating in the discussion of theological issues. Such participation presupposes the student's familiarity with material from the assigned reading.

The third is the **Research and Reflection Component**. Students will research and prepare a series of documents that, collectively, will constitute a personal statement of faith. One of these statements will suffice to fulfill the portfolio requirement for a statement of faith. Drawing from the student's mastery of the content of theological study and building on the lessons learned from the interchange of ideas in classroom discussions, the student will engage in original research, theological reflection, and positive formulation.

These three components will provide a well-rounded learning experience for the thoughtful student. The total out-of-classroom commitment is expected to be approximately 80-90 hours per student for the semester.

## Course Overview

### **ASSIGNMENT ONE: Course Content**

Begin working your way through the e-lectures for the course. Begin with the first lecture. Take notes as you follow the video. Students will be expected to complete the required reading in the online [Outline of Systematic Theology](#).

### **ASSIGNMENT TWO: Readings (200 pts.)**

**Part 1:** All students will complete the reading of the required portions of Books 2 and 3 of Calvin's *Institutes*. Students will keep a Reading Log, documenting the dates and times spent reading the texts. Students will read Book 2, Chapter 1 through Book 3, Chapter 19 (pages 237- 849 in volume 1). Students will keep a written account (**this may be done through the online journal feature of the online classroom**) of any new learning, challenges to their beliefs, or other significant findings. Failure to do the preparatory reading may negatively influence the student's final grade by a least a full letter. **The Reading Log will count 50 points toward the course total of 600 points and should be 4-6 pages, handwritten. Total estimated time required for successful completion: 30 hours.**

**Part 2:** All students will complete the assigned reading, William Edgar, *Face the Truth*. In addition, students will write a two-three page, double-spaced (Times New Roman 11 or 12 font; not footnote apparatus needed) critical response to Edgar. As part of your response, explain how you approach the issue of Worldview. To what extent has a secular, postmodern view of reality influenced the way you approach Christianity. **The reading and critical response will count 50 points towards the course total of 600 points. Total estimated time required for successful completion: 5 hours.**

**Part 3:** All students will complete the reading of D.A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord?* In addition, students will write a three-four page, double-spaced (Times New Roman 11 or 12 font; not footnote apparatus needed) critical response to Carson. As part of your response, explain how you approach the issue of God's sovereignty and foreknowledge, especially your understanding of the interaction between human freedom/God's Will (and proper pastoral handling of the problem of pain!) **The reading and critical response will count 100 points towards the course total of 600 points. Total estimated time required for successful completion: 12 hours.**

**Part 4:** All students will complete the reading of Constance Walker, *The Heart and Hand of God*. In addition, students will write a two-page, double-spaced (Times New Roman 11 or 12 font; not footnote apparatus needed) critical response to Walker. As part of your response, discuss your approach the issue of Origins, explaining how you understand the interaction of science and religion. **The reading and critical response will count 25 points towards the course total of 600 points. Total estimated time required for successful completion: 3 hours.**

### **ASSIGNMENT THREE: Collaborative**

There is evidence to suggest that students who actively engage with others in an online environment earn higher scores than other students. Online discussions and interaction provide a rich and stimulating environment of collaboration, interaction, and community building. Students participating in

online discussions tend to provide more thought-provoking comments, richly detailed responses, and insightful observations.

Each student will post an entry to the online journal each **week**. As the student completes the required reading for this course, listens to the e-lectures, or thinks through course-related issues, he or she will post an entry relating significant insights, questions, or challenges for others.

In order to facilitate community building, fellow students will respond **each week** to the journal entries as a way of encouraging each other and adding to the observations posted by their classmates. Additionally, peer mentors and/or the course professor will respond **to selected entries**. Retroactive posting will not be accepted. The following rubric may serve as a guide to assisting you in online postings.

Please note: Part of your grade depends on collaborative learning

### **ASSIGNMENT FOUR: Papers** **(300 pts.)**

All students will research and prepare three Statements of Faith that, collectively, will constitute a comprehensive, personal statement of faith. These Statements of Faith should be adequate for presentation to an examining board or church judicatory as a summary of the student's theology. These papers will be a minimum of six (6) full pages in length and a maximum of eight (8) pages in length (Times New Roman 11 or 12 font; not footnote apparatus needed). The papers will be double-spaced and proper footnote form will be followed (using 6th ed. Turabian, *Manual for Writers*). **Each paper will count 100 points towards the final course total of 600 points. Scripture references may be numerous, but Scripture quotations, if used at all, will be infrequent, brief, and the Scripture chapter and verse will be noted in the text in parenthesis (John 3:16). Total estimated time required for successful completion: 30 hours. A bibliography page is not needed**

#### STATEMENTS OF FAITH- TOPICS AND DUE DATES:

**Week 4:** Paper 1: Doctrine of God: Triune God, Persons (and personality), Attributes, Works, Decrees

**Week 8:** Paper 2: Doctrine of Humanity: Origins, Nature, Image of God, Covenant, Origin of Sin, Nature of Sin, Imputation of Sin

**Week 12:** Paper 3: Doctrine of Christ: Person of Christ, natures of Christ, Christological heresies, States of Christ, Offices of Christ, Nature of Atonement, Election and Atonement

*Note: One of these papers may serve as a Professional Assessment Portfolio and Graduation Requirement for all students who began seminary in the Fall of 2002 or*

*afterwards. It is the student's responsibility to turn in a clean, corrected copy of their paper to the seminary office for inclusion in your portfolio. Failure to do so will delay your graduation. Portfolio requirements are listed on the back of the academic worksheet of all degree programs. This satisfies the portfolio requirement for a Statement of Faith from a theology class. This requirement does not apply if you have already satisfied that requirement.*

It is the student's responsibility to turn in a clean, corrected copy of their paper to the seminary office for inclusion in your portfolio. Failure to do so will delay your graduation. Portfolio requirements are listed on the back of the academic worksheet of all degree programs. This satisfies the portfolio requirement for a Statement of Faith from a theology class. **Moreover, this requirement helps the student develop the skills needed to relate doctrine at the theoretical level to personal spiritual awareness and growth in the student's own faith tradition.**

All Students: Statements of Faith will include, as a minimum (Sample above)

\*Scripture references (DO NOT FOOTNOTE SCRIPTURE)

\*Conventional theological language- standard terminology

\*Reference to the student's own denominational confession or statement of faith

\*Reference to at least four Reformation/Post-Reformation confessions and early church creeds, where appropriate- See Internet Resources below

\*Reference to key issues noted below- where appropriate to YOUR system of belief.

PAPERS THAT DO NOT MEET THESE MINIMUM STANDARDS WILL BE GRADED DOWN ACCORDINGLY.

#### STANDARDS FOR ALL PAPERS:

A.....No more than 5 misspellings or grammatical errors in total  
Identified the most significant articles, books in bibliography  
Used research materials expertly, leaving no unanswered questions  
Use of required Creeds and Confessions (6 or more)

B.....No more than 2 misspellings or grammatical errors per page  
Identified a number of important articles, books in bibliography  
Used research material fairly, addressed most problem areas  
Use of some Creeds and Confessions

C.....No more than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page  
Used the minimum required number of bibliographical entries  
Used research material adequately  
Use of less than two Creeds and Confessions

D.....More than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page  
Failed to use minimum number of bibliographical entries

Research poorly done  
No Creeds and Confessions apparent

### Reading/Lecture Schedule

The following course management system is designed to provide you an advance organizer of course assignments.

#### MODULE 1

**All work for the first module should be completed five weeks from the start of the semester.**

Week	Lectures to View	Assignments
1	E-lectures 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Begin Assignment 2, <b>Part 1</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 1</b></li> </ul>
2	E-lectures 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Continue Assignment 2, <b>Part 1</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 1</b></li> </ul>
3	E-lectures 7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Continue Assignment 2, <b>Part 1</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 1</b></li> </ul>
4	E-lectures 10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 2, Part 1 due</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Assignment 4, <b>Paper 1 due</b></li> </ul>

#### MODULE 2

**All work for the second module should be completed ten weeks from the start of the semester.**

Week	Lectures to View	Assignments
5	E-lectures 13-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Begin Assignment 2, <b>Part 2</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 2</b></li> </ul>
6	E-lectures 16-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Continue Assignment 2, <b>Part 2</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 2</b></li> </ul>
7	E-lectures 19-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Continue Assignment 2, <b>Part 2</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 2</b></li> </ul>
8	E-lectures 22-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 2, Part 2 due</b></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Assignment 4, <b>Paper 2 due</b></li> </ul>
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### MODULE #3

**All work for the third module (and the course) should be completed fifteen weeks from the start of the semester.**

Week	Lectures to View	Assignments
9	E-lectures 24 (Skipped) 25-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Begin Assignment 2, <b>Part 3</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 3</b></li> </ul>
10	E-lectures 28-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Continue Assignment 2, <b>Part 3</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 3</b></li> </ul>
11	E-lectures 31-33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 2, Part 3 due</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 4, <b>Paper 3</b></li> </ul>
12	E-lectures 34-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Begin Assignment 2, <b>Part 4</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Assignment 4, <b>Paper 3 due</b></li> </ul>
13	E-lectures 37-38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue Assignment 2, <b>Part 4</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> </ul>
14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• Continue Assignment 2, <b>Part 4</b></li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> </ul>
15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 2, Part 4 due</b></li> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• <b>Final exam</b></li> </ul>

### Relevant Institutional and Class Policies

**Conduct in Theological Discussions:** Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

**Language about God and Humanity:** Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary

encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7).

Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

**Late or Incomplete Work:** The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

**Drop/Add/Withdrawal:** Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a "drop/add" form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when

the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.