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ST 551CO Survey of Systematic Theology

Summer 2011

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Professor of Systematic Theology

Class Meeting Times and Location

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

May 21, June 4, June 25, and July 16

Final Exam is given on July 30, 9:30 am

Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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OFFICE HOURS

Summer Semester: By appointment.

My office is located at the Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus, 1500 Lady Street, Suite 200, Room 205. Enter by the side door off the driveway from Lady Street and go to the second floor. Due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you schedule an appointment. You are welcome to call me at home. Please make your calls between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Because Columbia is not convenient for many students, I will do my best to be available. We can meet before or after class or by telephone.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using both historical and modern materials, this course aims to deepen awareness of the major doctrines of Christian theology and the current discussion of them. *M. Div. and M.A.T.S. students may not take this course. Required for M.A.C.E., M.A.C.M., M.A.P.M., and M.C.M. students. Alternate years. Three hours.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. Fundamental to that task is helping our students to know and understand the things which have been revealed to us by God. This course is a survey of the major doctrines of Christian theology. Its aim is to introduce students to the discipline of systematic theology and to show its place and importance for the ministry of the word in the church. From the lectures, readings, classroom discussion, and writing assignments, diligent students should acquire the foundational knowledge needed for beginning the study of systematic theology, and for understanding what God has revealed in the Scriptures. A student successfully completing this course should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the nature of theology and some basic concepts involved in it.

2. Understand and explain the importance of systematic theology for a right interpretation of Scripture, and for preaching and teaching the word of God.
3. Understand the basic steps involved in moving from the text of Scripture to a statement of the Bible's teaching in a sermon or essay.
4. Understand and explain the "four-fold curriculum," *i.e.*, the connection between exegesis of the Scriptures, systematic theology, historical theology, and practical theology.
5. Understand and explain the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

1. Any systematic theology text by a single author of your choosing, preferably one that is accepted in your church or denomination. If you need recommendations, please consult with your professor, or another minister or faculty member who belongs to your church tradition. You may wait until after the first class to make your selection.
2. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Under Required Books above, students must select a systematic theology text to read along with the Grudem text. The books in 4-12 below would be suitable options.

1. J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2001. ISBN-10: 0842339604, ISBN-13: 978-0842339605
2. Walter. A. Elwell, ed., *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Company, 1984, 2001. ISBN-10: 0801020751, ISBN-13: 978-0801020759
3. Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Zondervan, 1995. ISBN-10: 0310286700, ISBN-13: 978-0310286707 [Reformed, Baptist, Charismatic]
4. Thomas Oden, *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. HarperOne, 2009. ISBN-10: 0061449717, ISBN-13: 978-0061449710 [Ecumenical by a Methodist]

5. Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*. Baker Academic, 1998. ISBN-10: 0801021820, ISBN-13: 978-0801021824 [Baptist]
6. Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*. New Combined Edition. Eerdmans, 1996. ISBN-10: 0802838200, ISBN-13: 978-0802838209 [Reformed]
7. Robert L Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. Second Revised Edition. Thomas Nelson, 1998. ISBN-10: 0849913179, ISBN-13: 978-0849913174 [Reformed]
8. J. Rodman Williams, *Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective*. Zondervan, 1996. ISBN-10: 0310209145, ISBN-13: 978-0310209140 [Charismatic]
9. Bruce A. Demarest, *Integrative Theology*. Zondervan, 1996. ISBN-10: 0310209153, ISBN-13: 978-0310209157 [Reformed]
10. John Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. P & R Publishing, 2006. ISBN-10: 1596380187, ISBN-13: 978-1596380189 [Reformed]
11. Paul Culbertson and H. Orton Wiley, *Introduction to Christian Theology*. Beacon Hill Press, 1946. ISBN: 083410217X. ISBN-13: 9780834102170 [Wesleyan-Arminian]
12. Bruce Milne, *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief*. Third edition. IVP Academic, 2010. ISBN-10: 0830825762, ISBN-13: 978-0830825769 [Reformed, Baptist]

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Bring your Bible to each class session. Students must arrive on time for class, and following breaks. You are expected to remain at each session until it concludes. Students who miss more than 3 class sessions or its equivalent through late arrival or early departure (10 hours or more) will normally be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade.
2. **Reading Worksheets** – There will be two reading worksheets on the material covered in the lectures and readings assigned in Grudem. There will be 20 questions on each worksheet, requiring a sentence or two to answer. Each worksheet will also ask you to write a paragraph summarizing your beliefs on each of the doctrinal topics covered for that assignment. No credit will be given for these paragraphs as they will be included in your major paper, but you will have the benefit of the professor's comments for revising that statement for the major paper. Each worksheet will be worth 20% of your grade.
3. **Final exam** – A final exam of 30 questions will be given on Saturday, July 30, 9:30 am to Noon. As with the worksheets, the final exam will contain short answer questions. It will be worth 30% of your final grade. Commuting students may make arrangements to take this examination elsewhere. There will need to be a proctor present to administer the exam.
3. **Major paper** – The major paper will consist of a statement of faith (one or two pages, single-spaced) summarizing your beliefs on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith covered

in this course (Revelation—esp. Scripture, God, Humanity, Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Church, Sacraments, and the Last Things). This statement of faith will combine the individual paragraphs you have written on the reading work sheets. This statement of faith will be accompanied by a paper of 12-15 pages double-spaced, ***providing further explanation for the statement of faith, giving appropriate Biblical support, and using suitable quotations from the theologians you have read. This paper will be the place where the reading you have done in your chosen theologian will be evident. Be sure to include quotations and references to both Grudem and your chosen theologian.*** The paper will count for 30% of your final grade.

IMPORTANT: Before writing a paper, each student should consult the seminary’s approved paper on “Writing Theological Papers” by Dr. Fairbairn. All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “ETS Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). These documents are available on McCain Library’s web page at <http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstruct.htm>. In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade. The major paper will receive a letter grade, then converted to points. For letter grades, the scale is:

A	24-25	B	22.25	C	20.5	D	18.5
A-	23.25	B-	21.75	C-	19.5	D-	17.5
B+	23	C+	21.25	D+	19	F	0-17

Your reading worksheets and final exam will receive a numerical grade, with each question worth one point. Your total points on the worksheets and exams will then be added to the points you earned on the major paper, and the total will be converted to a letter grade. The scale is:

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

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?”

Luke 14:28

Each seminary class requires about 120 hours of work, covering both time in class and time spent in reading, researching, thinking, and writing. About 30 hours will be spent in class for this

course, leaving about 90 hours of work to be done outside. Roughly, that means that for each day you spend in class, you will need 3 more days to complete the assigned work. Plan ahead. Let the one who has ears to hear, hear! *The dates given below are when the assignments are due!* Please complete the readings before class and bring your questions about the reading to class.

- May 21 Introduction to Systematic Theology, and the Doctrines of Revelation and God
- Read Grudem, pp. 15-261
 - Read in your theologian on the above topics
- June 4 The Doctrine of Humanity and the Person and Work of Christ
- Read in Grudem, pp. 262-354, 376-396, and 439-633
 - Read in your theologian on the above topics
 - DUE: Worksheet #1
- June 25 The Doctrines of the Holy Spirit and Salvation
- Read in Grudem, pp. 634-809 and 840-850
 - Read in your theologian on the above topics
 - DUE: Worksheet #2
- July 16 The Doctrines of the Church, Sacraments, and Last Things
- Read in Grudem, pp. 810-839, 853-903, 950-1015, and 1091-1167
 - Read in your theologian on the above topics
 - DUE: Worksheet #3
- July 30 FINAL EXAM – 9:30 am to Noon
(Commuting students may arrange to take this exam elsewhere)
DUE: Major Paper

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