

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

www.erskineseminary.org
www.erskine.edu/seminary

ST 602 Systematic Theology II

Fall 2008

Mark E. Ross, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology

Class meeting times and location:

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

September 3rd – December 3rd

Erskine Theological Seminary

Bowie Divinity Hall

Due West, SC

CONTACT INFORMATION:

E-mail: ross@erskine.edu, MarkERoss@aol.com

Telephone: (803) 771-6180 (o)
(803) 782-8447 (h)

FAX: (803) 540-2846 in Columbia *

Address: Dr. Mark E. Ross
4 Forest Trace Court
Columbia, SC 29204

** If you send a FAX to Columbia, please inform me that you have done so. You are welcome to e-mail papers to me in Word format, or mail them to my home address. **For all papers, a hard copy must always be submitted to me, either handed to me in class, mailed to my home, or placed in my mailbox at the seminary. A copy of all work submitted must be kept by the student.***

OFFICE HOURS

In Columbia: Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

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 after 9:00 a.m. and before 9:00 p.m. I will do my best to be available to students. This semester I am in Due West only for this class each week. We can meet before or after class, at another mutually convenient time, or by telephone. I have a flat rate long distance telephone service, so I shall be happy to bear the cost of long distance telephone meetings if that is more convenient for you.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This 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. Students should complete ST 601 Systematic Theology I prior to taking this course. *Required for M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students. Three hours.*

COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the study of theology and ethics and to prepare him/her for more advanced study.

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.

[POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS Click Here](#)

[DOCTRINE OF GOD NOTES 1 Click Here](#)

[DOCTRINE OF GOD NOTES 2 Click Here](#)

[DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY NOTES 1 Click Here](#)

[DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY NOTES 2 Click Here](#)

[DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 1 Click Here](#)

[DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 2 Click Here](#)

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS

NOTE: Required textbooks may be purchased through the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at <http://www.ecampus.com/erskine>.

1. R. J. Gore, *Outline of Systematic Theology*, rev. 5th edition. Available on-line.
2. D.A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

3. John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. Portions of Books 1-3 will be read.
4. William Edgar, *The Face of Truth*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2001.
5. Constance K. Walker, *The Heart and Hand of God*. Durham, 2004. Available from your professor at the beginning of the semester.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

1. Wayne House, *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
2. John Leith, *Creeds of the Churches*, 3rd ed. Atlanta: John Knox, 1982.

COURSE METHOD

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, 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**. Each class will incorporate discussion and lecture. 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.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade. Your exam will receive a numerical 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

The papers will receive a letter grade. For letter grades, the scale is:

A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	D-	0.7
B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3	F	0

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance:** No absences are excused. However, you may miss three (3) hours of class without being required to do make-up work. I will not try to assess reasons for absences in order to grant excuses. You decide if you want to or need to miss a portion of the class. If you miss more than three (3) hours, you may be required to do extra work in the areas missed. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR ABSENCES AND CONSULT WITH ME IMMEDIATELY** (before the missed class if possible) **TO HAVE THE EXTRA WORK and "DUE DATE" ASSIGNED.** All make-up work must be handed in by the Exam Day. You cannot complete the course without this being done. The "rule of thumb" for extra work is nine (9) hours of work for each three (3) hours class period missed. This is based on the idea that each class period requires three hours in class and six hours outside for fulfilling the work of the course.
- Reading Log:** All students will complete the reading of the required portions of Books 1-3 of Calvin's *Institutes*. Students will keep a Reading Log, documenting the dates and times spent reading the texts. Students will read Book 1, Chapter X through Book 3, Chapter 19 (pages 96 - 849 in Volume I). Students will keep an account 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.*
- Three response papers:**
 - (1) All students will complete the assigned reading, William Edgar, *Face the Truth*. In addition, students will write a one-page, single-spaced 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.*
 - (2) All students will complete the reading of D.A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord?* In addition, students will write a two-page, single-spaced 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.*

- (3) All students will complete the reading of Constance Walker, *The Heart and Hand of God*. In addition, students will write a one-page, single-spaced 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.*
4. **Final Exam:** Students will be expected to complete the required reading in the Outline of Systematic Theology prior to each class and will take a Final Exam that covers Selected Questions for Systematic Theology 2, most of which are addressed in the Outline of Systematic Theology. Those Selected Questions (56-122) may be accessed at the following site: **QUESTIONS FOR SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 2**. *The Final Exam counts 75 points towards the course total of 600 points.*
5. **Three Statements of Faith:** 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. The papers will be double-spaced and proper footnote/endnote 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.

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.

[SAMPLE PAPER Click Here](#)

[SAMPLE FOOTNOTES Click Here](#)

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

- Scripture references (DO NOT FOOTNOTE SCRIPTURE)
- Conventional theological language and 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

INTERNET RESOURCES [Click Here](#)

- 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.

STATEMENTS OF FAITH – TOPICS AND DUE DATES:

October 1st – Doctrine of God

- Triune God, Persons (and personality), Attributes, Works, Decrees

November 12th – Doctrine of Humanity

- Origins, Nature, Image of God, Covenant, Origin of Sin, Nature of Sin, Imputation of Sin

•

December 3rd – Doctrine of Christ

- Person of Christ, natures of Christ, Christological heresies, States of Christ, Offices of Christ, Nature of Atonement, Election and Atonement

STANDARDS FOR ALL PAPERS:

A.....No more than 4 misspellings or grammatical errors in total, identified the most significant articles and/or books in bibliography, used research materials expertly (leaving no unanswered questions), thesis statement clear and proved

B.....No more than 2 misspellings or grammatical errors per page, identified a number of important articles and/or books in bibliography, used research material fairly, addressed most problem areas, thesis statement clear and sustained

C.....No more than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page, used the minimum required number of bibliographical entries, used research material adequately, thesis statement not clear and/or not sustained

D.....More than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page, failed to use minimum number of bibliographical entries, research poorly done, no thesis statement

COURSE WEIGHTING: 600 Points total

Paper on God	100 points
Paper on Humanity	100 points
Paper on Christ	100 points
Calvin Reading	50 points
Carson Reading	100 points
Edgar Reading	50 points
Walker Reading	25 points
Exam	75 points

READING AND ASSIGNMENTS

September 3 rd	The Doctrine of God <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book I, chs. X-XII (pp. 96-120)
September 10 th	The Doctrine of the Trinity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book I, ch. XIII (pp. 120-159)
September 17 th	The Doctrine of Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book I, chs. XIV-XV (pp. 159-196)• Due: Edgar response paper
September 24 th	The Doctrine of Providence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book I, chs. XVI-XVIII (pp. 197-237)
October 1 st	The Doctrine of Humanity: Created in God's Image <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Calvin, Book I, ch. XV (pp. 183-196)• Due: First paper, "The Doctrine of God"
October 8 th	The Doctrine of Humanity: The Fall of the Human Race <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book II, chs. I-II (pp. 239-289)
October 15 th	The Doctrine of Humanity: The Consequences of Sin <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book II, chs. I-II (pp. 289-340)• Due: Walker response paper
October 22 nd	The Doctrine of Humanity: The Consequences of Sin (cont.) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book II, chs. III-V (pp. 340-366)
October 29 th	The Doctrine of Humanity: Our Duty to God <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Calvin, Book II, chs. VIII (pp. 367-423)• Due: Carson response paper

November 5 th	The Doctrine of Humanity: Our Duty to God (cont.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Calvin, Book II, chs. IX-XI (pp. 423-464)
November 12 th	The Doctrine of the Person of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Calvin, Book II, chs. XII-XIV (pp. 464-493) • Due: Second Paper, “The Doctrine of Humanity”
November 19 th	The Doctrine of the Work of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Calvin, Book II, chs. XV-XVII (pp. 494-534)
November 26 th	FALL BREAK: HAPPY THANKSGIVING
December 3 rd	Review for Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Calvin, pp. 96-534 • Due: Third paper, “The Person and Work of Christ”
December TBA	Final Exam

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES FOR INCLUSION IN COURSE SYLLABI

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.

Incompletes

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."

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").

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.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, because my office is in Columbia, this class meets in Due West, and most of you are commuting from elsewhere, my office hours will not likely be of much help to you. If you need to talk with me, I will make every effort to accommodate you. If Columbia is not convenient for you, we can meet before or after class in Due West or by telephone. I have a flat rate long-distance telephone service so I shall gladly bear the cost of the long-distance calls. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). You may access this document at the McCain Library’s web site, under Library Research Guides, under Seminary Guides, <http://www.erskine.edu/library/content/Style-FormStandards.pdf>. 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.

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:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community’s discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God’s larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

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.

Rev. May 16, 2008 v.3

A FINAL WORD

This is a class in Christian doctrine, meaning that it is a class studying the teaching of the Bible. We study all the Bible, comparing Scripture with Scripture, seeking to understand each part of the Bible in harmony with the whole. As we do so, we study what the Church has said about the Bible through all its ages, that we might have the benefit of instruction from those most gifted in the Church to help us understand the Word of God. We do not study doctrine for doctrine's sake; we study it for truth's sake, and thus we primarily study Him who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). The truth we are seeking is the truth of the glory of God and everlasting life. Our Lord prayed to His Father on behalf of His followers, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17). I as your teacher will be seeking the answer to that prayer for your life and mine as I teach. I urge you to seek the answer to that prayer as you participate in this class. May God have the glory for it all, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures. *Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.* "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory" (Ps. 115:1).

(For a moving use of this text, see the conclusion to the movie *Henry V*. Youtube.com has a clip at <http://video.aol.com/video-detail/henry-v-1989-kenneth-branaugh-non-nobis-and-te-deum/447245964>.)