

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THEI 511 CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

AN AGTS CD-ROM COURSE

Featuring:

James H. Railey, Jr., D.Th.

Independent Studies Program

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The major areas of systematic theology are introduced in this course. The course not only explains classical Evangelical treatments of Christian doctrine but also presents a model for a unique Pentecostal theological method. The course is the preparation for additional systematic theology courses in the student's program.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic familiarity with the language and concepts of Christian theology.
2. Associate the individual doctrine of Christian theology with their personal piety and ministry.
3. Analyze the evangelical formulations of Christian doctrines within the larger context of contemporary theological discussion and development.
4. Assess the unique contributions and challenges of the Pentecostal tradition to the articulation of a distinctive Pentecostal theology.
5. Explain the biblical foundations for the expression of doctrinal affirmations.
6. Formulate clear statements of the relationship of theology to the ministry of the Church in the postmodern age.

TEXTBOOKS

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Second ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998.

McGrath, Alister E., ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Second edition. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2001.

COURSE OUTLINE

(Note: The Erickson readings are assigned by page numbers; the McGrath readings are assigned by section numbers.)

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Lessons 1-2	Introduction to Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature/Scope ➤ Divisions in ➤ Sources for ➤ Theological systems 	Erickson, 17-176 McGrath, 1.1-6, 12, 22, 25-26, 28
Lessons 3-4	God's Revelation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General/Special ➤ Inspiration of Scripture ➤ Canon of Scripture ➤ Application of Scripture 	Erickson, 177-288 McGrath, 2.1-9, 16-19, 24, 28-29, 32, 34, 36-39, 41, 43, 45
Lessons 5-6	God's Person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Existence of God ➤ Attributes of God ➤ The Trinity 	Erickson, 289-370 McGrath, 1.7-9, 15-18; 3.1, 3, 6-8, 10-13, 15, 18, 22, 26, 28, 33
Lessons 7-8	God's Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Creation ➤ Providence ➤ Evil 	Erickson, 371-478 McGrath, 3.1, 4-5, 31; 6.25
	Online Forum Discussion Question #1	
	TAKE EXAM ONE	
Lesson 9	Human Beings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin of humans ➤ Nature of humans ➤ The image of God 	Erickson, 479-578 McGrath, 6.1, 4-5, 44
Lessons 10-11	Sin Among Humans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sin and fall ➤ Nature of sin ➤ Transmission of sin 	Erickson, 579-676 McGrath, 6.2-3, 6, 9, 13-14, 47
	Online Forum Discussion Question #2	
Lessons 12-13	The Person of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Names of ➤ Two natures doctrine ➤ Humiliation/exaltation 	Erickson, 677-778 McGrath, 4.1-15, 17, 21, 24, 33
Lessons 14-15	The Work of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Offices of ➤ The atonement 	Erickson, 779-860 McGrath, 4.22; 5.1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-18, 27, 30
	Online Forum Discussion Question #3	
	TAKE EXAM TWO	
	Theological Essay One Due	

Lesson 16	The Holy Spirit ➤ Person of ➤ Deity of ➤ Works of	Erickson, 861-900 McGrath, 3.9, 14, 16
Lessons 17-18	The Holy Spirit (Cont'd) ➤ Spirit Baptism ➤ Fruit of the Spirit ➤ Gifts of the Spirit	
	Online Forum Discussion Question #4	
Lessons 19-20	Salvation ➤ The application of salvation to the repentant believer	Erickson, 901-1034 McGrath, 5.21; 6.11-12, 15-21, 26, 29-36, 39, 42-43, 45-46
	Online Forum Discussion Question #5	
	Theological Essay Two Due	
Lessons 21-22	The Church ➤ The word ➤ Nature of ➤ Organization of ➤ Ministry in ➤ Ordinances of	Erickson, 1035-1154 McGrath, 7.1-4, 6, 9, 11-14, 17, 19-22, 24- 25, 27; 8.4-5, 8, 10-11, 16-21, 23-24, 26-28
	Online Forum Discussion Question #6	
Lessons 23-24	The Last Things ➤ Individual last things ➤ General last things	Erickson, 1155-1253 McGrath, 10.1, 3-5, 8, 10-11, 15-19, 21-22
	Online Forum Discussion Question #7	
	TAKE FINAL EXAM	

METHODOLOGY

The primary method of instruction will be the lecture, with ample time devoted to the discussion of the ideas gleaned from the assigned textbook readings. The student will be expected to take notes consistently during the sessions. The student should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings as a part of the class session.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student is expected to view all class sessions. A question will be asked on the final exam as to how much of the video sessions were viewed.
2. The student is expected to read the assigned readings before watching each session.

3. The student should sustain successfully three examinations covering the lecture material and the assigned readings. The exams will be a mix of objective and subjective questions and should be taken at the appropriate times shown on the Course Outline above. Please note that all exams must be requested from the Continuing Education Office two weeks prior to the student taking the requested exam.
4. The student will participate in seven online forum discussion questions during the term in response to questions posed by the professor. The student will be responsible to respond to the question and to at least one posting by a fellow student. The discussion will focus on an aspect of the session presentations that allows the student to further their understanding by interaction with their colleagues. You will be provided access to the discussion forum by the Continuing Education Office when you are officially registered for the course.
5. The student will submit two five-page theological essays that express the student's understanding of a theological topic, based on the classroom presentation and/or the assigned reading of the topic. The first essay is due **BEFORE WATCHING Lesson 16**, and should be on one of these topics: Doctrine of God, Doctrine of Revelation, Doctrine of Human Beings, or Doctrine of Christ. The second essay is due **BEFORE WATCHING Lesson 21**, and should be on one of these topics: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, Doctrine of Salvation, Doctrine of the Church, or Doctrine of Last Things. The page limitation should be observed; if used, the source documentation should be footnotes; and, the essays will be graded on content, comprehensiveness, and clarity of expression.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Viewing Video Sessions	10%
Online forum discussions	20%
Examinations	40%
Theological essays	30%

Grades are recorded and averaged on the basis of the following grade scale: A=12; A-=11; B+=10; B=9; B-=8; C+=7; C=6; C-=5; D+=4; D=3; D-=2; F=1.

All assigned work for the course must be submitted for the student to receive a passing grade for the course. The grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted only for extenuating circumstances upon the written request of the student. Except in the case of severe extenuating circumstances the course grade will be reduced by one letter.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

General

Aulen, Gustaf. *The Faith of the Christian Church*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1960.

Berkhof, Hendrikus. *Christian Faith; An Introduction to the Study of the Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979.

Davis, John Jefferson. *Theology Primer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1981.

DeWolf, L. H. *A Theology of the Living Church*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1963.

Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1984.

Enns, Paul. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989.

Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation, and Authority*. 6 vols. Waco, TX: Word, 1976-1983.

_____. ed. *Fundamentals of the Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1969.

Hodge, A. A. *Outlines of Theology*. First published in 1860. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1972.

Johnson, Alan F., and Robert Webber. *What Christians Believe: A Biblical and Historical Summary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie/Zondervan Publishing House, 1989.

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches*. 3rd ed. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1982.

Mullins, E. Y. *The Christian Religion in Its Doctrinal Expression*. Philadelphia, PA: Judson Press, 1917.

Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *The Christian Faith*. 2 vols. First published in 1821-1822. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1963.

Stevens, W. W. *Doctrines of the Christian Religion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1967.

Warfield, B. B. *Biblical and Theological Studies*. Philadelphia, Pa: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1952.

Arminian

Arminius James. *The Works of James Arminius*. Trans. James Nichols and William Nichols (The London Edition). Intro. Carl Bangs. Reprint. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1986.

Carter, Charles W., ed. *A Contemporary Wesleyan Theology*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Francis Asbury Press, 1983.

Dunning, H. Ray. *Grace, Faith, and Holiness: A Wesleyan Theology*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1988.

Finney, Charles G. *Lectures on Systematic Theology*. Oberlin, OH: E. J. Goodrich. 1887.

Grider, J. Kenneth. *A Wesleyan-Holiness Theology*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1994.

Miley, John. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. New York, NY: Eaton and Mains, 1892.

Oden, Thomas C. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1987-1992.

Pope, W. B. *A Compendium of Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. 3 vols. New York, NY: Phillips and Hunt, n.d.

Wakefield, Samuel. *A Complete System of Christian Theology*. 2 vols. New York, NY: Nelson and Phillips, 1873.

Watson, Richard. *Theological Institutes: Or, A View of the Evidences, Doctrines, Morals, and Institutions of Christianity*. 2 vols. New York, NY: Carlton & Porter, 1850.

Wiley, H. Orton. *Christian Theology*. 3 vols. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1960

Lutheran

Braaten, Carl E. and Robert M. Jenson, eds. *Christian Dogmatics*. 2 vols. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1984.

Mueller, J. T. *Christian Dogmatics*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 1934.

Pieper, Franz. *Christian Dogmatics*. 4 vols. St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 1950-1957.

Thielicke, Helmut. *The Evangelical Faith*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1974.

Neo-Orthodox-Modern Continental

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. 4 vols. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1936-1977.

Brunner, Emil. *Dogmatics*. 3 vols. Trans. Olive Wyon (vols. 1 and 2) and David Cairns with T. H. L. Parker (vol. 3). Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1949-1962.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *Theology of Hope*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1967.

Neibuhr, Reinhold. *The Nature and Destiny of Man*. 2 vols. (Originally published 1941-43) New York, NY: Scribner, 1964.

Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1991-1997.

Tillich, Paul. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1951-1963.

Pentecostal/Charismatic

Dayton, Donald W. *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1987.

Higgins, John R., Michael L. Dusing, and Frank D. Tallman. *An Introduction to Theology: A Classical Pentecostal Perspective*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 1993.

Pearlman, Myer. *Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1937.

Williams, Ernest S. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1953.

Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

Reformed

Bavinck, Herman. *Our Reasonable Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1956.

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1941, 1949.

Berkouwer, G. C. *Studies in Dogmatics*. 14 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1952-1976.

Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. 2 vols. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1978-1979.

_____. *Christian Foundations*. 5 vols. available. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1992.

- Buswell, J. O., Jr. *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1962.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Edited by J. T. McNeill. Library of Christian Classics. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1960.
- Chafer, L. S. *Systematic Theology*. 8 vols. Dallas, TX: Dallas Theological Seminary Press, 1947-1948.
- Garrett, James L., Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1990.
- Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.
- Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. First published in 1872. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1975.
- Hoeksema, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Association. 1966.
- Lewis, Gordon R. and Bruce Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie/Zondervan Publishing House, 1987-1994.
- Moody, Dale. *The Word of Truth: A Summary of Christian Doctrine Based on Biblical Revelation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1981.
- Ryrie, Charles. *Basic Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1986.
- Shedd, W. G. T. *Dogmatic Theology*. 3 vols. New York, NY: Scribner and Sons, 1888-1894.
- Strong, A. H. *Systematic Theology*. First published in 1907. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1962.
- Roman Catholic
- Fiorenza, Francis S. and John P. Galvin, eds. *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives*. 2 vols. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Foley, Leonard. *Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of Catholic Faith*. n.p.: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1981.
- Pohle, Joseph. *Dogmatic Theology*. 12 vols. St. Louis, MO: Herder, 1911, 1946.

Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith*. New York, NY: Seabury, 1978.

SPECIFIC DATA

Original Syllabus prepared by James H. Railey, D.Th., revised by Monty Galloway for video course delivery Summer 2005.