

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**THEI 531 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I**

**AN AGTS CD-ROM COURSE**

**Featuring:**

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

**Independent Studies Program**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An overview of the theological areas of prolegomena, revelation, theology proper, anthropology, and Christology.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of Systematic Theology I and Systematic Theology II, 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.

THEI 511 Christian Theology, Ministry Resource CD-ROM Set. Springfield, MO: Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, 2005. **(Supplied by the AGTS Continuing Education Office upon official course registration)**

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING</b>
Lessons 1-2	Introduction to Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Nature/Scope</li> <li>➤ Divisions in</li> <li>➤ Sources for</li> <li>➤ Theological systems</li> </ul>	Erickson, 17-176 McGrath, 1.1-6, 12, 22, 25-26, 28
Lessons 3-4	God's Revelation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ General/Special</li> <li>➤ Inspiration of Scripture</li> <li>➤ Canon of Scripture</li> <li>➤ Application of Scripture</li> </ul>	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"> <li>➤ Existence of God</li> <li>➤ Attributes of God</li> <li>➤ The Trinity</li> </ul>	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"> <li>➤ Creation</li> <li>➤ Providence</li> <li>➤ Evil</li> </ul>	Erickson, 371-478 McGrath, 3.1, 4-5, 31; 6.25
	<b>Theological Essay One Due</b>	
	<b>Online Forum Discussion Question #1</b>	
	<b>TAKE EXAM ONE</b>	
Lesson 9	Human Beings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Origin of humans</li> <li>➤ Nature of humans</li> <li>➤ The image of God</li> </ul>	Erickson, 479-578 McGrath, 6.1, 4-5, 44
Lessons 10-11	Sin Among Humans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sin and fall</li> <li>➤ Nature of sin</li> <li>➤ Transmission of sin</li> </ul>	Erickson, 579-676 McGrath, 6.2-3, 6, 9, 13-14, 47
	<b>Online Forum Discussion Question #2</b>	
	<b>TAKE EXAM TWO</b>	
Lessons 12-13	The Person of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Names of</li> <li>➤ Two natures doctrine</li> </ul>	Erickson, 677-778 McGrath, 4.1-15, 17, 21, 24, 33

	➤ Humiliation/exaltation	
Lessons 14-15	The Work of Christ ➤ Offices of ➤ The atonement	Erickson, 779-860 McGrath, 4.22; 5.1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-18, 27, 30
	<b>Theological Essay Two Due</b>	
	<b>Online Forum Discussion Question #3</b>	
	<b>TAKE EXAM THREE</b>	

## METHODOLOGY

Video lectures, theological essays, exams, and online forum discussion questions.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student is expected to view lessons 1 – 15. A question will be asked on Exam Three 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 (see Exam Request Form).
4. The student will participate in three 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.
  - a. You will be provided access to the discussion forum by the Continuing Education Office when you are officially registered for the course.
  - b. Students are expected to email the AGTS professor of record (see course release form) the web link to the students' responses on the completion of **each** forum question.
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 9**, and should be on one of these topics: Doctrine of God, or Doctrine of Revelation. The second essay is due **AFTER WATCHING Lesson 15**, and should be on one of these topics: Doctrine of Human Beings, or Doctrine of Christ. The page limitation should be observed; if used, the source documentation and format should reflect Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> edition utilizing footnotes; and, the essays will be graded on content, comprehensiveness, and clarity of expression.

All assignments are to be typewritten, double-spaced, represent quality graduate level work, and follow the *Turabian* style manual, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

All assignments must include a title page that includes your name, address, phone and email, course number, title, and assignment title.

### **DUE DATES**

***Due date:*** All assignments are to be postmarked no later than 15 weeks after course registration  
(All projects must be received by your AGTS Professor of Record by your due date)

**NOTE:** A \$30.00 fee will be charged to the student's account for every grade change even if the instructor has approved an extension for completing the work. Any exception to the policy will be made by the registrar.

**Submit all assignments to:** AGTS Professor of Record (See Course Release Form)  
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Viewing Video Sessions	10%
Online forum discussions	10%
Examinations (3)	50%
Theological essays (2)	30%

### **AGTS Grading Scale**

Publishable = A+
100% - 94% = A
93% - 90% = A-
89% - 87% = B+
86% - 84% = B
83% - 80% = B-
79% - 77% = C+
76% - 74% = C
73% - 70% = C-
69% - 67% = D+
66% - 64% = D
63% - 60% = D-

### **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.

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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*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1982.

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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.

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

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### 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.

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#### 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.

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

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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, M.Div. for video course delivery Spring 2006.