

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE 531 Systematic Theology I

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will have demonstrated in classroom discussions, examinations, and papers

1. the ability to summarize the language and concepts of the theological topics which are the focus of the course.
2. the ability to compare the evangelical formulations of these theological topics with the larger context of contemporary theological discussion and development.
3. the ability to assess the unique contributions and challenges of the Pentecostal tradition to the formulation of these theological topics,
4. the ability to defend the biblical foundations for the expression of these theological topics.
5. the ability to select theological materials for implementation in the ministry of the Church to the modern age.
6. the ability to synthesize research data on a theological topic and present the findings in a cogent manner

TEXTBOOKS

Required

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

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

Recommended

Sawyer, M. James. *The Survivor's Guide to Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2006.

COURSE OUTLINE

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

DATE	TOPIC	READING
8/31/06	CHAPEL, 10:30-11:45 Introduction to Course Introduction to Theology ➤ Nature/Scope	Erickson, 17-176 McGrath, 1.1-6, 12, 22, 25-26, 28
9/7/06	➤ Divisions in ➤ Sources for ➤ Theological systems	
9/14/06	God's Revelation ➤ General/Special ➤ Inspiration of Scripture	Erickson, 177-288 McGrath, 2.1-9, 16-19, 24, 28-29, 32, 34, 36-39, 41, 43, 45
9/21/06	➤ Canon of Scripture ➤ Application of Scripture God's Person ➤ Existence of God ➤ Non-Christian Concepts of God ➤ Understanding and Knowing God	Erickson, 289-370 McGrath, 1.7-9, 15-18; 3.1, 3, 6-8, 10-13, 15, 18, 22, 26, 28, 33
9/28/06	➤ Attributes of God ➤ The Trinity	
10/5/06	God's Activities ➤ Creation ➤ Providence ➤ Evil ➤ Angels	Erickson, 371-478 McGrath, 3.1, 4-5, 31; 6.25
10/12/06	EXAM ONE	
10/19/06	Human Beings ➤ Origin of Humans ➤ Nature of Humans ➤ The Image of God ➤ Probation of Humans	Erickson, 479-578 McGrath, 6.1, 4-5, 44
10/26/06	FALL STUDY WEEK— NO CLASS	
11/2/06	Sin Among Humans ➤ Sin and fall ➤ Nature of sin ➤ Transmission of sin	Erickson, 579-676 McGrath, 6.2-3, 6, 9, 13-14, 47

11/9/06	The Person of Christ ➤ Names of ➤ Significant Events ➤ Two natures doctrine	Erickson, 677-778 McGrath, 4.1-15, 17, 21, 24, 33
11/16/06	➤ Humiliation of Christ ➤ Exaltation of Christ	
11/23/06	THANKSGIVING—NO CLASS	
11/30/06	TERM PAPER DUE The Work of Christ ➤ Offices of Christ	Erickson, 779-860 McGrath, 4.22; 5.1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-18, 27, 30
12/7/06	➤ The Atonement	
12/14/06	READING REPORT EXAM TWO	

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 reading. 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 attend all class sessions. Absences should be for extreme circumstances only. Barring a serious medical emergency, credit cannot be granted for courses in which a student has been absent from more than two class sessions. Exceeding the absence limits shall be regarded as an unofficial withdrawal and result in a grade of F.
2. The student should complete all of the readings indicated on the Course Outline above. . A report of the fulfillment of this assignment will be made on December 14, 2006 on a form to be provided. The student will be graded on the percentage of the assigned reading completed.
3. The student should sustain successfully two exams covering the lecture material and the assigned readings. The exams will be objective exams in nature and will be given on the dates shown on the Course Outline above. Exams may not be taken late unless an emergency has necessitated the absence.
4. The student will submit a ten-page research paper on a topic germane to the course. The instructor must approve the topic. The paper should conform to the Turabian (current edition) format, employing footnotes to document source usage. (Note: students in the counseling programs may use Turabian chapter 10, “Parenthetical References and Reference Lists”). The paper should make use of ten to twelve sources, no more than one-half of which may be from Internet sources, and will be graded on (in order of importance) content, composition, grammar, and form. The paper is due at class time November 30, 2006 . Late work will receive a grade penalty commensurate with the lateness.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension. (*AGTS Student Handbook*).

GRADING PROCEDURE

Examinations	60%
Term Paper	30%
Reading Assignment	10%

Grades are recorded and averaged on the basis of the following grade scale: A=94-100; A-=90-93; B+=87-89; B=84-86; B-=80-83; C+=77-79; C=74-76; C-=70-73; D+=67-69; D=64-66; D-=60-63; F=0-59.

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.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

General

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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.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James H. Railey, June 2006.