

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Degree Completion Program
THED 531 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., May 8-June 5
(3 credits)

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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 class discussions, written papers, and class reports, the following:

1. Basic familiarity with the language and concepts of Christian theology.
2. Association and assimilation of the doctrines of Christian theology with personal piety and ministry.
3. Ability to analyze the evangelical formulations of Christian doctrines within the larger context of contemporary theological discussion and development.
4. Willingness to assess the unique contributions and challenges of the Pentecostal tradition in a personal quest for a distinctive and relevant Pentecostal theology.
5. Knowledge of the biblical foundations for historic doctrinal affirmations.
6. Formulation of clear statements on the relationship of theology to the ministry of the Church in the postmodern age.

TEXTBOOKS

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998.

McGrath, Alister E., ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. 3d ed. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

Recommended

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

Yoder, John Howard. *Preface to Theology: Christology and Theological Method*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2002.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

UNIT	TOPIC	READING
Unit 0	[Snively]	Complete, at minimum, first Yoder reading—then others as possible.
Unit 1	Introduction to Theology Revelation [Snively]	Erickson, 17-288; Yoder, 9-143 McGrath, 1.1-6, 13, 24, 28-29, 31; 2.1-9, 16-19, 26, 31-32, 35, 39, 41-44, 46, 48, 50
Unit 2	God [Snively]	Erickson, 289-370; Yoder, 227-405 McGrath, 1.7-9, 16-19; 3.1, 3, 6-8, 11-14, 16, 20, 24, 29, 31, 36
Unit 3	Creation and Providence [Lee]	Erickson, 371-478 McGrath, 3.1, 4-5, 34; 6.25
Unit 4	Humanity [Lee]	Erickson, 479-676 McGrath, 6.1, 4-5, 50; 6.2-3, 6, 9, 13-14, 53
Unit 5	Christ [Lee]	Erickson, 677-860 McGrath, 4.1-4, 6-10, 12-17, 19, 24, 27, 36; 5.1-5, 10, 13-15, 17, 19-20, 29, 33;

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

METHODOLOGY

The course will utilize lectures with PowerPoint, guided dialogue, and student presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Reading:** This course is strongly reading-based with a minimum expectation of 1,000 pages inclusive of all texts and relevant readings for research and reporting. Consult the selected bibliography in this syllabus. Advance reading is encouraged and, in any event, reading assignments are to be completed as shown above. **Submit on the last day of class a report detailing all readings** on a form to be supplied by the professor.
- Response Papers (Four):** The student will submit at the beginning of each session (sessions two through five) one three-to-four page paper on a topic relevant to that session. The basis of these papers will be the assigned or related supplemental readings. The form may be that of exegesis, exposition, summary, or critique—or a combination of these. Papers should be well-written, succinct, and incisive but may utilize informal parenthetical documentation.
- Discussion:** The student is to be prepared for relevant and lively discussion at each session. The textbook readings will be essential to these discussions.
- Quizzes:** The professor reserves the right to administer a brief quiz at the end of each class. Any quizzes will focus on salient doctrinal concepts and their biblical underpinnings.
- Final Paper (1):** The student will expand one of the response papers into a term paper of 10 pages, in good form as determined by Turabian (7th ed.). Include not less than 10 substantial resources and cite them in footnotes/endnotes and bibliography. **Due at beginning of the last class.**

GRADING PROCEDURE

Response Papers (15% each)	60%
Final Paper	40%
*[Participation	10%]

Prompt and timely completion of assignments is essential to the degree completion program. Late work is subject to negotiation with the professor in compliance with program standards, and only accepted on sufficient grounds. Late work submitted beyond agreed-upon dates, if accepted, may be penalized by one letter grade per week late.

*The professor reserves the right to allocate 10% of the grade for participation, raising or lowering for significant lapses or contributions.

Letter grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12.

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

Note: Due to the variations between theologians, the following categorizations are, in some cases, only approximate.

Introductions and Specialized Studies

- 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.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. Ed. L. Arnold Hustad. Grand

- Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.
- 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.
- Jenkins, Michael. *Invitation to Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001.
- 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.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav and Valerie Hotchkiss. *Creeds and Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition* (3 vols.). New Haven, CN/London: Yale University Press, 2003.
- Sawyer, M. James. *Survivor's Guide to Theology*. Grand Rapids: MI: Zondervan, 2006.
- 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/Wesleyan

- 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.
- Muller, Richard A. *God, Creation, and Providence in the Thought of Jacob Arminius: Sources and Directions of Scholastic Protestantism in the Era of Early Orthodoxy*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- 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.
- Jenson, Robert W. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997-1999.
- 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/Third Wave

- Dayton, Donald W. *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1987.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.
- Hart, Larry D. *Truth Aflame: Theology for the Church in Renewal*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- 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.
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Reformed/Baptistic/Dispensational

- 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.
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- _____. *Christian Foundations*. 7 vols. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1992-2004.
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- Lewis, Gordon R. and Bruce Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie/Zondervan Publishing House, 1987-1994.
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Roman Catholic

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Edgar R. Lee, February 2008.