

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE 623 God, Revelation and Truth  
Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

James H. Railey, Jr.. D.Th.  
Email: [jrailey@agts.edu](mailto:jrailey@agts.edu)  
Phone: 417-268-1080

Fall 2009

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The nature, existence and attributes of God will be studied, making use of His revelation to human beings. Attention will be given to the doctrinal assertion of the Bible as the “rule of faith and practice,” with special emphasis on the role of the Holy Spirit in relationship to Scripture.

### 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

- Bacote, Vincent, Laura C. Miguez, and Dennis L. Okholm, eds. *Evangelicals & Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Bloesch, Donald G. *God the Almighty: Power, Wisdom, Holiness, Love*. Christian Foundations. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Bloesch, Donald G. *Holy Scripture: Revelation, Inspiration & Interpretation*. Christian Foundations. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- Coppedge, Allan. *Portraits of God: A Biblical Theology of Holiness*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

### COURSE OUTLINE

DATE	TOPIC	READING
8/25/09	Introduction to Course	
9/1/09-	➤ <b>Doctrine of God</b>	

10/6/09		
9/8/09	<i>Chapel 11:00-12:15 (Class begins at 12:30)</i>	
9/15/09	<i>Book Critique of the Bloesch book due</i>	Bloesch, Donald G. <i>God the Almighty: Power, Wisdom, Holiness, Love.</i> Christian Foundations. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
9/29/09	<i>Book Critique of the Coppedge book due</i>	Coppedge, Allan. <i>Portraits of God: A Biblical Theology of Holiness.</i> Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
10/13/09	<b>EXAM ONE—Doctrine of God</b>	
10/20/09	<i>Fall Study Week—No Class</i>	
10/27/09-12/1/09	➤ <b>Doctrine of Revelation and Truth</b>	
11/3/09	<i>Chapel 11:00-12:15 (Class begins at 12:30)</i> <i>Critique of the Bloesch book due</i>	Bloesch, Donald G. <i>Holy Scripture: Revelation, Inspiration &amp; Interpretation.</i> Christian Foundations. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
11/17/09	<i>Critique of the Bacote, Miguez, Okholm book due</i>	Bacote, Vincent, Laura C. Miguez, and Dennis L. Okholm, eds. <i>Evangelicals &amp; Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics.</i> Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
12/1/09	<i>Term Paper Due</i>	
12/8/09	<b>EXAM TWO—Doctrine of Revelation and Truth</b>	

### 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.

### 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 is expected to submit a 3-5 page typed critique of each of the assigned texts. They will be due according to the schedule listed in the Course Outline above.. The critique should evidence graduate level interaction with the arguments(s) of the book. The student

should also be prepared to participate in class discussion of the text at the class session at which the critique is due.

3. The student should sustain successfully two exams covering the lecture material. The exams will be essay 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 (7<sup>th</sup> edition) format, employing footnotes to document source usage. (Note: students in the counseling programs may use Turabian chapters 18-19, "Parenthetical Citations"). 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 December 8, 2009 . 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	50%
Term Paper	20%
Book Critiques	30%

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***

- 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.
- Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 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 Press, 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*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1982.
- Mullins, E. Y. *The Christian Religion in Its Doctrinal Expression*. Philadelphia, PA: Judson Press, 1917.
- Sawyer, M. James. *Survivor's Guide to Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 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***

- 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.

Jenson, Robert W. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. New York, NY: 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, Jurgen. *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.

Hart, Larry D. *Truth Aflame: Theology for the Church in Renewal*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 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.

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### ***Reformed***

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

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### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by James H. Railey, Jr., June 2009.