

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE 531 Systematic Theology I

James H. Railey, Jr.

Summer 2003

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. a basic familiarity with the language and concepts of the theological topics which are the focus of the course.
2. an understanding of the evangelical formulations of these theological topics, within the larger context of contemporary theological discussion and development.
3. comprehension of the unique contributions and challenges of the Pentecostal tradition to the formulation of these theological topics,
4. an acceptable grasp of the biblical foundations for the expression of these theological topics.
5. an understanding of the relationship of theology to the ministry of the Church to the modern age.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

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

Horton, Stanley M., ed. *Systematic Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective*. Revised ed. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1995.

Recommended

Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction to Systematic Theology [May 5-6] Erickson, 17-174; Horton, 9-60
- A. The Nature and Scope of Theology
 - B. Divisions in Theology
 - C. The Source(s) of Theology
 - D. Major Protestant Theological Systems
- II. The Doctrine of Revelation [May 7-12] Erickson, 177-285; Horton, 61-115
- A. General Revelation
 - B. Special Revelation
 - C. The Inspiration of Scripture
 - D. The Canon of Scripture
 - E. The Application of Scripture
- III. The Doctrine of God (Theology) [May 13-16] Erickson, 289-475; Horton 117-177
- A. The Existence of God
 - B. Non-Christian Concepts of God
 - C. Understanding and Knowing God
 - D. The Attributes of God
 - E. The Trinity
- MID-TERM EXAM—MONDAY, MAY 19, 2003**
- IV. The Doctrine of Human Beings [May 20-23] Erickson, 479-674; Horton, 215-253
- A. Humans as Created
 - 1. The Origin of Humans
 - 2. The Nature of Humans
 - 3. The Image of God in Humans
 - 4. The Probation of Humans
 - B. Humans as Fallen
 - 1. Humans' Sin and Fall
 - 2. The Nature of Sin
 - 3. The Transmission of Sin
 - 4. Sin in the Life of Humans
 - 5. The Punishment of Sin
- V. The Doctrine of Christ (Christology) [May 26-29] Erickson, 677-858; Horton, 291-373
- A. The Person of Christ
 - B. The Two-Natures of Christ
 - C. The Humiliation of Christ
 - D. The Exaltation of Christ
 - E. The Offices of Christ

F. The Atonement
FINAL EXAM—FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2003

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. The limits established by the Seminary will be observed. “Barring a serious medical emergency, credit cannot be granted for courses in which a student has been absent beyond the equivalent of more than 2 weeks (3 days, 4 week summer session)” (*Catalog*, 74).
2. The student should complete all of the readings noted on the Course Outline as the topics are discussed in the classroom.
3. The student should sustain successfully a midterm and final exam covering the lecture material and the assigned readings. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Both exams will be essay exams 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 topic must be approved by the instructor. The paper should conform to the Turabian (current edition) format, employing footnotes to document source usage. (Note: students in the counseling programs may use 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 grammar, composition, form, and content. The paper is due at class time May 29, 2003. Late work will receive a grade penalty commensurate with the lateness.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Examinations	67%
Term Paper	33%

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.

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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.

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Lutheran

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

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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)
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Pentecostal/Charismatic

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

SPECIFIC DATA

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