

## **THEO5300 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 1**

### **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

*“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them,  
because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”  
1 Timothy 4:16*

### **The Mission of the Seminary**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Course Description**

This second course in systematic theology introduces the student to the doctrines of the work of Christ, salvation and the Christian life, the Holy Spirit, the church, and last things. The biblical foundation and the relevant historical developments are considered in developing a comprehensive statement of Christian teaching concerning construction of a Christian understanding of each doctrine.

### **Core Value Focus**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This year's core value focus is Servant Leadership.

### **Course Objectives**

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the following concepts to interpreting Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church:

- The processes, methods, assumptions, and worldviews of historical, theological, and philosophical disciplines.
  - The key Christian doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ.
2. Value a Christian understanding of doctrine.
  3. Respond positively to the idea of respecting the influence of various historical, theological, philosophical traditions, and worldviews.
  4. Be able, with the help of resources, to practice prolegomena, the methodology of the study of theology.
  5. Be ready to articulate and defend evangelical and Baptist positions on specific theological issues.

## **Biblical Authority**

This course operates under the assumption that the Bible is the inspired, totally true and trustworthy Word of God. While history, tradition, and reason play no small role in the theological task, the Bible holds ultimate authority in Christian doctrine and practice. The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) provides the structure of this course's content.

## **Required Texts**

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Erickson, Millard J. *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*, rev. ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001.

Dever, Mark. *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2012.

The Bible (preferably a contemporary translation such as the ESV, HCSB, NASB, or NIV).

## **Recommended Texts**

Elwell, Walter A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Akin, Daniel L, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th ed. Rev. John Grossman and Alice Bennett. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996.

## **Course Requirements**

***All due dates are by the end of the day central time.***

### **1. Readings from *Systematic Theology* (10%)**

Each student is expected to read the assigned portions from Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* and go through the additional material located in Course Documents. **At the end of the semester**, students will fill out a reading report form where they can note the (1) percentage read and (2) the percentage read on-time.

### **2. Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes (15%)**

Weekly quizzes will cover the words from the vocabulary lists included in the syllabus. Each quiz covers the words in the corresponding vocabulary list (e.g. Quiz #1 will cover the words on Vocabulary List #1). The definitions may be found **in the Erickson dictionary**. Each quiz will be "active" for 7 days beginning on the Monday morning of that week. The allotted time is 15 minutes. Never use the back button or the test will end and you will be graded on what you have completed. The quizzes are NOT open book. Each quiz is worth 50 points.

### **3. Weekly Discussion Questions (30%)**

Weekly discussion questions will be posted on Mondays. These discussion questions will be based on the assigned reading and additional resources located in Course Documents. Students are required to make at least **3 substantive posts** each week to each question. The first post will be your answer to the question posed. This post should reflect the course material for that section. The other two posts should be offered in response to other student posts and should reflect an experiential application of the course material in response to the first post.

A substantive post is defined as a post that both exhibits a thoughtful response based upon the class material and that, in the case of response posts (see above), furthers the discussion thread by posing new questions or thoughts to which other students may respond. **To earn credit**, students should post their first comment no later than Thursday night to give classmates time to respond.

### **4. Critical Book Review (20%)**

A critical review of *The Church* by Mark Dever is required. The review is to be at least 10 pages, double spaced, 12-point Time New Roman font, one inch margin, and written according to the 6th edition of Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*. The review should include a summary of contents and a thorough interaction with the author's positions and arguments. The review should be in MSWord or pdf file and **MUST** be placed in the Assignments folder.

### **5. Research Papers (25%)**

A research paper is required for completing the course. Students may choose from the following broad paper topics, or submit another topic to the professor for approval:

- The Person of Christ
- The Work of Christ

- Christ's Resurrection
- The Offices of Christ
- The Work of the Holy Spirit
- Common Grace
- Election
- Effective/Effectual Calling
- Justification
- Adoption into God's Family
- Sanctification
- Baptism/Filling with the Holy Spirit
- Perseverance of the Saints
- Death and the Intermediate State
- Glorification
- The Church
- Church Polity
- Ordinances and Sacraments
- Worship
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Return of Christ
- The Millennium
- Final Judgment and Eternal Punishment
- New Heaven and New Earth

Each paper must conform to the following criteria:

**Sections:**

- summarize the biblical teaching on the issue
- address relevant theological questions
- conclude by demonstrating relevance of the issue for life and ministry

**Format:**

- 12-15 pages, 1 inch margin
- 12-point Time New Roman font
- double spaced
- use Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, 6th ed. for footnotes, bibliography, headings, etc. A sample title page is provided in Course Documents.
- a minimum of 10 credible, academic resources (wikipedia does not fit this criterion)

**Grading Rubric**

- 10% Thesis
- 10% Style and Grammar
- 10% Writing Skill
- 30% Use of Resources
- 40% Understanding of Subject

## **Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

## Vocabulary Terms for Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes

### Vocabulary List 1

Atonement  
Atonement, Example theory of  
Atonement, Governmental theory of the  
Atonement, Limited  
Atonement, Moral-influence theory of  
Atonement, Penal-Substitution theory of  
Atonement, Ransom theory of the  
Atonement, Unlimited  
Descent into Hell  
Theology of the cross

### Vocabulary List 2

Ascension of Christ  
Christ, Exaltation of  
Christ, Humiliation of  
Expiation  
Imputation  
Propitiation  
Recapitulation  
Reconciliation  
Resurrection  
Session

### Vocabulary List 3

Determinism  
Election  
Fatalism  
Foreknowledge  
Grace, Common  
Grace, Special  
Predestination  
Preterition  
Reprobation  
Total depravity

### Vocabulary List 4

Arminianism  
Augustinianism  
Effectual calling  
Grace  
Irresistible grace  
Pelagianism  
Penance  
Regeneration  
Repentance  
Semi-Pelagianism

### Vocabulary List 5

Adoption  
Apostasy  
Assurance of salvation  
Communion of saints  
Eternal security of the believer  
Justification  
Merit  
Perfectionism  
Perseverance, Doctrine of  
Sanctification

### Vocabulary List 6

Body of Christ  
Church discipline  
Heresy  
Invisible church, the  
Kerygma  
Koinonia  
Laity  
Missions  
Schism  
Sect  
Spiritual warfare  
Visible church

### Vocabulary List 7

Affusion  
Anathema  
Consubstantiation  
Ecumenism  
Excommunication  
Free churches  
Immersion  
Real presence of Christ  
Separation of church and state  
Spiritual presence  
Transubstantiation  
Worship

### Vocabulary List 8

Apostolic succession  
aptism, believers'  
Congregational form of church government  
Episcopacy  
Eucharist  
*Ex cathedra*  
*Ex operer operato*  
Memorialism  
Paedobaptism  
Papacy  
Presbyterianism  
Sacrament

### Vocabulary List 9

Amillennialism  
Annihilationism proper  
Antichrist  
*Chiliasm*  
Dispensationalism  
Eschatology  
Immortality  
Parousia  
Postmillennialism  
Premillennialism

### Vocabulary List 10

Apokatastasis  
Beatific vision  
Conditional immortality  
*Filioque*  
Hades  
Intermediate state  
Limbo  
Paraclete  
Purgatory  
Sheol

Prophecy  
Rapture, the

Universalism

## **Selected Bibliography**

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