

***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.



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THCM 2300-01: Christian Doctrine
Semester, Year

Instructor Name

Instructor Title

Office phone number (or contact phone number)

Office location

instructor email address

The mission of Leavell College 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.

Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *Mission Focus*. “We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.”

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to survey the doctrines of the Christian faith. Students are introduced to the biblical, historical, philosophical, and systematic aspects of theology. Special attention is given to Baptist doctrine.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Understand the biblical-theological elements of fundamental Christian doctrines.
2. Apply the principles of theological method to doctrinal positions.
3. Communicate a summary and critique of a theologian's doctrinal perspective.

Course Texts

- Holy Bible. You may bring any reliable, modern translation.

- Erickson, Millard. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. Edited by L. Arnold Hustad, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015. ISBN: 978-0801049194. \$36.99. Kindle, \$21.49.
- Harwood, Adam. *The Spiritual Condition of Infants: A Biblical-Historical Survey and Systematic Proposal*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011. ISBN: 978-1608998449. \$23.00. Kindle, \$9.99.

Recommended for those who plan to study theology at the graduate level:

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0226816388. \$18.00.

Course Requirements and Grading (400 points possible)

1. **Discussion Board Entries** (initial post of 250-300 words; two replies to peer posts of 100-150 words each). Students will submit 5 initial posts in the online Discussion Board throughout the course to answer particular questions. Please cite the textbook and another source parenthetically (for example: Erickson, 225). Be sure to support your assertions with biblical-theological support, rather than providing only unsupported assertions (also called opinions). Each initial post is worth up to 10 points. Each initial post must be submitted by Thursday of the week it is due so that peers will have time to submit a reply. Students will reply to two peer posts. Please be respectful and peaceable, especially when disagreeing with the views of another person. Be sure to address the content of the initial post, not the tone or personality of the author. When possible, avoid first person (“I, me, my”); simply state things as fact. You may cite Bible verses, but please do not include any quotations due to space constraints. These discussion board posts should reflect your informed views *after reviewing the assigned material*. See **Discussion Board Initial Post Grading Rubric**. Each of the two **replies** will be graded as follows:
 5 pts. - meets the length requirement and has excellent content, grammar, and syntax.
 4 pts. - has a minor problem with the length, grammar, or syntax.
 3 pts. - has multiple problems.
 There are 5 initial posts (10 pts. each) and 10 replies (5 pts. each) = **100 points**.
2. **Book Review** (4-5 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font). Students will review *The Spiritual Condition of Infants*. The review should be 4-5 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font. The review should address issues such as: summary and critique of the author’s thesis, arguments, assumptions, method, sources, logic, and style; specific examples of strengths and weaknesses of the book; discussion of its usefulness for the intended audience, how the book contributes to its field, other books which explore the issue, and whether or not you would recommend the book and why. Cite page numbers parenthetically; no footnotes; use quotations sparingly. See **Book Review Grading Rubric** below. **100 points**.
3. **Research Paper** (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of the

course. The rubric for assessing this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric. The paper will be a summary and critique of a particular doctrine of a selected theologian. This will be due in stages. See **Guidelines for Research Paper** below. **100 points**.

4. **Final Exam.** The final will be comprehensive and will consist of short answer and short essay questions based on assigned readings. **100 points**.

Topics & Reading Schedule

E 12 = Erickson chapter 12; DB 1 = Discussion Board 1

Each unit begins on a Monday and the work for that unit is due by Saturday at 11:59 PM. Though materials will be available on Sunday, the course instructor encourages (but does not require) students to take a day of rest and worship on Sundays.

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	Assignments Due
Unit 1	Introduction		Read Syllabus
Unit 2	Theological Sources & Methods	E 1-2	Submit Theologian & Doctrine for Paper
Unit 3	Revelation- General & Special (Insp. & Inerrancy)	E 3-7; Watch Brunn Presentation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxnIP2981iU	DB 1: "Can a person know God without access to a Bible?" Reference Summary Due
Unit 4	God-Existence, Trinity, & Creation	E 8-11, 13, 16	DB 2: "Gently make a case for your interpretation of 'days' in Genesis 1. What are the implications for one's view of science and for evangelism?"
Unit 5	God-Providence, Evil & Suffering	E 12, 14-15; Read Craig/Helm article: http://baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_11-1_Spring_2014.pdf#page=65	DB 3: "Does God cause events, allow events, or both? Attempt to address the relationship between human freedom and the origin and persistence of sin and evil."
Unit 6	Man	E 17-19	Bibliography Due
Unit 7	Sin	E 20-22	Book Review Due

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	Assignments Due
Unit 8	Christ-Divinity, Humanity, & Union	E 23-25	DB 4: "In what ways does the humanity of Jesus inform our view of ourselves?"
Unit 9	The Holy Spirit	E 28-30	Article Summary # 1 Due
Unit 10	Election	E 32; Read Hankins article: http://baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_8-1_Spring_2011.pdf#page=90	Article Summary # 2 Due
Unit 11	Salvation Accomplished & Applied	E 26-27, 33-35; Read Newsom article: http://baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_11-2_Fall_2014.pdf#page=5	DB 5: "Discuss how one's views of election and atonement influence one's doctrine of salvation."
Unit 12	The Church-Nature & Polity, Ordinances	E 36-38	
Unit 13	Last Things-Return of Christ & Millennium, Hell & Heaven	E 39-42	Research Paper Due
Unit 14			Final Exam

Additional Course Information

Special Accommodations

If you require educational accommodations, please contact the office of Dr. Thomas Strong.

Study Tips

1. Plan to study 2-3 hours for every 1 hour in class.
2. Read your textbook even when you do not expect to be tested on the material.
3. Rewrite your new class notes each week.

Online Resources

Although Wikipedia or Theopedia can be helpful places to begin research, web sites typically should not be cited in academic research. They may be consulted for a survey of the subject and to lead you to credible primary and secondary sources. However, they cannot be trusted for accuracy since they are not subject to academic peer-review. Your goal is to find academic, peer-reviewed articles and published resources, whether they are accessed online or in print.

Official Leavell College Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.

Personal Note

Please join me in asking God to guide our thoughts as we seek to grow in our knowledge and love for Him through the study of Christian doctrines.

Policy Regarding Late Work

Late work will not be accepted.

IT Assistance

If you have any questions about Blackboard, SelfServe, or ITC services, please access the ITC page on our website: www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Instructor Response Time

The instructor will usually answer email within 24 hours and grade assignments within 72 hours.

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

Guidelines for Research Papers

Students will submit an 8-12 page (plus bibliography), double-spaced research paper. You may choose the theologian and doctrine from the list below. The paper is to be a summary and critique of a selected theologian and doctrine. Please properly cite your sources and follow Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, 8th edition for the paper's form (footnotes) and style. The grade will be comprised of these assignments:

1. **Choose a theologian and doctrine.** Select one theologian and one corresponding doctrine from the list below (**5 points**):

Tertullian (ca. 160-235) - Trinity
Athanasius (296-373) - Christ, salvation
Augustine (354-430) - Trinity, creation, man, sin, salvation, church
Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) - existence of God
Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274) - existence of God, salvation
John Calvin (1509-1564) - revelation, God, man, salvation
Martin Luther (1483-1546) - authority of Scripture, salvation, church
Balthasar Hubmaier (d. 1528) - salvation, baptism
Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) - God, original sin, salvation
Charles Hodge (1797-1878) - creation
Karl Barth (1886-1968) - revelation, Christ
C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) - theodicy, salvation
Karl Rahner (1904-1984) - Trinity, salvation
Jürgen Moltmann (b. 1926) - theodicy, last things
Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928-2014) - Christ
Hans Küng (b. 1928) - church
Gustavo Gutiérrez (b. 1928) - salvation
Clark Pinnock (1937-2010) - inerrancy, God, salvation, Holy Spirit, last things
James H. Cone (b. 1938) - theological method, God, salvation

2. **Reference Summary.** Get a working knowledge of your theologian and topic. Consult at least three different types of in-print reference works to learn about your topic. The different types of published reference works include: theological dictionaries, theological encyclopedias, historical or systematic theologies (not including your textbooks), and works of church history. After you have read the three sections or chapters about your topic, write a two-page, double-spaced summary of what you learned about the topic. No footnotes are necessary for this assignment. Mention the major issues, significant personalities, controversies (with dates and places), writings, and theological questions (“Why does this matter?”) involved in your topic. List your sources on page three of your summary in Turabian format. See syllabus for due date. **15 points.**

3. **Bibliography.** Find at least four primary sources (written by the theologian) and six secondary sources (written about the theologian). Four of those ten sources must be from a peer-reviewed academic journal (*Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, not *Christianity Today*). The secondary sources must have been published in the last 25 years. Be sure to search ATLA through EBSCOHost; please contact the NOBTS library for the login information and passkey;

check syllabus for due date; use Turabian format. **10 points.**

4. **Two Article Summaries.** Find and read two articles (6-page minimum) from a peer-reviewed academic journal from the last 25 years on your topic. Then, write a one-page, single-spaced summary for each article. You will find these through ATLA via EBSCOHost. Please provide bibliographic information. 10 points each = **20 points.**

5. **Research Paper.** The paper must have the following distinct sections:

- 2-3 pages of **biography** on your theologian. Be sure to include why he was remembered as a notable theologian. What were his two or three most important books? Where did he teach or pastor?
- 3-5 pages of **summary**. Be sure to include his theological perspective (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, etc.) as you summarize his understanding of the doctrine. Provide examples from primary sources and interact with secondary sources.
- 3-4 pages of **critique**. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the view that you summarized? Be sure to interact with secondary sources at this point.

Tips for Writing a Research Paper

- **Begin early.** Do a little bit of work each week. Set an early, “false” deadline to finish your paper, which gives you time to follow the next suggestion. Work to obtain books weeks in advance of needing them in case they are not on the NOBTS library shelf. Books can sometimes be borrowed from other libraries; others may be available digitally.
- **Write and rewrite.** The key to good writing is rewriting. Words rarely come out right the first time. All of us need to put a draft away for a couple of days and return to it with “fresh eyes.” Enlist a reader who will provide constructive feedback. Rewriting will improve your work.

Rubric for Grading Theology Research Papers

The Research Paper will be graded as follows (50 points possible):

Content, 25 points

Up to 25 pts. will be awarded for the three sections as described above.

- 2-3 pages of biography on your theologian
- 3-5 pages to summarize his view of the doctrine, drawing from primary sources
- 3-4 pages of critical reflection on his view of the doctrine, noting the strengths and weaknesses of the theologian's view, interacting with secondary sources.
 - "A" quality work (23-25 points) - the paper presents a thorough biography, a clear summary of his view on the selected doctrine, and an astute theological critique
 - "B" quality work (20-22 points)
 - "C" quality work (18-19 points) - the paper lacks a thorough biography, clear doctrinal summary, and/or significant theological critique

Selection and use of sources, 10 points

Up to 10 points will be awarded for the ten sources which are relevant to the topic, meet the requirements for number and type of sources (four primary and six secondary; at least four from peer-reviewed academic journals), and are used and cited properly.

Form, 5 points

Up to 5 pts. will be awarded for conformity to Turabian format for title page, footnotes, and the works cited page.

- "A" quality work (5)
- "B" quality work (4)
- "C" quality work (3)

Style and Grammar, 10 points

- style - refers to the ability to construct clear and meaningful sentences and paragraphs
- grammar - proper use of English, including spelling, punctuation, and syntax
 - "A" quality work (9-10)
 - "B" quality work (8)
 - "C" quality work (7)

TOTAL...../50 pts.

**Competency Assessment Rubric for:
THCM2300 Christian Doctrine**

Student Name: _____ **Semester** _____

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the biblical-theological elements of fundamental Christian doctrines.
2. Apply the principles of theological method to doctrinal positions.
3. Communicate a summary and critique of a doctrinal perspective.

Assignment Description:

The student will write a paper that will bring together applications of the principles studied and the actual investigation carried out during the semester. The paper will cover one of the doctrines and use the methodology discussed in the class. The paper is required to be 8-12 pages, typed and double-spaced.

DOMAIN	LEVEL	FAILURE (0 POINTS)	BASIC (1 POINT)	COMPETENT (2 POINTS)	GOOD (3 POINTS)	EXCELLENT (4 POINTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to understand the doctrines studied.					
APPLICATION	Able to apply understanding to critique a theologian's doctrinal position.					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate the doctrinal perspective.					

**Book Review Grading Rubric for:
THCM2300 Christian Doctrine**

	10	8	6	4	2
Content	4-5 pgs in length provides a robust explanation and critique of author's thesis all details accurate	3 1/2 pgs in length acceptable explanation and critique of author's thesis minimal inaccuracies	3 pages in length provides some explanation and critique of author's thesis some inaccurate details	2 pages in length provides little explanation and critique of author's thesis many inaccurate details	<2 pages in length neither explains nor critiques the author's thesis no accurate details
Organization	addresses topic directly highly organized structure	addresses topic directly organized structure	addresses topic somewhat organized structure	somewhat addresses topic highly unorganized structure	wanders significantly from the topic no organized structure
Logical Support	superior examples of the topic	examples of the topic	acceptable support of the topic	minimal support of the topic	no logical support of the topic
Communication	exceptionally clear meaning to the reader	clear meaning to the reader	somewhat clear meaning to the reader	unclear meaning to the reader	incoherent for the reader
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	no visible or significant errors	errors do not disturb the reading process	errors sometimes disturb the reading process	errors often disturb the reading process	errors make reading difficult

**Discussion Board Initial Post Grading Rubric for:
THCM2300 Christian Doctrine**

	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0
Content	Nails the topic All details accurate	Stays on topic Minimal inaccuracies	Some deviation from topic; Some inaccurate details	Deviates from topic; Major inaccurate details	Deviates significantly from topic; No accurate details
Organization	Highly organized structure	Organized structure	Somewhat organized structure	Unorganized structure	No discernable structure
Logical Support Is evidence presented to support the claim(s)?	Superior logical support of topic or claim(s)	Logical support	Acceptable logical support	Minimal support	No logical support
Communication	Exceptionally clear meaning	Clear meaning	Somewhat clear meaning	Unclear meaning	Incoherent
Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling	No errors	1 error	2 different errors (rather than 2 occurrences of the same error)	3-4 different errors	5 or more errors

Selected Bibliography

- Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*, rev. edition. Nashville: B&H, 2014. **Systematic Theology**.
- Allen, David L. and Steve W. Lemke, ed. *Whosever Will: A Biblical-Theological Critique of Five-Point Calvinism*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010. **Soteriology**.
- Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 5. Edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997. **Anthropology**.
- Elwell, Walter, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. **Theological Dictionary**.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, & Evangelical*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995. **Historical Theology**.
- Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2005. **Ecclesiology**.
- Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation and Authority*. 6 Vols. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1999. **Revelation**.
- Hoekema, Anthony. *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986. **Anthropology**.
- Huffman, Douglas, ed. *God Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. **Theology Proper**.
- Keathley, Kenneth. *Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010. **Soteriology**.
- Putman, Rhyne R. *In Defense of Doctrine: Evangelicalism, Theology, and Scripture*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015. **Theological Method**.
- Stott, John. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006. **Christology**.
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *Life After Death: A New Approach to the Last Things*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012. **Eschatology**.
- _____. *The Holy Spirit—In Biblical Teaching, through the Centuries, and Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013. **Pneumatology**.
- Torrance, Thomas F. *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*, ed. Robert. T. Walker. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009. **Christology**.
- Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God, vol. 3. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003. **Christology**.